

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9 November 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, Gerd Gebhard, Victoria Hodgson, Moira Hogg, Isabel Page, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden) and Chris Vaudrey (Treasurer)

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7.50 pm with a reading from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards and a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence – Catriona Gillham, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden) and John Overstall

4. Approval of Minutes of last meeting (19 October 2016)

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to a minor amendment.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Matters Arising: item15 – the boxes had been cleared from the Vicarage and demolition of the building had started.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

- a) Confirmation: the confirmation service on Sunday 23 October 2016 had gone well, with a good atmosphere; Bishop Robert had visited the churches in Cents and Cessange;
- b) Anglican input into the Luxembourg School of Religion and Society: the Chaplain had contacted the chaplain in Leuven, the Rev'd Canon Jack McDonald, and asked about the costs of getting someone to come to speak in Luxembourg (€500 speaking fee).

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

At the meeting on 22 October 2016, the Churchwardens had discussed with the Bishop the logistics of finding a replacement for the Chaplain when he retired; they had also said that visits from the Diocese's new appointees would be appreciated; these would be arranged. The Area Dean, the Rev'd Stephen Murray from Ghent, might come and preach and the new Archdeacon, the Venerable Paul Vrolijk, was to preach at the Te Deum next year.

The Bishop had also met Evelyn Sweerts. The Chaplain pointed out that if we were to appoint Evelyn, the incoming chaplain would have to be able to train an ordinand.

The Chaplain wished to contribute to our moving forward after his retirement by writing an outline of his work over the last 14 years, setting out his strategy and aims and describing what it was like to work in this Chaplaincy (in terms of the pastoral demands, administrative work, dealing with the Government on the *Convention*, etc.)

(Action point: the Chaplain to contact Luc Feller of the Luxembourg Government regarding the *Convention* payments).

8. Move to Cents Church

The planned move to Cents Church for a trial period had unfortunately had to be postponed. The Chaplain explained that, although the priest in charge of Cents church had assured him that he was in favour of the move, this approval had not been communicated clearly to the Cents *Fabrique d'églises* or the *conseil paroissal*, so no practical arrangements for enabling us to use the church had been made. The main issues were access and keys. There was some discussion as to how these issues could be resolved (we could perhaps have our own designated 'key-holder' for the church, for instance, or a code key box could be installed).

The Chaplain would write to the President of the *Fabrique d'églises*, the Secretary, Jeanne Meyers, and the priest in charge, Canon Henri Hamus, to propose that the Chaplain and the Churchwardens have a meeting with Jeanne Meyers and representatives of the *conseil paroissal* to discuss a way forward, with a view to possibly moving next year. He circulated to the Church Council a paper outlining the issues involved that could be discussed at the proposed meeting. Gerd Gebhard suggested inviting the Cents church officials to attend one of our services in the Konvikt so that they could find out more about our church.

9. Lay Pastoral Assistant

The Bishop had given his approval to the Church appointing Evelyn Sweerts as a lay pastoral assistant. No further action had yet been taken, however.

10. Communications Committee report

Philippa Seymour reported that John Dimond would put the photos he had taken of Council members on the website. The firm used for printing the Lumen magazine had gone bust, but luckily the editor, Edward Seymour, had managed to find a new, cheaper printing firm. The quality of the paper used by these printers was different from before, but acceptable.

11. Fun and Fundraising Group

a) Venue for the Arts festival on Sunday 12 February 2017: Philippa Seymour wanted to encourage people to sign up for this fun and fundraising event, once it had been advertised in the forthcoming Lumen magazine. It would involve a number of different activities, performances, workshops and stands selling books, food, etc. The Chaplain said that it had already been arranged to use Cents church for that day, on a one-off basis, although it would of course be good if that church was already our home by then.

b) Search for a new convener of the Community Group: it was suggested that the Community Group, which organised non-fundraising social events such as the Christmas, Harvest and Mother's Day lunches, did not need a convener as such, as the Fun and Fundraising Group could just ask people to organise an event and help out as and when needed.

12. Justice and Human Solidarity Group (formerly the Charities Committee) – Note from the Convener

The Council discussed the 'Note to the Church Council – Proposed charities for 2016', sent in by Martin Curwen, the Charities Committee convener. This listed the charities proposed for this year together with the amounts to be allocated to each one, as a result of dividing up the total sum available, i.e. 10% of the church's revenue in 2016 (i.e. probably €10 000). After some discussion, the Council agreed to the proposed list of charities.

The Chaplain said that the Council had already made a commitment to support the Rev'd Michael Lapsley; this was not part of the Charities Committee's work. He was strongly in favour of supporting Michael Lapsley's very worthy work in Luxembourg on the healing of memories, as he was working to reconcile memories and trauma and how to cope with that;

this was relevant to our congregation and for the pastoral work in our church; we should also be seen to be supporting Michael Lapsley as an Anglican priest. The Chaplain proposed that our support for Michael Lapsley (€500) should be separate from the charities payments and paid for out of a separate account item entitled 'Anglican pastoral mission in Luxembourg'; the Council agreed to this new item.

13. Treasurer's Report

Chris Vaudrey, the acting Treasurer, presented a receipts and payments account for the period from January to October 2016. This showed a net surplus of €300 868. The Council accepted the Treasurer's report.

14. Search for a '*fiduciaire*'

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

15. Rental agreement for the Assistant Chaplain's house in Howald

Simon Norcross had written to the landlords asking whether they intended to charge rent beyond the 3 months, as we had so far received an oral but not a written agreement that we were changing the terms of the closure of the rental agreement. We had offered to find a new tenant, but the landlords wanted to handle that.

16. Archdeaconry Synod report – postponed to next meeting

17. Any other business

Victoria Hodgson had removed the dishwasher from the Vicarage and had it installed at home; the Council accepted her offer to pay €130-140 for it.

18. Dates of future meetings

Council meetings: Wednesday 7 December 2016 at 7.30 pm (7 pm for food beforehand);
Wednesday 18 January 2017;
Other events: Anglican Te Deum and *Vin d'honneur*: Sunday 25 June 2017, 6.30 pm

19. Closing prayer

The Chaplain, having thanked Moira Hogg for providing supper and Victoria Hodgson for supplying cake, closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.07 pm.