

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF LUXEMBOURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday 6 December 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, Lauren Marshall, Simon Norcross (Churchwarden), Isabel Page, Tristan Pâris de Bollardi re, Philippa Seymour (Churchwarden) and Evelyn Sweerts (Lay Pastoral Assistant)

1. & 2. Welcome & Bible reading and prayer

Philippa Seymour, as Chair, opened the meeting at 7.45 pm with a reading from Isaiah 40, v. 3-5, and the Chaplaincy prayer. She welcomed Tristan P  ris de Bollardi re to his first Council meeting after having being co-opted.

3. Apologies for absence – John Dimond, Victoria Hodgson and Moira Hogg

4. Approval of Minutes of 8 November 2017 meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017 were agreed to be an accurate account of the proceedings, subject to an amendment to item 11.

5. Action Points Review and Matters Arising

Action Points Review: the Churchwardens would try to arrange a meeting next year to discuss storage of archives with John Overstall;

Matters arising: a representative from the Charities Committee would probably be attending the Council meeting on 10 January 2018; the Wellsprings meeting led by Rabbi Grodensky had been very well attended and the group would welcome him back another time.

6. Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens reported as follows:

- i) Recruitment of next Chaplain: the notice of appointment was due to be signed the following week; the new Chaplain would start his contract on 1 March and hold his first service on 18 March 2018;
- ii) Locum arrangements and flat: locums had been organised until mid-March 2018; as regards the cleaning arrangements for the flat, Victoria Hodgson and Moira Hogg needed to clarify who was responsible with Elaine Birch; the present locum had repaired a couple of small things in the flat and a minor car repair had been arranged;
- iii) Convention/Luxembourg government subsidy: the Churchwardens had been informed by a senior person in the Luxembourg Government that the amounts due for 2016 and 2017 had been calculated and would be paid (  113 000 in total), whilst the amount due for 2018 was expected to be paid by the end of January 2018; the Government was apologetic for the length of time this procedure had taken;
- iv) Rental agreement Assistant Chaplain's house in Howald: Simon Norcross had written to the landlords, offering to pay an amount that the Churchwardens had calculated as fair by way of settlement for the sums being demanded; that amount had been paid to the Thills, who had responded, however, by requesting a further   1 300. After discussion the Council decided to refuse this request but to offer to pay   450 instead, as a full and final settlement. If the Thills agreed to that amount, the money would be paid;
- v) Sound system: Nick Jones was still working on the system, which was not yet completely installed, pending a delivery; lots of people needed to be trained in how to use it;
- vi) Remembrance Day service: it was felt that the service had gone well; it was positive that the Brownies, Guides and Scouts had been present too; however, the cake sale afterwards had caused some mess, in future any mess needed to be cleared up by the cake sellers themselves;
- vii) Christmas services and events: some of the information on the website about the upcoming services was wrong and needed to be corrected by the webmaster; arrangements were in hand to delegate some of the webmaster tasks to Tristan de Bollardi re and Rupert Birch; it was proving

difficult to fill some of the rotas over Christmas;

viii) Salle Maria Rheinsheim: on 26 November 2017, whilst we were still using the hall after our service, lots of young people had arrived at 1 pm expecting to be able to use the hall for dancing; the Churchwardens and Lynn Barclay had met with Mr Lo Piccolo to discuss this. He said he had spent a lot of money on the hall. According to Christine David from Hotel Goeres, we had the use of the hall on Sundays until 3 pm; as Mr Lo Piccolo wanted us to leave before then, we agreed, as a compromise, to vacate the hall by 2.30 pm. A further problem was that most of the tables had disappeared. It seemed that the Lafayette group, the majority shareholder of Salle Rheinsheim, might have taken them, so Philippa Seymour had written asking for the tables to be returned. In the meantime, there would not be enough tables for the Christmas lunch to be held in the hall on 10 December, so a work-around solution would have to be found.

7. Ministry report – Lay Pastoral Assistant

Evelyn Sweerts reported as follows:

- i) Iona service of healing: this special service held on 22 November 2017 had been attended by 28 people and there had been positive feedback; lots of people had requested prayers; once the new Chaplain had arrived, it could perhaps become a regular feature;
- ii) Prayers for the Chaplaincy: this had started on 26 November 2017, when four people had attended; a booklet was being produced to serve as a framework; from March it would move to the first Sunday of the month; a WhatsApp group for prayers for the Chaplaincy now existed;
- iii) possible Lent course: some possible courses had been sent to the locum covering that period but there had so far been no reaction; a venue was still needed, so the question was not yet resolved.

8. Treasurer's Report and 2018 Budget – proposals and discussion

Gabriel Chelladurai presented the receipts and payments account for January to November 2017; income was more or less the same as in the early months of the year; monthly donations had risen in October, but that trend had not continued and standing orders had not gone up.

Items of expenditure had included books for Junior Church, €2 800 for the vacation of the Howald house and the Charities payments of €11 200. The November deficit was €17 624, with the total deficit running at €60 867.

The proposals for next year's budget (which included Evelyn Sweerts' wish for more money for Junior Church, and Edward Seymour's request for more expenditure on music) would be discussed at the following week's Finance Committee meeting.

The Church of England had requested an increase in the Common Fund: this was to take place in stages, with a 6% increase in 2018 and a 10% increase in 2019.

9. New flat in rue Jules Mersch

The new Chaplain did not wish to live in either of the flats belonging to the church, as he had a wife, a child and a dog and preferred a house in the country. The Churchwardens were therefore looking for a suitable house to rent and had contacted an agency about renting out both the church's flats; the locum flat could be rented out furnished and the new flat would be easy to rent out but needed a kitchen to be installed. It seemed likely that the rental from these flats would exceed the rent to be paid for a house for the Chaplain. Tristan de Bollardi re suggested renting out the flats through a relocation agency, as this could be advantageous. Simon Norcross agreed it was a good idea.

The key for the rue Jules Mersch flat had still not been received. Isabel Page said that the guarantee document should not be returned until everything had been finished in the block of flats. She also pointed out that we needed to check the intended use for which the flat was originally registered, as that would affect the sort of kitchen we put in. (**Action point**: Simon Norcross to check the purchase act to verify whether the flat was bought for office use or use as a dwelling).

10. Fun and Fundraising Group report

Philippa Seymour said that the group had met on 4 December and discussed the following: i) tables for the Christmas lunch; ii) the wine-tasting event on 11 November 2017 had been good socially and had made money; iii) the attempt to revive the practice of going out for Sunday lunch once a month had not been so successful, but another one would be organised on 14 January 2018 and it would be advertised earlier; iv) at the choir concert on 17 December there would be a retiring collection for

which Philippa Seymour would like some children to hold the plates; v) there were enough performers for the Arts Festival on 4 February 2018, but some people would be needed to sell tickets; vi) Victoria Hodgson would confirm the date for the Sports Day (possibly 17 June 2018).

11. Communications Committee report (circulated by e-mail before the meeting)

At its recent meeting the Communications Committee had, amongst other things, discussed publicity for events, both past and future, e-mail addresses, webmaster tasks, Lumen and the sound system. Lynn Barclay had dealt with allocating new e-mail addresses and deleting old ones.

Gerd Gebhard pointed out that the details given about Evensong in the Luxemburger Wort had been incorrect for the last few months. (**Action point:** Lynn Barclay to write to the newspaper pointing out our service times.)

12. Safeguarding and insurance

Discussion postponed until Moira Hogg, the Safeguarding Officer, could be present.

13. ACAT interfaith human rights project

Lauren Marshall reported that she had attended an ACAT (*'Association des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture'*) lunch at which they discussed an inter-faith project to discuss human rights, culminating in a Human Rights awareness day to be held on 10 December 2018; each faith community could organise their own events and there would be an inter-faith 'round table' in the spring on the subject of 'What does human rights mean for you?'. Philippa Seymour considered that our church should be involved in this project, as we had links with ACAT and the project fitted in with JPIC aims. A further ACAT group meeting would be held at the end of February 2018. Philippa Seymour suggested that a JPIC meeting could be arranged to discuss ACAT's human rights questions and perhaps a film could be shown. Lauren Marshall said she would be willing to coordinate our church's meetings. (**Action point:** Lauren Marshall to find a suitable date for a JPIC meeting.)

14. Any other business

i) A 'Quiet Day' for Council members and rota organisers would be held on 13 January 2018 in Centre Jean XXIII led by the Rev'd Margaret Whitaker; it would probably be from 10 am to 4 pm and the theme would be transition;

ii) Gerd Gebhard asked about how much interaction existed with other churches; the Churchwardens said that apart from contacts with the Luxembourg hierarchy, the meetings of Wellsprings and JPIC were attended by members of other churches and some services were held together with the English-speaking Catholic church (e.g. Ash Wednesday and Christingle); Simon Norcross said that we should encourage the new Chaplain to try and build on the existing contacts with other churches;

iii) Tania Buhr said she would be stepping down as Council secretary at the 2018 AGM.

15. Dates of future Council meetings

- Wednesday 10 January 2018 at 7.30 pm, Centre Jean XXIII;
- Monday 19 February 2018;
- Wednesday 21 March 2018;
- Wednesday 18 April 2018;
- **AGM** Wednesday 25 April 2018

16. Closing prayer

Philippa Seymour closed the meeting at 10.05 pm, the Council joining together in saying the Grace.