

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 6 July 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), Tania Buhr (Secretary), John Dimond, Gerd Gebhard, Moira Hogg, 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 7.45 pm by welcoming everyone; he mentioned that it was the last meeting Andy Markey would be attending, as his contract was coming to an end in August. He read from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards, and said a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence – Lynn Barclay, Gabriel Chelladurai, Catriona Gillham, Victoria Hodgson and Isabel Page.

4. Approval of Minutes of last meeting (8 June 2016) and draft Minutes of 2016 AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to a minor correction in item 2 and to the latter part of item 12a) being reworded as follows: '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.'

The draft minutes of the 2016 AGM, which had been circulated to the Council, were approved for posting on the website, subject to 'before provisions' being added after 'net loss' in item 8 (page 5) and 'after provisions' being added after 'net loss' in 'Treasurer's report' on page 9.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Action points review: the Finance Committee had not yet met to discuss the *fiduciaire*'s offer.
Matters Arising: None.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

a) Te Deum service (Sunday 26 June 2016): This evening service in honour of the Grand Duke, held in the parish church in Cents, had been attended by roughly 150 people, including the Archbishop, the British Ambassador and the Maréchal de la Cour. The Music Director, Ovidiu Dragan, the choir, musicians and organists had all put in a lot of work and the result had been positively received. The Council discussed some of the points that needed to be borne in mind for any future such event (such as microphones, earlier dispatch of invitations, catering, press coverage, flowers).

b) Crèche and Junior Church: Andy Markey reported that all the Junior Church material for the summer had been planned and Evelyn Sweerts had made arrangements for September; one new JC helper had been recruited; the JC material for future lessons had been bundled

up ready for filing away once the actual files were available;

c) Summer services: cover still had to be arranged for two dates when the Chaplain would be away (7 August and 4 September);

d) Church Council Awayday: this would probably take the form of a daytime get-together at the Centre Jean XXIII on Saturday 1 October 2016.

7. Assistant Chaplain's report

The Assistant Chaplain said the last Sunday he would be taking the service in Luxembourg would be 17 July, although he would be in Luxembourg until the middle of August.

8. Treasurer's Report

Chris Vaudrey, as acting Treasurer, presented a receipts and payments account for January to June 2016. This showed a net shortfall of €29 134, with the main bank account standing at only €755. He had been obliged to make a transfer from the savings account to cover payments due. The Te Deum had cost around €3 000, but this was a one-off, unbudgeted expense. Collections were usually better in the autumn and the rent on the Assistant Chaplain's flat would not have to be paid any more. The fact of the matter was, however, that more regular income was needed.

The Chaplain thanked the Treasurer for his report.

9. Search for a new Treasurer

The Finance Committee still had to meet to consider the possibility of using a '*fiduciaire*', how this arrangement might work and the cost structure involved. Chris Vaudrey said an offer from more than one *fiduciaire* was needed. The Chaplain proposed that the Finance Committee plus Gerd Gebhard meet and draw up recommendations for the Church Council to consider in September

10. Communications Committee report

Philippa Seymour reported that the Communications Committee had updated the contact forms and the safeguarding notice and bought filing cabinets; a new noticeboard would soon be brought into use and a JCIP noticeboard had been set up in the hall; transcripts of the congregational meeting had been made.

11. Summer fun

Philippa Seymour reported that the new fun and fundraising group (consisting of herself, Simon Norcross, Victoria Hodgson, Gabriel Chelladurai, Jess Bauldrey, Anthea MacDonald, Rani Roloff, Jane-Anne Frankel and Newman Gompil) had met the previous week and come up with lots of good ideas. They proposed to hold a treasure hunt and picnic on 24 September in the Bambësch (to be run by Newman), an Indian curry evening (to be run by Rani, possibly on 19 November), a wine-tasting/arts event next year and a sports day next June. It was suggested that the proceeds from several events could be put into a 'Church Fair' pot for donating to charity. It would be good to have one charity to focus on for the treasure hunt

Another idea put forward had been for the Anglican Church to have a stand at the schools' start-of-term event. The Chaplain said the timing was difficult, but the idea was worth thinking about. He welcomed the ideas and the enthusiasm shown by the group.

12. The possibility of moving to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Cents

The Chaplain circulated a paper outlining some points relating to a possible move to the Cents church. We needed to move out of the Konvikt chapel because of problems with the building and we had been given notice that the Catholic church wanted to demolish it. There had been encouragement from the Catholic church to consider the possibility of a move. The Cents church was spacious and open, had good parking and was near a bus stop and Cents train station; there would be room for the crèche, Junior Church and the youth group. On the downside, the church was dark, the roof needed repair and the location was not in the city centre. Issues needing to be explored included the cost of the roof repair, the relationship with the *Fabrique d'église*, the share of the running costs, 'owning' the building (i.e. our own publicity materials, putting up signs, etc.) and whether we might still use the Konvikt for the 9.30 service. The Chaplain proposed that he and the Churchwardens might make an exploration of the issues involved, possibly hold a service in the church and then, after due consultation, it would be for the Church Council to decide for our side. A move in October might be envisaged.

After discussion, the Council agreed to authorise the Chaplain and the Churchwardens to explore this possibility.

13. New premises - update

a) Sale of the Vicarage: nothing to report;

b) Jules Mersch flat: the construction was under way and the bank had asked if the church wanted to take up the second tranche of the loan.

14. Any other business

The Chaplain proposed that Evelyn Sweerts should be on the chalice bearer rota and the Council agreed to this.

15. Dates of future meetings

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

Other events: Saturday 22 October 2016, 6.30 pm, confirmation reception;
Sunday 23 October 2016, 11 am, Konvikt Chapel, Confirmation service
and *vin d'honneur*.

16. Closing prayer

The Chaplain closed the meeting with a prayer at 10.10 pm.