St Martha & St Mary's
ANGLICAN CHURCH LEUVEN

Minutes of the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting
Sunday 18 May 2025, 12:00-13:00, American College Chapel

1. Nathan Shepura led the **opening prayer**.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Andrew Wiersum, the Treasurer.
Jesu Spurgen noted the attendance at the meeting as **32**.

3. The ACM approved the **minutes of the previous meeting** in 2024.

4. The respective officers gave summaries of the key points from each report. The complete reports were made available online.

Jesu Spurgen reported on the changes in the **electoral roll**. There were 24 members of the roll last year. This has increased to 38 members. The ACM thanked Kayla for managing the sign-up process through ChurchSuite.

Lydia Patmore reported on the **activities of the chaplaincy** as Churchwarden, noting in particular the following:

- Appointment and licensing of The Revd. Sarah-Jane King as Chaplain in October 2024.
- Fixing the venue and schedule of services between the American College and Justus Lipsius College. Change in the morning service time to 10:30 am.
- Welcoming newcomers and hosting welcome events (such as hikes and tours) and continuing these initiatives.

Sarah Jones presented a report on **safeguarding**, providing updates on training records and the follow-up of required documents. The Chaplain thanked Sarah for all her work on safeguarding.

The Chaplain presented a summary of her report, emphasizing **God's provision** throughout the year, with a focus on **growing in faith, hope, and love**.

- Growing in faith, in depth, and in number. The Alpha course was one of the highlights, clearly demonstrating the transformative experience of this growth, as participants stepped into faith.

- Sharing hope in church amidst challenges and struggles in the world.
- Living in love, expressing warmth, gentleness, and love within the church community.
- Acts of love expressed in financial giving, enabling M&Ms to dream bigger.
- The establishment of the VZW is a significant step for M&Ms, as it separates the finances from the Kerkraad and the VZW for different ministries within the church.
- Thanks to everyone for all the different ways of being part of the Body of Christ. Gratitude for all the love, care, and support in a not-so-easy year for the family.

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chaplain presented the **financial report**:
- Planned deficit due to substantial vacancy expenses (foreseen, but in the end, the Chaplaincy did not have much, so there was a bit of a deficit). However, the giving was down for the year compared to the planned budget.
- For 2025, there is a plan to spend more this year than expected, resulting in a forecasted deficit. Due to the previously accrued surplus, we had difficulty accessing funds from Stad Leuven. Now, with the VZW, the giving for mission and ministry activities beyond what is necessary for Sunday services will be directed to the VZW. This will enable us to access subsidies from Stad Leuven.
- Overall, it is a healthy and ambitious financial budget that is proposed. There may be some adjustments throughout the year, notably due to the closure of the JLC and its impact on the community.
- The Chaplain thanked Andrew as treasurer. The ACM applauded his work.

Filipe Francisco presented the **proceedings of the Archdeaconry Synod** in 2024.
- The Archdeaconry and the purpose of the Synod in the Church of England structure.
- During the last synod, the theme was seasons – growth of the churches, the challenges faced by the Church, and the intergenerational character of the different chaplaincies, as well as the presence of young people.

During the **Q&A session**, the following comments were raised:

- Natalie Strange posed the question: Looking at the year and date in May, what are the thoughts about the decrease in giving at this time of year? The Chaplain responded that the Treasurer anticipates some increase in giving once the VZW is established and has a bank account.
- Natalie inquired whether the money in the kerkraad account could be allocated to the VZW's ministries. The Chaplain responded that the finances must be clearly distinguished, and the Council, kerkraad, and VZW will record this.
- Gommaar asked: Now that we have the VZW, can we get money from Stad Leuven? The Chaplain explained that Stad Leuven is required to intervene where there is a deficit in the kerkraad account, to cover the costs of Sunday services.

- Natalie expressed that she felt encouraged and filled with hope for this community, despite its small size. Its multidimensional richness is quite extraordinary.
- The Chaplain expressed gratitude to those who have worked exceptionally hard and served the Chaplaincy for many years. M&Ms have been truly blessed, and God has been wonderfully good to us. She particularly thanked Sarah Jones, who had served as Churchwarden, Safeguarding Officer, Acting Treasurer, and now Chair of the VZW, as well as being a Lay Reader in the Chaplaincy. M&Ms is genuinely thankful for all that she has done in the past years. A token of appreciation was given to Sarah.

5. **Elections**

- Roshni Jegan was elected as the new Churchwarden.
- Lydia Patmore was re-elected as Churchwarden.
- The Chaplain admitted Roshni and Lydia to the Office of the Churchwarden.

- Ohin Cheng was elected as the new Archdeaconry Synod Representative.

- Council members: the following representatives of the Chaplaincy were elected:
  - Karen Papellero
  - Andrew Patton
  - Rebecca Breekveldt

Brendan led a prayer for the new Council.

The Chaplain thanked Alan Strange, as chair/voorzitter of the kerkraad, as he departs for the UK. Lydia Patmore led a prayer for the new kerkraad.

Karen Papellero led a prayer for the VZW officers, Sarah Jones, Rebecca Breekveldt, and Andrew Wiersum.

6. David Sayers was appointed as the **independent examiner**.

7. Before the meeting closed, Alan Strange gave a warm thank-you to Sarah-Jane on behalf of the Chaplaincy.

8. Natalie Strange led the **closing prayer**.

Minutes prepared by Karen Papellero | 23 June 2025