

**DIOCESE IN EUROPE
ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND
SYNOD 25 JUNE 2016 AT HOLY TRINITY GENEVA**

MINUTES

Present

Bishop of Europe	Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes
Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Hilary Jones, Robin Hall
Berne St. Ursula's	Ven Peter Potter, Revd Mark Pogson, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert Richard King Maxine Wildhaber (visitor)
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd Canon Alex Gordon, Roy Damary, Betty Talbot, Mary Talbot Ursula McGregor
La Côte	Revd Carolyn Cooke, Valerie Geschonke, Trevor Davies
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham, Angela Fall (visitor)
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Nigel Gibson, Linda Chiesa
Montreux St. John's	Guy Padfield, Mid Squier
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal
Vevey All Saints	----
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd Paul Brice, Sarah Emch-Jones, Miriam Keller, Joanna Koch, Nick Leaver, John Waygood
PTOs	Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Revd Hugh Pettingell, Revd Maree Wilson
Emmanuel Church Geneva	Revd Richard Cole, Revd Joel Miller
Old Catholics	Revd Ulrike Henkenmeier

Apologies for Absence

Basel Revd Russell Hilliard, Revd Anne Lowen, Nigel Spencer, Adam Pyrke **Berne** Revd Linda Bisig
Geneva Dr Clare Amos **La Côte** Revd Julia Chambeyron **Lausanne** Philippa King Rojo, Howard Yu
Lugano Sandra Pianezzi **Montreux** Revd Paul Dalzell **Neuchâtel** Christa McCartney
Vevey Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish, Donato Rampa **PTOs** Revd Canon Peter Hawker
Revd Roy Farrar, Revd Lars Simpson **Emmanuel Church** Helena Mbele-Mbong
Old Catholics Rt Revd Harald Rein, Revd Sarah Böhm-Aebersold **Partner Sein** Robert Amstutz

Welcome, Introduction, Opening Prayer

The Archdeacon welcomed all present, particularly Bishop Robert Innes, also Fr Nigel Gibson, recently appointed Chaplain in Lugano. The synod opened with prayer.

1. Approval of Minutes Synod 6 February 2016

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising Amended text

- Item 3, para.3 In reply to a question as to whether this issue has been resolved, the response was, no it hasn't. After this question was asked Bishop Robert stated that Dr. Clare Amos had recently been appointed Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship and would be starting work later this year.

3. Diocesan Strategy

After an introduction by Bishop Robert, Mary Talbot and Nick Leaver, our two Diocesan Synod representatives, led the session, using material which had recently been the basis of discussion at Diocesan Synod. Individually and in groups we took the 5 headings, thinking how the themes had

been experienced in our chaplaincies, or if we had seen them working elsewhere. Each discussion point was introduced with a bible reading. The headings were:

BUILDING up the body of Christ - Encouraging and nurturing the faith

SHARING in the evangelisation of Europe - Outreach, welcome, growth

STRIVING for a Just & Sustainable World - Care for those in need, safeguarding, slavery, creation

WORKING for Reconciliation - On all levels, church, religions, nations

RESOURCING ministry - Stewardship, recruitment of clergy

This was a valuable exercise, hearing about what other chaplaincies were doing. It is important to remember that the implementation of this strategy comes from below i.e. from us, and is not imposed from above.

4. Finance

All chaplaincies have paid their quota. With the departure of the present Archdeacon, Peter Potter, and the appointment of Adèle Kelham as Archdeacon, some adjustments in the financial arrangements will have to be made, but everything will remain within budget for this year. Changes in the way archdeacons' expenses are paid are being introduced by the Diocese, but this is unlikely to result in more costs for us.

5. Archdeacon's Report

Peter expressed his thanks to the members of the Archdeaconry for their support during his term of office. It had been a privilege for him to serve and he had enjoyed the time doing it. He felt confident about handing over to Adèle from 14 July and wished her all the best.

6. Diocesan Synod Reports

Mary Talbot reported on the theme of migration, which is no new phenomenon, but actually runs all through the Old Testament. The position of Christians in the Middle East was also discussed at Dio. Synod. The discussions can all be read up on the diocesan website: www.europe.anglican.org

Nick Leaver assured us that the Diocese in Europe is growing, but we are still very much an unknown quantity outside Europe. Diocesan Communications Officer, Paul Needle, urges us, for example, to use the website and to send articles about our own chaplaincy here to our former home church and establish a dialogue between us and them. The Diocesan Director for Reader Ministry, Elaine Labourel, has published a very succinct guide and report, which Nick will distribute to chaplaincies.

Carolyn Cooke (Chaplain La Côte) spoke about the sessions of the Church of England's Shared Conversations on Scripture, Mission and Human Sexuality, which she had attended. Much has still to be done in this field from the point of view of scripture and its practical application, for example, how important is the blessing of gay marriage in your chaplaincy? The Church of England has a massive task ahead in guiding the church to a common approach to this issue, given the acute divisions in today's church.

7. Reports

- **SACEP** The meeting on Migration in May was well-attended and received. Contact Clive Atkinson in Vevey for a recording. The next SACEP meeting is on 8 October with Bishop John Pritchard on Discipleship. Flyer is coming. 2017 April/May: Clare Amos will present a round picture of the Middle East question. Possibly a Retreat in 2017 led by Lord Carey.
- **Safeguarding** The current protocol with levels 1, 2,3 and 4 is on the website. Archbishop Justin is anxious for the CofE to have a high profile in the field of safeguarding. The Diocesan Office for Safeguarding, Ian Carter with his staff, are very approachable and supportive. All enquiries are dealt with. Safeguarding applicants who have been in countries where no police records are

available must now at least show that they have tried to obtain clearance. Refugee children: special and clear policies for us and them are in place.

- **Old Catholic/Anglican Relations** Ulrike Henkenmeier brought greeting from the Old Catholic church. Currently our chaplain in Lausanne, Adèle Kelham, is also chaplain for the Old Catholic Church there. Upon her retirement in October, there will be a vacancy in the two churches. Ordained clergy from both churches can apply for this joint post. Ulrike further reported on the Missionary Alliance Conference and the OC Synod in Switzerland.
- **Willibrord Society** Outing 19th November in Berne. Eucharist in the OC Church and then a guided tour of Berne churches. Adèle urged everyone to come.
- **Partner Sein** Partner Sein successfully raised CHF 50'000 for immediate refugee help in the first 3 months 2016. Robert Amstutz will remain as our delegate, but has resigned as Project Leader for English-speaking Africa, following his election as Churchwarden in Zurich.
- **AGCK** The Syrian Orthodox Church urgently needs assistance in dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis and the AGCK will assist them where possible. 2017 sees various celebrations for 500th anniversary of the Swiss Reformation. Swiss Reformed and Roman Catholic churches will be involved.
- **Choir Festival 2016** Attended by 36 singers from Swiss chaplaincies. A very successful event.
- **Environment** Elizabeth Bussmann received over 60 replies to her Green Review questionnaire, often with special comments from individual chaplaincies. She would like to put together committed persons from the various countries to exchange news. She urged us all to work towards an eco sustainability environment – nurture small, grow big.

8. Standing Committee

Following the resignation of Jane Weber-Miller, Ursula McGregor (Geneva) was elected as member of the Standing Committee. Thank you, Ursula.

9. AOB -BREXIT

Bishop Robert gave us his, and the Church's, first reactions to the outcome of the UK referendum. As for many people, the result was a shock and the Diocese is upset. Time will tell what some of the implications for us in Europe are: residency rights, pensions, recruitment, health care, how attractive will Europe be for working, will it be easy for clergy to move from one country to another, problems for British people living permanently abroad. The Diocese in Europe will be more important than ever.

Farewell

Revd Paul Dalzell, Chaplain in Montreux, is returning to his native Australia at the end of July. Peter thanked him for his contribution to Montreux and the Swiss Archdeaconry and wished him well.

Ven. Peter Potter, Archdeacon Bishop Robert thanked Peter for his contribution to St. Ursula's, the Swiss Archdeaconry and the European Diocese. He will be sadly missed. The Synod presented Peter with a case of wine and a farewell card, signed by the members. We all wish Peter good health and hope he will be happy in Scotland.

10. Future Dates

- Saturday, 8 October 2016 SACEP Bishop John Pritchard "Discipleship"
- Saturday, 19 November 2016 Willibrord Day-Out in Berne
- Saturday, 4 February 2017 AD Synod in Berne
- Fri – Sun 5 – 7 May 2017 Choir Festival in Lausanne
- Saturday, 24 June 2017 AD Synod at Neuchâtel

Many thanks to Holy Trinity for their hospitality.

Miriam Keller, Synod Secretary

