

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 19 October 2016  
7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII, 52 rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** The Rev'd Chris Lyon (Chaplain), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Gabriel Chelladurai, John Dimond, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), John Overstall, Isabel Page and Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden)

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

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7.55 pm by welcoming everyone; he read from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards, and said a prayer.

**3. Apologies for absence** – Gerd Gebhard, Catriona Gillham, Victoria Hodgson and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer).

#### **4. Approval of Minutes of last meeting (14 September 2016)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to a minor amendment.

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

Action points review: action was still needed on the data protection form;

Matters Arising: item 6d, supporting Michael Lapsley: Simon Norcross agreed to tell the Charities Committee that we wished to support Michael Lapsley's work; item 7, contact list: it was agreed that the Church Office would issue this list on paper and people receiving it would sign for it (**Action point:** Church Office to issue the contact details list);

item 17, security of the church: the previous Sunday a wallet had been stolen from the crèche room when it was unattended.

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

The Chaplain reported as follows:

a) Confirmation: two adults and four young people would be candidates for the confirmation service on Sunday 23 October 2016; Bishop Robert would arrive on the afternoon of Saturday 22 October and would visit Cents church and meet Evelyn Sweerts;

b) Previous Sunday: the Rev'd Joan Lyon had taken the services on 16 October as the Chaplain had been asked at short notice to attend Luxembourg's commemoration event marking the 75th anniversary of the first deportation of Jews from the Grand Duchy during the Second World War;

c) Processes and procedures: i) internal: in connection with the move to Cents church, a number of internal procedures needed to be reviewed and adapted; ii) external: it was not always clear whom we needed to address when communicating with the Catholic Church and the *Fabrique d'églises*, i.e. who had the authority to make a decision on a particular matter;

d) Anglican input into the Luxembourg School of Religion and Society: the Chaplain suggested that, as Anglicans had a strong presence in Luxembourg, it would be good to have some Anglicans coming to give public lectures at the Luxembourg School of Religion

and Society as well as the planned lectures for students at the School; he proposed arranging for Professor Grace Davie, a sociologist of religion, to come and speak at the Centre Jean XXIII.

## **7. The Chaplain's and Churchwardens' strategy meeting with the Bishop**

At the meeting on 22 October 2016, the subjects to be discussed would include the move to Cents church, the Chaplain's imminent retirement, the task of appointing people and preparing for that, the possibility of taking on Evelyn Sweerts as lay assistant and Anglican input into the Luxembourg School of Religion and Society.

Simon Norcross pointed out the relative geographical isolation of our Church within the Diocese, in that it was a long way to the nearest Anglican church. The Chaplain said that the Area Dean, the Rev'd Stephen Murray, wanted to come and visit us, and that he had also asked the newly appointed Archdeacon of NW Europe, the Venerable Paul Vrolijk (of Holy Trinity, Brussels), to preach at our Te Deum next year.

## **8. Move to Cents Church**

At its AwayDay on 1 October 2016 the Council had agreed to the proposal to start a 3-month trial period at Cents church as of 6 November 2016, whilst seeking to retain the possibility of returning to the Konvikt chapel; to invite Richard Deeley and Peter Bond to inspect the building during that period; to make a photographic '*état des lieux*' of the building at the start of the period; and to clearly communicate this move to the congregation and the wider public through Lumen, e-mails and other announcements.

a) This move entailed reviewing a number of internal processes (e.g. how to do the collections; serving coffee; the flowers; Junior Church and crèche arrangements; storage, etc.);

b) External processes – Maniac Movers would be physically moving the things that were needed from the Konvikt to Cents on 28 October, but we had to decide exactly what was to be moved;

c) Liaising with Cents church: a meeting with the priest in charge, Canon Henri Hamus, needed to be arranged to clarify some practical matters;

d) Communication: the Communications Committee needed to be given permission to make the necessary changes to church stationery;

e) Keys: copies of the keys would be needed;

f) Financial arrangements: the Chaplain explained that Cents church was owned by the Ville de Luxembourg but administered by the *Fabrique d'églises*; whilst we would not be charged during our trial period, we would eventually have to pay a share of the running costs (heating costs were €20 000 per year, for example); we could propose a framework agreement;

g) Notice to the Konvikt Centre: we would have to give notice and say we wanted the possibility of returning.

## **9. Lay Pastoral Assistant**

At its AwayDay on 1 October 2016 the Council had expressed its approval of Evelyn Sweerts, who had just started a three-year ordinand training, as a potential lay pastoral assistant. The Chaplain would discuss this idea with the Bishop, who would have an opportunity to meet Evelyn during his forthcoming visit to Luxembourg. Subject to his approval, she could then be taken on as a lay pastoral assistant and a contract arranged with the Government.

The Chaplain said the intention would be for her to have special responsibility for Christian education, whilst at the same time preparing for ordained ministry; he circulated a draft job description detailing her duties, which would involve a time commitment of 24 hours per week. She could be hired on a one-year contract, renewable once under Luxembourg law, or on a permanent contract.

Isabel Page considered that the job description should be couched in more general terms to avoid any potential problems in future.

#### **10. Communications Committee report**

Philippa Seymour reported that the Communications Committee had acted swiftly to address the need to communicate the Church's imminent move to the Cents church to the congregation: it had drawn up a congregational e-mail and sent it out within a week of the decision to move; e-mails would also have to be sent to all those who have listings for our church; the Chaplain would write an article for Lumen magazine; the Church Office was to see to putting up a sign outside the Konvikt building announcing the move and a sturdy but movable sign was needed to be displayed outside the Cents church (the Chaplain and Simon Norcross would discuss and decide on a suitable sign); the Church's website already had details of the new church; Church stationery and leaflets would have to be adapted accordingly.

#### **11. Fun and Fundraising Group**

Philippa Seymour reported that the charity treasure hunt and picnic held on 24 September 2016 had gone well, raising a total of €730 for the Golden Horizon school for refugees, and it might be repeated next year; they were seeking a suitable venue for the arts festival planned for 12 February 2017 (the Council suggested some possible options) and there were plans to hold a sports day next summer near to the Coque. Nobody had yet been identified to act as the new convener of the Community Group.

#### **12. Treasurer's Report**

Chris Vaudrey, the acting Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting but had sent the Council his report and a receipts and payments account for the period up to 30 September 2016 beforehand.

#### **13. Search for a '*fiduciaire*'**

Work on selecting a '*fiduciaire*' from a shortlist of three was in hand.

#### **14. Rental agreement for the Assistant Chaplain's house in Howald**

Simon Norcross had met with the agent on 30 September when the work that needed doing on the house was starting; he had asked the agent to find a new tenant as soon as possible but 3 months' rent would be due unless someone was found. He planned to have another meeting the following week to clarify the situation. Isabel Page suggested advertising the house on the web to try to find a new tenant.

#### **15. Sale of the Vicarage**

A few boxes still needed to be removed to clear the building of all its contents.

#### **16. Purchase of the new Jules Mersch office/apartment**

The Chaplain had some contracts to sign as regards the fixtures and fittings; the possible date of entry was July 2017.

#### **17. Archdeaconry Synod report – postponed to next meeting**

#### **18. Any other business - none**

## **19. Dates of future meetings**

Council meetings: Wednesday 9 November 2016 at 7.30 pm (7 pm for food beforehand);  
Wednesday 7 December 2016;  
Wednesday 18 January 2017;  
Other events: Saturday 22 October 2016, confirmation candidates' reception;  
Sunday 23 October 2016, 11 am, Konvikt Chapel, confirmation service.

## **20. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain thanked John Overstall for providing supper and closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.12 pm.