

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday 12 December 2016
7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII, 52 rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg

MINUTES

Present: The Rev'd Chris Lyon (Chaplain), Tania Buhr (Secretary), Gabriel Chelladurai, John Dimond, Catriona Gillham, 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 (rescheduled from 7 December) at 7.48 pm with a reading from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards and a prayer.

3. Apologies for absence – Lynn Barclay, Gerd Gebhard, Victoria Hodgson and Isabel Page.

4. Approval of Minutes of last meeting (9 November 2016)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 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: the Chaplain noted that a number of points in particular needed his attention before he retired (data protection, church archives, budget);

Matters Arising: item 7 – the Chaplain had contacted Luc Feller regarding the *Convention* payments.

6. Ministry Report

The Chaplain reported as follows:

a) Sunday services in the absence of a Chaplain: on one Sunday in November the Chaplain had been unable, at short notice, to take the services and had been replaced by Phil Harvey and Evelyn Sweerts, whose competence was unquestioned; the Chaplain had only heard good reports of how the service went. The format had been a holy communion service, but without the communion; one or two people in the congregation had commented that they would not have attended if they had known it was not a service with communion. The Chaplain said that such situations might well recur, particularly in January and later on, and this format of service might be used again.

b) Setting up for services: training in how to set up for the services was needed and the Chaplain proposed that volunteers and some co-opted people could be given training on 22 or 29 January 2017.

c) Retirement:

i) the Chaplain suggested that 19 February could be his final Sunday, as the following Sunday would be in the half-term holiday, with many people likely to be away; he would like to hold an evening event in Cents church to which he would invite his ecumenical friends;

ii) the Area Dean, Stephen Murray, would visit on 4-5 February 2017;

iii) teaching: the Chaplain would continue to teach at the European Schools after he retired; up until now he himself had been the nominating authority for this teaching job, but after his

retirement the Bishop would take over this role; he had discussed his decision to continue teaching with the Bishop, who was in agreement with this; the Chaplain would be teaching 10 to 12 hours per week out of a total of 20 hours or more available for Protestant religion teaching at Kirchberg and Mamer schools, so there would still be room for other teachers in future; he personally enjoyed the teaching and put a lot into it.

d) Locum arrangements: once the Chaplain retired, services would be taken by a locum; the Area Dean, Stephen Murray, would be hierarchically responsible for ensuring that the locum arrangements worked, with the practical arrangements being done in London; the Bishop had already contacted London about finding a locum; any 'on spec' applications the Church might receive should be directed to the Area Dean.

e) Intercessors rota: a replacement on this rota would be needed for Phil Harvey, who would be leaving before June. Philippa Seymour suggested Carol Birch.

7. Finance Committee meeting

a) vacation of apartment at No 33 rue de Mühlenbach by the Chaplain: the Chaplain was looking for a flat to move to, possibly by 1 February 2017;

b) purchase of a car for the future locum/Chaplain: the Chaplain suggested that it would make life easier for a future locum/Chaplain if the Church were to provide a car; the flat had a garage for one car; the Council discussed whether providing a car was necessary and how it might be arranged. The Chaplain pointed out that once he retired, the *Convention* would come into play, which would mean that the Church would receive a lump sum (based on a stipend) out of which it would have to pay the locum/Chaplain (locums were usually paid per Sunday).

8. Move to Cents Church

The Chaplain had written to the President of the Cents *conseil paroissal*, M. Albert Ludig, inviting him and church representatives to lunch the previous Sunday, but Mr Ludig had been unable to accept; he would, however, be available to come in mid January. The Chaplain therefore proposed to invite him for a lunch meeting on 22 or 29 January along with the Churchwardens, Evelyn Sweerts and Moira Hogg.

9. Lay Pastoral Assistant

The Chaplain had talked to Evelyn Sweerts about arrangements for her appointment as lay pastoral assistant. She proposed working 80% of 40 hours. Regarding her remuneration, the Chaplain had been in contact with the Prime Minister's office on the subject of payment of the *Convention* and would pursue the matter further.

10. Communications Committee report

Philippa Seymour reported that a new computer would be bought for the new locum/Chaplain; John Dimond proposed a maximum cost of 1 000 € to cover a computer, screen and mike; the Chaplain proposed that the new computer should be set up with the appropriate data to ensure that the new locum/Chaplain would be operational quickly. New e-mail addresses were being issued for certain Church roles (e.g. Evelyn Sweerts had been allocated lay.assistant@anglican.lu, and the new locum/Chaplain would have chaplain@anglican.lu). Philippa Seymour said the Communications Committee was working on drafting a policy on how to allocate these addresses. John Dimond proposed looking into getting a licence for Office 365 to use for the church office (for data storage and e-mail boxes). The Chaplain suggested buying two mobiles, one for Evelyn Sweerts and one for the locum.

In the light of certain glitches at services over the previous two Sundays, Philippa Seymour suggested that at each service there should always be one person apart from the clergy who

knew what was supposed to be happening (i.e. service book, choir music, etc.).

11. Fun and Fundraising Group

Philippa Seymour reported that the group was no further forward with finding a venue for the sports day planned for summer 2017, but the wine-tasting event (3 February 2017) and the arts festival (12 February 2017) would be going ahead. The venue of Cents church was confirmed for the arts festival, arrangements for which were well in hand.

12. Justice and Human Solidarity Group (JHS)

a) Philippa Seymour proposed that the JHS group could merge with the Environmental Footprint Group (EFG). The Chaplain welcomed the idea; it could become the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Group. The Council agreed to the JPIC Group being allowed to spend money on hiring a room, for example.

b) Martin Curwen, the Charities Committee convener, would be invited to the Council's January meeting to present the charities to be supported. The Chaplain said he would like the Charities Committee to keep its function of doing due diligence on the charities that we support and he personally would like its name to be changed to exclude the idea of 'charity'. He did not consider that the Church should engage in lobbying for various causes but it could help the people affected by certain issues. The JPIC group would provide guidance to the Charities Committee (homelessness, for example, was a human dignity issue).

13. Treasurer's Report

Chris Vaudrey, the acting Treasurer, presented a receipts and payments account for the period from January to November 2016. He had added a '% non-capital' column to show the overall picture if the big figures (for the sale of the Vicarage, etc.) were not taken into account. According to this column, the income less the Vicarage amounted to 106 914 € whilst the outgoings less the Vicarage stood at 174 592 €. Income and expenditure were mainly as expected. He said that we would need to budget more next year for the 'travel, locum and ordinands' heading. Around three quarters of the total amount of the office flat had already been paid.

The Chaplain thanked Chris Vaudrey and the Council accepted the Treasurer's report.

14. Search for a '*fiduciaire*'

Chris Vaudrey reported that the '*fiduciaire*' which dealt with the wages for the Church staff was prepared to do the bookkeeping as of 1 January 2017. The details of this arrangement would be discussed at a Finance Committee in the near future.

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

Simon Norcross reported that the Church would have to pay 4 months' rent; no bill had yet been received for the repair work carried out.

16. Archdeaconry Synod report – postponed to next meeting

17. Any other business - none

18. Dates of future meetings

Council meetings: Wednesday 18 January 2017 at 7.30 pm (7 pm for food beforehand);

Other events: Wednesday 5 April 2017 - AGM
 Sunday 25 June 2017, 6.30 pm - Anglican Te Deum and *vin d'honneur*

19. Closing prayer

The Chaplain, having thanked Moira Hogg for providing supper and Tania Buhr for supplying mincepies, closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.13 pm.