

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 16 March 2016  
7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII, 52 rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** The Rev'd Chris Lyon (Chaplain), the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Victoria Hodgson, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), John Overstall, Isabel Page, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden), Evelyn Sweerts, Paul Townend and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer)

#### **1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer**

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.00 pm by welcoming everyone, reading from Isaiah 43, v. 16 onwards, and saying a prayer.

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

John Dimond, Gerd Gebhard and Moira Hogg.

#### **4. Minutes of last meeting (17 February 2016)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings.

#### **5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising**

Action points review: Chris Vaudrey had asked Dennis Robertson about acting as this year's Church Fair Coordinator but he had declined.

New action point: the Chaplain to speak to the Charities Committee.

Matters Arising: **item 6c** – Philippa Seymour said the magazine rack from the chapel would, on a trial basis, be moved downstairs to the hall to display church literature and forms, etc.; **item 9d:** the Churchwardens had written to the developers of the Vicarage site formally pointing out the fact that the deadline for signing the deal had expired; **item 15(ii):** we could not proceed with having the stair carpet leading up to the chapel replaced until we knew to whom the request should be addressed; the Chaplain undertook to speak to the authorities responsible.

#### **6. Ministry Report**

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Assistant Chaplain - absence: Andy Markey was now back at work;
- b) Processes and procedures: a team of people was needed to help in setting up for the services (the First Sunday Group's equipment, the furniture in the hall for Junior Church, etc.), if possible by May;
- c) Newcomers: the Junior Church registration forms could be linked to the blue contact forms in order to cross-reference the contact details; the Communications team would look into this; a reception for newcomers was being planned for 25 May 2016;
- d) First Sunday Group: the new group's first performance on 6 March 2016 had been very successful and there had been a good atmosphere in the service; the group had included a new range of instruments; one problem was that it was difficult for those seated in the side

chapel to see the words of the songs projected on the front wall;

e) Meeting with Junior Church leaders: Andy Markey reported on the meeting of JC leaders held on 14 March 2016: he would ensure that the three-year programme of material was all in place for the autumn, new leaders would be briefed on the whole procedure and the space in the hall store-cupboard would be rearranged; new helpers still needed to be recruited as it was not always possible to cover the rota; setting up the tables and chairs needed in the hall was still a big problem; it was suggested that a trolley might be useful or volunteers to help move the heavy tables; fruit had been served to the children at the last meeting as a healthy way of seeing them through until lunchtime;

f) Evening reception for office holders: a reception would be held on 25 May;

g) Te Deum: this big event was being planned for Thursday 16 June 2016, possibly in the chapel of Centre Jean XXIII.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Chris Vaudrey presented a receipts and payments account for January to February 2016. He pointed out that the current account was down to less than €1 000. Monthly giving was about 25% down. The Council accepted the Treasurer's report.

## **8. Search for a new Treasurer**

The Finance Committee needed to draw up a job description before formally approaching any possible candidate but preliminary informal contacts could be made.

## **9. New premises - update**

a) dismantling/recycling of the Vicarage: whilst the Chaplain would be removing his own personal furniture to France, the rest of the furniture, which belonged to the Church, needed to be disposed of; some items would be scrapped but others (boiler, dishwasher, banisters, tiles, shower cabinet, etc.) were still in good condition and could be sold, possibly through advertising in Lux Bazaar; a date (after Easter) could be set for the sale and those interested could come and remove the items themselves;

b) Jules Mersch flat: we were moving towards signing the deal; '*procurations*' would again have to be drawn up for signature by the Bishop; we might have to take out another bank loan;

c) Sale of the Vicarage: a date for signing the '*acte définitif*' had still not been scheduled; the Churchwardens had written to the developers to point out that the due date for signature had passed; if we had not heard from the developers by early April, we should put the matter in the hands of a lawyer;

d) Centre Jean XXIII: i) an agreement had been signed under which the Church would pay €900 per month as a share of the charges; ii) notification of the change of address was ongoing.

## **10. Church Fair**

The Chaplain said that, as none of the potential candidates whom we had approached to coordinate this year's Church Fair had been available and some other key people would also not be available for the Fair, he had suggested to the Finance Committee that we should not hold a Church Fair this year. The Finance Committee had agreed to this proposal. The Chaplain felt that, although the Fair had been a fantastic tradition, we should now be looking to do something new and different. Rather than staging a downsized version of the event, a new paradigm was called for. There was some discussion of social/fund-raising events that could be held. People could also be encouraged simply to donate to charity instead. Regret was expressed that it would not be possible to hold the Fair this year.

The Council agreed not to hold the Church Fair this year. The Chaplain would ensure that

the announcement was made before Easter, in the form of a congregational e-mail and appropriate communications to the press/internet.

#### **11. Charities Committee**

The Chaplain said the Church had pledged to donate to charity either 10% of its annual income, or the proceeds of the Church Fair, whichever amount was the greater. Philippa Seymour pointed out that people might be willing to donate more, if there were no Church Fair.

The Chaplain said that the Charities Committee was looking to recruit new members; it was the Council, however, that was responsible for appointing members of that Committee. Whilst Chris Vaudrey pointed out that the Charities Committee was asked to make decisions about how to give our money to charity, the Chaplain said he wanted to change the whole remit given to the Committee. He would like to see a move away from the charity approach (*de haut en bas*) and towards the idea of peace and justice. In his view, there should be joint action by the Charities Committee, the Environmental Footprint Group, a Peace and Justice group and a Finance group, for example, a new set-up that joined up the efforts of the different Church bodies and better reflected what our congregation was concerned about (e.g. refugees, the environment, Serve the City, etc.). This new set-up should be raising our awareness and directing our prayers. 'Giving' could also mean time, not just money.

**Action point:** the Chaplain would speak to the Charities Committee.

#### **12. Congregational meeting**

A meeting would be held at the Centre Jean XXIII on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 7.30 pm to discuss some of the good things going on in our Church.

#### **13. Communications Committee report**

Philippa Seymour reported that the hall store-cupboard was to be cleared out and Evelyn Sweerts had nearly finished writing the booklets for baptism services.

#### **14. Music Director's contract**

The Chaplain had sent Gerd Gebhard the details needed for a contract for the Music Director to be drawn up.

#### **15. Church service times**

On 8 March 2016 a meeting had been held with members of the 9.30 am congregation at which there had been a full, frank and very useful exchange of views and a better understanding of the issue had been reached.

#### **16. Evelyn Sweerts to address the Church Council**

Having now been formally accepted as an ordinand, Evelyn Sweerts expressed her thanks to the Council for supporting and encouraging her in this process.

The Council congratulated her on becoming an ordinand.

#### **17. Any other business**

None.

## **18. Dates of future meetings**

- Wednesday 13 April 2016 at 7.30 pm (7 pm for food beforehand)
- Wednesday 11 May 2016;
- Wednesday 8 June 2016;
- Wednesday 6 July 2016;
- Wednesday 14 September 2016.

Also: Wednesday 20 April 2016: **AGM** to be held at **8 pm** in *Centre Jean XXIII in the Salle de conférence* on the ground floor. (**NB: change of time and venue**).

## **19. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain, having thanked Lynn Barclay for preparing supper, closed the meeting with a prayer at 10.50 pm.