

# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 8 June 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), Gabriel Chelladurai, John Dimond, Catriona Gillham, Victoria Hodgson, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), John Overstall, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden), and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer)

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

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8.10 pm by welcoming Catriona Gillham, who was attending her first meeting after having been elected as a Council member at the AGM on 20 April 2016. He read from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5, v. 16 onwards, and said a prayer.

#### 3. Apologies for absence - Gerd Gebhard, Moira Hogg and Isabel Page.

#### 4. Minutes of last meeting (11 May 2016)

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to item 10, 'Treasurer's report', second sentence, being reworded to read: '... with the main bank account standing at €1 514.'

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

Action points review: the service booklets for Christmas and Epiphany had been printed.

Matters Arising: None.

#### 6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Processes and procedures: nothing to report;
- b) Newcomers – linking JC forms to contact forms: (**new Action point:** Andy Markey to link the Junior Church forms to the blue contact forms);
- c) Crèche and Junior Church: Evelyn Sweerts was to be asked to be convener of the Crèche and Junior Church, with recruitment of leaders/helpers as a matter of priority;
- d) Confirmation: there would be 5 candidates for baptism/confirmation by the Bishop on 23 October 2016;
- e) Summer services: the Chaplain would be away for three of the Sundays in the period from mid-July to early September; whilst the Assistant Chaplain would probably be present to cover one or two of the dates, it might prove necessary to arrange for someone else to cover the remaining dates. It was agreed that during the month of August the services could be reduced to one per Sunday;
- f) Church Council Awayday: as last year's event had proved worthwhile, the Chaplain proposed repeating the exercise this autumn (possible dates: 30 September or 7 October).

#### 7. Assistant Chaplain's report

The Assistant Chaplain still had no news about the date of his departure at the end of his

contract.

## **8. Congregational meeting on Wednesday 25 May 2016 - report**

(A summary of the transcripts of the discussions at the meeting was circulated.) At the meeting, held at Centre Jean XXIII, small groups had discussed three issues: the JPIC idea, the Church Fair tradition and crèche/Junior Church leadership.

Following on from these discussions, Philippa Seymour had two proposals. Firstly, she proposed that, instead of having crèche helpers each week, toys could be put out in the crèche room and parents could use the room by themselves during the service; many parents did not wish to leave their children in the crèche to be looked after by someone else. This might free up some helpers for Junior Church. The Chaplain felt that it was good to be able to advertise that we had a staffed crèche, as this encouraged some young families to come, and there might be some confusion about safeguarding if parents used an unstaffed crèche. It was agreed that Evelyn Sweerts would consult parents about whether or not they would use a staffed crèche.

Secondly, Philippa Seymour proposed setting up a working group to discuss the feasibility of holding a Church Fair next year and also the possibility of holding some event to replace the Fair this year (such as a picnic). The Council welcomed the idea. After some discussion it was decided that the group would consist of Gabriel Chelladurai, Victoria Hodgson, Philippa Seymour as chair, and Simon Norcross as consultant, and a few others from the congregation would be enlisted. An initial meeting would be arranged by mid-July, and would start by exploring whether to hold a picnic or similar event in September. Once the group had been set up, the whole congregation could be asked to send in ideas.

The charities topic discussed at the congregational meeting had brought to light a number of disparate views, which needed further thought at a later date. In the meantime, the Chaplain reported that he had been contacted by the Rev'd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford who was coming to Luxembourg to address an inter-governmental conference on human trafficking. He proposed that we take her up on her offer to speak to our church by holding a meeting for anyone interested at Centre Jean XXIII on the evening of Monday 20 June.

Another topic at the congregational meeting had been welcoming people. Those present had been in favour of the idea of having people downstairs to act as welcomers for each service. The Chaplain would organise getting a group of welcomers together.

## **9. Te Deum on Sunday 26 June 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Konvikt Chapel - update**

The Chaplain said that the mayor of Luxembourg city and government representatives had been asked to save the date, and would be sent a paper invitation shortly. Posters were being prepared and good progress was being made with the music.

As the Konvikt Chapel could be uncomfortably warm in the summer, especially when many people were present, the Chaplain was making enquiries as to the possibility of holding the Te Deum in the large parish church in Cents.

## **10. Treasurer's Report**

Chris Vaudrey, as acting Treasurer, presented a receipts and payments account for January to May 2016. This showed a net shortfall of €25 494, with the main bank account standing at €4 395. Otherwise, expenses and income were more or less in line with the budget.

Some discussion ensued concerning the church's financial situation. The trend of an overall shortfall looked likely to continue, as the church was not generating enough income to cover expenses. Whilst we would eventually obtain a cushion of extra money from the sale of the

Vicarage, we could not count on using that extra capital to cover running expenses. The issue of balancing our expenses with our income would have to be addressed.

It was also argued that we had a healthy bank balance compared with some churches, and we also had savings, but these should be used for the church, rather than squirrelled away.

The Treasurer pointed out that it was prudent to have a reserve.

The Chaplain thanked the Treasurer for his report.

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

No willing candidates for this post had been found. Even if a '*fiduciaire*' were to be employed to handle the day-to-day transactions and keep the accounts, a Treasurer would still be needed to oversee the work and manage the money.

Chris Vaudrey had asked the '*fiduciaire*' dealing with our payroll matters to provide an estimate of what it would charge to handle this task and he gave the Council details of this estimate. For example, monthly accounting would be charged at €350, with a one-off fee of €1 500 to set up the annual balance sheet, etc. and keep the requisite records for a 10-year period, plus each consultancy service would be invoiced separately (at €80 to €200 per hour, depending on the seniority of the consultant).

Chris Vaudrey pointed out that the '*fiduciaire*' would need instructions for all aspects of the work, and authorisation for each bill to be paid. The Chaplain considered that a procedure could be arranged for dealing with such authorisations; in his view, employing a '*fiduciaire*' might well be the best option and it might then be easier to find someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer.

It was agreed to put this matter in the hands of the Finance Committee.

**(Action point:** the Finance Committee to consider the '*fiduciaire*'s offer and how to proceed in this matter.)

## **12. New premises - update**

a) Sale of the Vicarage: at a meeting with the developers on 12 May, a price of €1.45 million had been agreed for the sale of the Vicarage (a price of €1.5 million had not been possible on the basis of the agreed formula); an '*avenant*' to the '*compromis de vente*' had been signed to this effect. This price was 16% higher than the upper end of our expectations based simply on the text of the '*compromis de vente*'. No money had yet been received, however, as the purchasers' bank still had to confirm its agreement to providing them with a loan sufficient to enable them to pay this price;

b) dismantling/recycling of the Vicarage: this was ongoing;

c) Jules Mersch flat: nothing new to report.

## **13. Any other business**

The Secretary reminded the Council that its meetings were scheduled to start at 7.30 pm but there seemed to be a regrettable slippage in the time the proceedings actually began.

## **14. Dates of future meetings**

Council meetings: Wednesday 6 July 2016 at 7.30 pm (7 pm for food beforehand);  
Wednesday 14 September 2016.

Other events: Anglican Te Deum: Sunday 26 June 2016, 6.30 pm (venue TBC);  
Saturday 22 October 2016, 6.30 pm, confirmation reception;  
Sunday 23 October 2016, 11 am, Konvikt Chapel, Confirmation service  
and *vin d'honneur*.

## **15. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.15 pm.