

# **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 3 December 2014  
7.30 pm, the Vicarage

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** The Rev'd Chris Lyon, the Rev'd Andy Markey (Assistant Chaplain), Catherine Allen (Churchwarden), Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Cheryl Fisher, Simon Norcross, Felix Rusere (Treasurer), Philippa Seymour, Evelyn Sweerts, Chris Vaudrey (Churchwarden), Clive Munn (guest) and Patrick Granger (guest, only present for item 6a).

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

The Chaplain, as Chairperson, opened the meeting at 8 pm by welcoming everyone, especially Clive Munn, coordinator of the 2014 Church Fair, who had been invited to attend the meeting to report on the Church Fair debriefing meeting. The Chaplain read from Ephesians 3, v. 14 onwards, and said a prayer.

#### **3. Apologies for absence**

John Dimond, Moira Hogg, John Overstall, Paul Townend.

#### **4. Church Fair Review – Clive Munn**

(A summary of the Church Fair debrief on 24 September 2014 was circulated)

Clive Munn picked up four issues arising from the Church Fair review. The number of stalls/volunteer leaders had been an issue for several years. Although stallholders had been encouraged to arrange for enough people to man their stalls, so that all those helping on stalls would be able to take a break and enjoy the Fair, this had not actually happened, with stallholders who had been in charge of a stall for many years proving the most reluctant to ask for help. He felt fresh blood was needed or else a reduction in the number of stalls. Catherine Allen said it was essential to ask people face to face when looking for helpers and to have a team set up for each stall. The Chaplain considered it was important to identify the key stalls without which the Fair would not be successful, i.e. books, children's activities, home produce, food, plants, beer/champagne. Clive Munn suggested asking outside volunteers (i.e. Serve the City) to help on the stalls, but the Council felt the Fair ought to be run by people from our Church. Philippa Seymour suggested that young people doing the "Méríte" could help with tasks such as carrying books as part of their community service.

As regards communication and media partnerships, Clive Munn said that this year Chronicle.lu had been the 2014 media partner and the Luxemburger Wort had been at the Fair too. The Chaplain said that it would best if there were no exclusive media partnership and that instead the Communications Group would handle the communication issues to do with the Church Fair. He and the Churchwardens would define the level of decision-making for the Fair Coordinator, and everything else outside this remit would have to be referred to them.

Although next year would be the fortieth "anniversary" of the Church Fair, it was felt that it was not worth making much of this, apart from mentioning on the posters that the Fair was being "held for the 40th time".

As regards organisational and operational roles for the 2015 Fair, Clive Munn, when asked

by the Chaplain, said he was willing to continue as overall coordinator, but that two other people needed to be identified to help with the events scheduling, so that events ran on time, and with organising the infrastructure.

The possible dates for the Fair were 7 or 14 June 2015. As people seemed to like the Fair coinciding with the Useldange Medieval 'Fest' and as certain stallholders were not available on the latter date, Clive Munn said his preference would be for 7 June.

The Chaplain thanked Clive Munn for having taken on the task of coordinator, for being willing to continue and for attending the Council meeting. The Fair had gone well, he had put in a great deal of effort and his thoughtful approach had meant there had been no conflicts.

## **5. Communications Policy**

- a) Website: Patrick Granger attended this part of the meeting to present the new website which he had developed. The aim had been to make it easier to navigate and administer and to ensure that it looked fresh and modern but still 'classic'. He demonstrated some of its new functionalities, such as the embedded church video and the Google map page for obtaining directions to the church, and explained that the rotas would be linked to Google calendar. The website was very nearly ready to go live and John Dimond would be the new webmaster.  
The Chaplain thanked Patrick Granger warmly for all his work on the website and for his excellent presentation. The website could be launched very shortly.
- b) Pew Bibles: what we wanted in the way of Bibles still had to be finalised.
- c) Computer purchase: the Council authorised the Treasurer to reimburse John Dimond up to €2 000 for the purchase and installation of new computer equipment for the Church Office; John Dimond could thus proceed with making the purchase and then get reimbursed.

## **6. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 5 November 2014 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to a small editorial correction.

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

Action points review: See separate Action points spreadsheet.

Matters arising: Phil Harvey had agreed to coordinate the Intercessions rota.

## **8. Ministry Report**

No report at this meeting.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Felix Rusere presented the accounts for November 2014. The income and expenditure cumulatively were in line with the budget. Collections increased in November compared with October but this was mainly due to generally low collections in October. Some duplicate payments due to double invoicing had been identified and dealt with. Fuel and utilities had decreased back to the normal monthly fixed charge, following the annual top-up for gas and electricity consumption between August 2013 and 2014, paid in October. Payments had been disbursed to all the approved charities as follows: €2 000 each to Naledi, COPE-ONE, World Vision Romania, Greyton Genadendal Education Fund, St Martin's and CSI Lux and €500 to Stëmm vun der Strooss.

He had added a Special Funds section to show separately the collection and disbursement

of funds and collections held specifically for a predefined use. Junior Church collections and Church Fair funds would be shown in this section as they were not income for the church. The Council had some queries about the entries for 'loan/cash advance repayments' and for 'charity payments' which the Treasurer would look into.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

As regards the proposed Collections rota, Chris Vaudrey reported that this idea had met with little enthusiasm amongst those asked to be on the rota. He proposed asking those on the list to help out when they were in church. He suggested altering the layout of the register book to give a breakdown of the monies collected.

The Chaplain said that our Church would have to pay Susan Bolen's removal expenses and had been asked to do so by the end of the year.

## **10. Vicarage redevelopment**

No action to report.

## **11. 'Convention' negotiations**

The Chaplain circulated a package of papers on this matter (see the archives). He had been attending the various discussions with the Government together with Philippa Seymour and Simon Norcross.

In response to the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel's request on 14 October 2014 that the individual '*cultes conventionnés*' state what the impact of funding withdrawal would be on their existence and draw up proposals for their future funding so that they would be able to function '*convenablement*', the Chaplain had sent him a letter on 3 November explaining that a withdrawal of funding would have no impact (we were grateful for the subsidy we received, but it was not a large amount and we had to pay for our own premises) and setting out the basic minimum we would need to survive. He had described what we did and the good size of our congregation, and mentioned our outreach and charitable giving.

At the following meeting, the Government, keen to wrap the matter up by the end of the year, had asked whether the '*cultes conventionnés*' wanted to renegotiate the '*conventions*' on the basis of a number of proposals. A team representing all the '*cultes conventionnés*' would be negotiating these proposals with the Government.

The Bishop had been comprehensively briefed on this matter on 1 December and had expressed considerable satisfaction with the position taken so far. The Chaplain had also briefed the British Ambassador on 2 December and she had expressed her support for our position and a willingness to be of any assistance should it be needed.

The Chaplain, together with one or two Council members, would be attending a meeting with the Government for preliminary discussion on 9 December (the first Anglican-only meeting with the Government).

The Council expressed its approval of the position taken by the Chaplain in response to the Luxembourg Government, and thanked him for all his hard work on this matter.

The Chaplain and the Ambassador had also discussed the possibility of hosting a conference about Christian/Muslim relationships in British community and political life, based on the work being done between the Churches and Mosques in Leicester. The Chaplain would contact the Shoura to find out their interest in this possibility. The Ambassador was very positive and enthusiastic about this idea.

## **12. Music Director**

Dana Luccock, the Music Director, would be leaving after Christmas to take up a job elsewhere. We would say goodbye to her on Christmas Day and the congregation would be asked on Sunday 7 and 14 December to contribute money as a farewell present.

The Chaplain said we needed to put out feelers for a suitable replacement, someone diverse and flexible.

It was felt that Jim Kent should be offered a fee for playing the keyboard for the First Sunday Group.

**13. Moving the 11 am service to a different time**

This idea had been floated at the previous meeting. Philippa Seymour pointed out that it had also been discussed many years ago and decided at that time by asking the congregation for their opinion. The Chaplain said there would be many issues involved next year, not least that we might be in a different church. We could discuss these issues, how best to address them and what process to use for consulting people, at a future meeting.

**14. 'Tech' team**

The Chaplain wanted to see a team set up, if possible before Christmas, to deal with audio, recording, the beamer and other technical issues every Sunday. Some people would like to have the sermons recorded. A couple of possible candidates were suggested.

**15. Sacristy team**

The Chaplain would like a sacristy team to be set up, if possible before Christmas, to deal with the linen, wafers, wine, clearing up after communion, etc.

**16. Any other business**

None.

**17. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday 14 January 2015 at 7 pm for food, with the meeting to start at 7.30 pm.  
Wednesday 11 February 2015

**18. Closing prayer**

The Chaplain thanked Philippa Seymour for providing supper and Catherine Allen for supplying cake. The meeting closed with a prayer at 10.50 pm.