

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9 December 2015
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon (Chaplain), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Gerd Gebhard, Victoria Hodgson, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), John Overstall, Isabel Page, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden) and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer)

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.03 pm with a reading from Matthew 1, v. 1-17, and a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence

John Dimond, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Moira Hogg, Evelyn Sweerts and Paul Townend.

4. Minutes of last meeting (11 November 2015)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Action points review: None.

Matters Arising: None.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

a) Assistant Chaplain - absence: Andy Markey had been on sick leave for 3 weeks and it was not certain when he would be resuming work, the Council wished him a speedy recovery;

b) Christingles: Lynn Barclay had made arrangements for these to be made on 23 December at the Vicarage by the Beavers and a number of other volunteers;

c) Processes and procedures: there had been further problems with the church keys and locking up the building; the Chaplain would propose to Goeres that we be provided with a key to the Salle Rheinsheim;

d) Newcomers: it would be good to arrange a reception for newcomers in January 2016, as between 30 and 40 new people had joined the church since the last reception in 2011; the blue contact forms were not being sent in as much as they used to be, so it was sometimes difficult to obtain newcomers' details; a group of people who reminded them about this would be useful;

e) First Sunday Group: a lunch held on 6 December for people who might be willing to resurrect this group had met with a positive response, there had been new faces and people were keen;

f) Massacre in Paris (13 November 2015): a mass had been held in the Cathedral on 17 November in memory of those who had died; this had been attended only by the RC church and the Rabbi, as no general invitation had been issued to all the '*chefs de culte*' in

Luxembourg; the Chaplain would write to the Archbishop about this issue.

7. Treasurer's Report

Chris Vaudrey presented the accounts for January to November 2015, showing an overall surplus of € 9 155. His report included details of certain items in the accounts in response to some queries about what they actually covered.

As the Music Director, who had taken up his duties in October but had not yet been paid owing to his ongoing safeguarding process, wished to receive some payment, the Council agreed to the Treasurer's proposal to pay him an advance of €1 500.

The organ needed repairing, with the estimated cost being €500 to €700. A small repair had already been done. The Council authorised repairs of up to €700, should they still prove necessary.

In response to a query from Simon Norcross, the Treasurer confirmed that for 2015 the church would be paying 10% of its income to charities, as the Church Fair proceeds had totalled less than that amount, i.e. it would pay 10% of around €120 000.

The Council accepted the Treasurer's report.

8. New premises - update

a) 33 rue de Mühlenbach flat: all the documents needed were now ready, meaning that the Chaplain would be able to sign the '*acte définitif*' for the purchase of this flat on 11 December 2015;

b) Redecoration and removal of Chaplain's flat before Christmas: the Chaplain had obtained an estimate of €4 048.20 from a removals company for the removal of his furniture and effects from the Vicarage and the redecorating of the new flat; he also proposed to buy some new IKEA furniture for the Chaplaincy to keep; the Council agreed to this estimate; Chris Vaudrey said that an inventory should be made of the remaining furniture at the Vicarage and a decision taken as to how to dispose of it;

c) Jules Mersch flat: no further updates on the new office premises under construction;

d) Sale of the Vicarage: there had been a meeting between the Finance Committee and the property developer at which the latter had indicated that the '*acte définitif*' would be signed in early January 2016, with demolition of the Vicarage starting in April;

e) move on 1 February 2016 to temporary offices at Centre Jean XXIII: the move was planned for Monday 1 February 2016; the Chaplain wanted to lease a mobile phone for official use; the phone would belong to the Chaplaincy.

9. Church Fair Coordinator

In response to a suggestion that Frazer Alexander might be willing to act as coordinator for the 2016 Church Fair, Simon Norcross said he would ask him.

10. Charities Committee

A note from Martin Curwen entitled 'Note to the Church Council – proposed charities for 2015' was circulated at the meeting.

After some discussion, the Council approved the list of eight proposed charities for 2015; the Chaplain would thank the Charities Committee for its work.

For the future, the Chaplain wanted to review the membership and remit of the Charities Committee; he considered that it would benefit from having a wider membership, a broader scope and a more proactive approach. In particular, he would like to move away from the idea of charity giving and more towards justice and peace. He intended to organise some meetings about this in 2016.

11. Communication Committee report

Philippa Seymour reported as follows: it was planned to clean up the church on 30 January 2016; new noticeboards were planned for the landing outside the chapel and in the street outside the building; John Dimond had made some changes to the website; production of the service booklets covering Advent, Christmas and Epiphany had been held up by the Assistant Chaplain's sick leave and might not perhaps be worth doing at this stage; she pointed out that the new noticeboards would require expenditure. The Council accepted the report and encouraged the idea of researching the necessary expenditure.

12. Music Director recruitment

The contract for the new Music Director, Ovidiu Dragan, was awaiting signature; he had completed the safeguarding documentation process and his documents had to be verified before the contract could be signed.

13. Church service times

Philippa Seymour said that the proposed change to the service times had provoked some discontent among those who attended the early service; the Chaplain said that the sidespeople at that service had for their part mostly been in favour. The 11am congregation had not yet been consulted. The intention was to bring in this change by the first Sunday in Lent (i.e. 14 February 2016).

14. Any other business

There was further discussion of an item of a confidential nature.

15. Dates of future meetings

- Wednesday 13 January 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Vicarage;

Also:

- Wednesday 20 April 2016: **AGM** in Belair.

16. Closing prayer

The Chaplain, having thanked John Overstall for arranging supper, closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.30 pm.