

# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 11 October 2017  
7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII, 52 rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg

### MINUTES

**Present:** Lynn Barclay, Tania Buhr (Secretary), Gabriel Chelladurai (Treasurer), Gerd Gebhard, Victoria Hodgson, Moira Hogg, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), Isabel Page, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden) and Evelyn Sweerts (Lay Pastoral Assistant)

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

Simon Norcross, as Chair, opened the meeting at 7.37 pm with a reading from James 3, v. 13-18, and a prayer.

#### 3. Apologies for absence – John Dimond

#### 4. Approval of Minutes of 18 September 2017 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to minor amendments to item 7(iii) and (ix).

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

Action Points Review: nothing to discuss;

Matters arising: item 13: storing documents – action was being taken on this with the assistance of someone from Centre Jean XXIII.

#### 6. Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens reported as follows:

- i) Recruitment of next Chaplain: after the shortlisted candidates had been interviewed on 2 October 2017, one candidate had been selected and offered the post; that person would contact us to discuss detailed arrangements. The Churchwardens were not allowed to disclose the person's identity until the formalities had been completed, but would inform the Council as soon as the decision could be made public;
- ii) Locum arrangements: the present locum would be with us until November 2017; as it seemed likely that there would continue to be a need for a locum after the end of January 2018, there was some discussion about asking one of the locums to return for another visit;
- iii) Convention/Luxembourg government subsidy: Simon Norcross had contacted a Government official to enquire about the situation and been informed that, as no allowance had been made in the Government's budget for the eventuality of Chris Lyon retiring, there would be some delay in the payment but we would receive a small subsidy this year and a larger one next year;
- iv) Rental agreement Assistant Chaplain's house in Howald: the Churchwardens had received two letters from the landlords with some invoices attached; Simon Norcross would reply and arrange a meeting between the Churchwardens and the Thills to see which items of expenditure were justified. Isabel Page and Gerd Gebhard would also look at the rental contract and the two letters;
- v) Sound system: the newly purchased system was in the chapel and would be operational soon, except for the induction loop;
- vi) Salle Maria Rheinsheim: Philippa Seymour had sent detailed instructions to the people on the coffee rota to remind them to tidy the hall up after coffee.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report

Gabriel Chelladurai presented the receipts and payments account for January to September 2017; the deficit had increased by €400 for the previous month, but the monthly deficit had decreased.

The Churchwardens had sent an e-mail to the congregation asking for interim help until the new Chaplain arrived. The Treasurer reported that so far one new standing order had been started and

one donation had been received.

## **8. Ministry report – Lay Pastoral Assistant**

Evelyn Sweerts had nothing new to report.

## **9. New flat in rue Jules Mersch**

The Churchwardens and Isabel Page had been at the flat the previous week for the hand-over of the keys: however, although the inside of the flat was all finished, the outside communal areas were not, and also one document we had to provide in the original was missing, so the keys could not be handed over. The original document would be found. Isabel Page considered that we should not hand over that document until the building was completely finished.

## **10. Safeguarding and insurance**

Moirra Hogg, the safeguarding officer, said she had not yet looked into the question of insurance (policies and costs) here in Luxembourg but she had attended a workshop on safeguarding during the Archdeaconry Synod.

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

Philippa Seymour reported that the Group had met on 10 October 2017 and had reviewed the Treasure Hunt and the other events held this year; they had not been well attended and had raised a total of just under €4 000. It had been decided to continue holding several smaller events rather than one big one but to try to grow each one. Careful choice of dates was a key factor; in general, Sundays were preferable to Saturdays for events involving children.

Catriona Gillham would coordinate an effort to revive the practice of a group occasionally going to lunch together after church, as a way of offering newcomers a chance to get to know some people.

Jess Bauldry would organise a wine tasting event in November; the Christmas lunch would be held on 10 December (organised by Rani Roloff, Lauren Marshall and Catriona Gillham) and Jane-Anne Frankel and Anthea MacDonald would arrange for mince pies and mulled wine to be served after the choir's Christmas concert on 17 December.

## **12. Council membership**

Catriona Gillham and Nik Legge had both resigned as Council members for personal reasons. According to the rules, the Council needed to elect one or two eligible persons to serve until the next AGM. There was some discussion of possible candidates.

## **13. Report on Archdeaconry Synod (Moirra Hogg and Victoria Hodgson)**

Moirra Hogg and Victoria Hodgson had both attended the Archdeaconry Synod held in Ghent on 5-7 October 2017. There had been lots of shared services, worship and fellowship and a number of different workshops to attend. Moirra had taken part in the workshop on safeguarding, at which training, insurance, data protection and other matters had been tackled, whilst Victoria had gone to a workshop on mission action planning (MAP), which she considered might be a useful exercise for us to do with our new incumbent early on in his/her ministry. They would share the relevant Synod documents with the rest of the Council.

## **14. Isabel Page's proposal about risk analysis**

Isabel Page shared her thoughts about identifying some issues facing the church now and some trends for the future and carrying out a risk analysis. She was willing to lead such an exercise, but had to move house in the near future and so would have less time available. She thought that the MAP exercise talked about at the Synod sounded like a practical way forward, and could perhaps be done when the new incumbent came. We should do some fact finding about what was going on and visit other churches to see how they did things. We needed to consider how relevant we were and to look at what would help us to survive.

Simon Norcross considered that it would be useful to do some work, before the next incumbent

arrived, on exploring our context and identifying external factors that could affect us so that we could present a dossier of issues/trends to the new Chaplain. Lots of people could help with this. Evelyn Sweerts felt that we should ask the new incumbent if they thought such an exercise was a good idea before we embarked on this work. Isabel Page would clarify her ideas in an e-mail to the Council.

**15. Any other business - none**

**16. Dates of future Council meetings**

- Wednesday 8 November 2017 at 7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII;
- Wednesday 6 December 2017;
- Wednesday 10 January 2018.
- **AGM** Wednesday 25 April 2018

**17. Closing prayer**

Simon Norcross closed the meeting at 9.30 pm, the Council joining together in saying the Grace.