

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND
SYNOD 24 JUNE 2017 AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, ZURICH

MINUTES

Present

Visiting speaker	Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
Archdeacon	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham
Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Hilary Jones, Revd Russell Hilliard, Nigel Spencer, Robin Hall, ,
Bern St. Ursula's	Revd Stephen Stuckes, Revd Mark Pogson, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Richard King
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd Canon Alex Gordon, Roy Damary, Mary Talbot, Ursula Macgregor
La Côte	Revd Carolyn Cooke, David Bramley, Trevor Davies, Alison Speed CEMES
Lausanne Christ Church	Angela Fall, Vahe Jebejian
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Nigel Gibson, Sandra Pianezzi
Montreux St. John's	Mid Squier
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal
Vevey All Saints	Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd Paul Brice, Julianne Funk, Miriam Keller, Joanna Koch, Peter Spychal, John Waygood (Treasurer), Tim Purdue (Environment)
PTO	Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Revd Nick Peacock, Revd Lars Simpson
Old Catholics	Revd Sarah Boehm-Aebersold
Partner Sein	Robert Amstutz

Apologies for Absence **Basel** Revd Anne Lowen **Geneva** Clare Amos **Lugano** Linda Denkinger
La Côte Revd Julia Chambeyron **Montreux** Guy Padfield **Vevey** Mark Jones
Zurich Nick Leaver, Harry Devonshire **PTO** Revd Canon Peter Hawker, Revd Roy Farrar,
Revd Hugh Pettingell, Revd Andrew Livingstone, Revd Maree Wilson
OC Rt Revd Harald Rein, Revd Ulrike Henkenmeier **Emmanuel Church** Revd Michael Rusk,
Revd Richard Cole, Helena Mbele-Mbong

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Bishop Robert opened Synod with a prayer and Archdeacon Adèle Kelham welcomed Bishop Robert and all representatives, especially the newcomers. Apologies for absence as above.

Morning Session

1. Approval of minutes of Synod 4 February 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- **6. Reports** Resource on Ecumenism: Ursula Macgregor from Geneva brought pamphlets relating to Clare Amos' booklet on ecumenism in the Diocese of Europe

3. Elections

The following officers were formally elected for the next 3-year term of Synod

- **House of Clergy**

President & Chair	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham
Chapter Clerk	Revd Canon Alex Gordon
Standing Committee	Revd Canon Alex Gordon
AGCK Rep.	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham
	Replacement Revd Elizabeth Bussmann
- **House of Laity**

Vice-Chair	Mary Talbot
Lay Secretary	Miriam Keller
Standing Committee	Ursula Macgregor
Lay AGCK Rep.	Robert Amstutz
- **Elected by both Houses**

Treasurer	John Waygood
Partner Sein Rep.	Robert Amstutz

4. Address by The Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop Diocese in Europe

The Bishop began with a review of the Diocesan Strategy “Walking Together in Faith”. This is aimed to give us a sense of common purpose, not always implementable everywhere, but the general outline of the Strategy - Building up the Body of Christ, Sharing in the Evangelisation of Europe, Striving for a just and sustainable World, Working for Reconciliation, Resourcing Ministry - gives us some guidelines of where we should be going. Further themes were Brexit and its implications for individuals and the church; Religion and Violence, particularly with regard to Muslims and the general problem of migrants and refugees.

Human Sexuality is an issue with which all churches struggle. Laity and clergy are divided. The C of E advocates maximum freedom within the present guidelines and an advisory group has been set up to deal with difficult pastoral problems. Some Synod representatives expressed their views strongly that not enough is being done in the church towards solving this dilemma and more constructive conversations should be held. Bishop Robert assured us that the Church of England is acutely aware of current issues.

Eucharist

The Bishop presided at Eucharist. During the service Revd Carolyn Cooke from La Côte was commissioned as the new Diocesan Advisor in Women’s Ministry.

Afternoon Session

5. Environmental Issues presented by Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Diocesan Environmental Officer

Elizabeth Bussmann asked whether we really are aware of the climate change and its implications, particularly the effect of global warming. This affects many aspects of the natural world. One big problem today is the widespread use of plastic. Plastic is not 100% compostable and even after recycling, tiny particles remain, especially in the rivers and seas, contaminating natural life there. Churches and individuals should therefore preach awareness of this and make people conscious of the problem. We are called upon to care for

God's creation. God loves what he made and in loving God, we should love his creation too and look after it.

6. Reports

- **Archdeacon's Report** Archdeacon Adèle Kelham reported that a former Bishop in Europe, Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, had died. *Safeguarding*: A magnificent job is being done by those responsible. Please support them. Carolyn Cooke said how difficult it was to motivate people to follow the Safeguarding course. Miriam Keller will send round a very good article from the Zurich magazine on this subject. It is also possible to attend Safeguarding Training Days in other chaplaincies, e.g. Basel 26 August, La Côte 7 October, Bern 4 November. Contact the appropriate chaplain.
- **Diocesan Synod** Mary Talbot's report was circulated prior to Synod. In addition, she pointed out that Youth Ministry is on the agenda and a small group, of which she is a member, will look at what could be done at a central level. All archdeaconries should ideally have a co-ordinating Youth Officer.
- **Choir Festival 2017** Report already circulated. Carolyn Cooke expressed great appreciation of the achievements of the Choir Festival at Lausanne. She wondered, however, whether a change of style, perhaps some contemporary music, would attract more people to come.
- **SACEP** The SACEP day with Clare Amos on the theme Israel-Palestine "Land of Promise" was extremely good and well attended. The Retreat, planned for September with Lord George Carey, has been cancelled due to Lord Carey's withdrawal. Hilary Jones hopes to organise a SACEP event in October to compensate. There will be a SACEP day in April 2018 with Elizabeth Bussmann on the Environment.
- **Old Catholics** Revd Sarah Böhm brought greetings from Bishop Harald. At the recent OC Synod, environmental issues were on the agenda in preparation for Creation Time in the autumn. The youth pilgrimage to Echternact in May was enjoyable and enlightening. The Willibrord Society outing to Haus der Religionen in Bern takes place on 18 November. Finally, Thank You for the SFr. 11,840 collected for Partner Sein projects. Revd Mark Pogson added that it is planned to hold OC services in English in Biel (Bienne)
- **Partner Sein** Robert Amstutz explained briefly what Partner Sein does, emphasising that 27 of the projects are Anglican projects run in conjunction with the Old Catholic Partner Sein Aid Agency. He appealed for more churches to have special collections for this fund.

7. Future Dates

- 18 November 2017 Willibrord Society visit to Haus der Religionen in Bern
- 27 January 2018 Archdeaconry Synod in Bern
- 20-22 April 2018 Choir Festival in Basel
- 16 June 2018 Archdeaconry Synod Date and Venue to be confirmed

MANY THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND ESPECIALLY TO THE CATERING TEAM AT ZURICH.

Miriam Keller Synod Lay Secretary

5 July 2017

