

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Report of the Charities Committee for 2016

The Charities Committee met twice in 2016, the first time in early April three days after the message from the Chaplain informing church members that there would be no Church Fair this year and the second in early October. In addition, at the beginning of May two members of the Committee, Jacqui Spence and Martin Curwen, met with the Chaplain and the two churchwardens to discuss Chris Lyon's proposals to move from 'raising money for charity to working with others for a fair, sustainable world' and thereby to identify a possible new way forward for the Charities Committee. The upshot was that there was no immediate change to the Committee's approach in 2016.

Given the uncertainty as to the amount of funds that would be available for supporting charities arising from there being no Church Fair, the Committee was not particularly active during the year in seeking to identify possible new beneficiaries. Following confirmation by the acting treasurer that the amount available for distribution would be EUR 10,000 (compared to EUR 12,000 in 2015 and EUR 13,000 in 2014), the Committee decided that the guideline whereby, generally, charities should not receive support for more than 3-5 years should be selectively applied.

On this basis it was agreed that support to Connection St Martins and CSI-Letzebuerg-Congo, which had received donations for the last six and five years respectively, should be discontinued. In their place the Church Council approved a proposal to make a contribution to Golden Horizon, a school for Syrian refugees in Turkey, for which the Treasure Hunt organized by the Anglican Church in September 2016 raised EUR 705. In addition, given the evidence of growing hardship and poverty in Luxembourg, the amount for Stemm von de Stross was restored to what it first received in 2012.

As a result, the charities supported and the amounts contributed by the Church in 2016 were as follows:

1. Greyton Genendendal Education Trust, South Africa: EUR 1500
2. World Vision, Romania: EUR 1500
3. Naledi, South Africa: EUR 1500
4. COPE, Laos: EUR 1500
5. Friendship Luxembourg, Bangladesh: EUR 2000
6. Stemm von de Stross, Luxembourg: EUR 1000
7. Golden Horizon, Syria/Turkey: EUR 1000 (plus EUR 705 raised by the Treasure Hunt).

Martin Curwen
19 March 2017