

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
The Church of England
Archdeaconry of Switzerland

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD
Saturday, 7 February 2015
St. Ursula's Church, Berne

Present

Right Reverend Dr Robert Innes, Diocesan Bishop

Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Dr Russell Hilliard, Revd Anne Lowen, Revd Hilary Jones Nigel Spencer, Jane Weber-Müller, Roger Dietiker
Berne St Ursula's	Ven Peter Potter, Revd Linda Bisig, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert Janet Wenger
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd Canon Dr Alex Gordon, Dr Roy Damary
La Côte	No representatives
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd Adèle Kelham, Philippa King Rojo
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Andrew Horlock, Linda Chiesa
Montreux St. John's	Guy Padfield
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal
Vevey All Saints	Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish
Château d'Oex	No representative
Zurich St. Andrew's	Sarah Emch-Jones, Miriam Keller, Joanna Koch, Nick Leaver John Waygood
PTO	Revd Canon Peter Hawker, Revd Elizabeth Bussmann Revd Mark Pogson
Emmanuel Church	Revd Deacon Richard Cole, Helena Mbele-Mbong
Old Catholics	Rt Revd Dr Harald Rein, Sarah Böhm-Aebersold
Partner sein	Robert Amstutz
Visitor	Valerie Eckstein, Zurich

Apologies

Geneva Betty Talbot, Mary Talbot **La Côte** Revd Carolyn Cooke, Revd Julia Chambeyron, Valerie Geschonke, Susan-Jane Werkhoven **Lausanne** Howard Yu **Lugano** Jenny Flint
Montreux Revd Dr Paul Dalzell, Middleton Squier **Neuchâtel** Christa McCartney
Château d'Oex Donato Rampa **Old Catholics** Revd Ulrike Henkenmeier
PTO Revd Roy Farrar, Revd Hugh Pettingell, Revd Lars Simpson **Emmanuel** Revd John Beach

1. Welcome, Introduction and Opening Prayer

The Archdeacon opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed all present, especially the Diocesan Bishop, Dr Robert Innes and Old Catholic Bishop Dr Harald Rein. Apologies for absence as above.

2. Approval of Minutes of Synod held on 28 June 2014

Adèle Kelham pointed out that on page 3 under World War 1 1914 Service, the "Prayers for Peace" were also in German, not only English and French. The minutes were then approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

- Minutes page 3 AOB Contacts for young people: Neuchâtel young people are keen to be in touch with groups from other chaplaincies.

4. Address by our Bishop, Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes

A summary of the Bishop's talk is at the end of the minutes

5. Finance

- Presentation and approval of the accounts for 2014
- Presentation and approval of the budget for 2015
- Appointment of Hon. Auditor 2015

Accounts The Treasurer, John Waygood, presented the 2014 accounts. Total capital and funds increased in 2014 by CHF 906 from 28'084 to 28'990, which included increases of 5'341 in the SAMTS Fund and 51 in the discretionary fund, partly offset by an administrative deficit of (2'786) and a net outflow of (1'700) in charity payments from the British Charity Fund.

The SAMTS Fund is needed to cover the cost of a possible future diocesan clergy conference, as well as that of annual training of our ministers (the latter based on GBP 200 per head). In 2014 we contributed CHF 7'000 to the SAMTS Fund but used only 1'659 of those resources, and thus our ministers were further encouraged to utilize the fund for their training.

Planned amounts were paid over to the AGCK, Partner Sein, and the Athens chaplaincy of St. Paul's. Total administrative expenses at CHF 10'715 were below budget in total, with some ups and downs: full details were provided in the hand-out. The administrative deficit of (2'786) was better than budget by CHF 314.

Auditor The auditor, Hector Davie, recommended the 2014 accounts to the members for approval, and the accounts were unanimously adopted.

Hector Davie was re-elected as Hon. Auditor for a further year.

Budget The Treasurer presented the 2015 Budget proposed by the Standing Committee. The proposed chaplaincy quotas in total are the same as in 2014, with some variations in the distribution by chaplaincy, based on the 2015 Common Fund allocation by the Diocese. Expenditure is budgeted as in 2014, other than an additional CHF 1'000 in SACEP and a reduction of 3'600 in the allocation to SAMTS. The new SAMTS budgeted charge of 3'400 is felt to be adequate, as it is planned to put a CHF 20'000 ceiling on that Fund. The choir festival budget is maintained at 1'500, although it was recognised that this may not cover the total cost. Continued support of the Athens chaplaincy is included in the proposal. As a consequence of the lower SAMTS charge, the archdeaconry's overall administrative deficit in 2015 is budgeted at CHF (500), much better than in 2014.

Adele Kelham requested, and it was agreed, that St. Paul's Athens should benefit from recent exchange rate movements (i.e. that we should contribute more than Euros 200 per month), in order that we fully utilise the budgeted total contribution of CHF 3'000.

The above 2015 budget proposal was adopted by the members.

Many thanks to John Waygood and Hector Davie for looking after the Archdeaconry finances.

6. Archdeacon's Report

- Archdeaconry Website: Sam Carmalt set up the Anglican website for us 15 years ago and has financed it since then. He is now stepping out of the business and wishes to know what we want to do. Standing Committee will discuss it and present proposals at Synod in June.
- EU directives about cookies: new directives have been issued
- Bishop's Lent Appeal for **Hestia** (meaning "home"), a hostel for unaccompanied minor refugees in Athens.
- New training for congregation worship leaders.
- Taize 9 - 16 August Young Adult's (18 - 35) Pilgrimage for the whole diocese
- Diocesan Environmental Officer The present officer is stepping down. Any offers to take on this job? Contact Paul Needle in Diocesan Office
- Human Sexuality has been debated for some time. The Pilling Report is now out. Structured conversations are planned across all dioceses, including our own. We are invited to nominate six persons from the Diocese.

- Elections to Diocesan Synod and General Synod are coming up in the summer. New is that we can elect three, instead of two, lay representatives to General Synod.
- PTOs are now entitled to elect one representative to Archdeaconry Synod, with full voting rights.
- Sue Siddall (wife of former Archdeacon of Switzerland) is very ill. Remember her in your prayers.

7. **Old Catholic/Anglican Relations:** Report by OC Bishop, Rt Rev Dr Harald Rein
 Bishop Harald brought greetings from the Old Catholic Church and referred us to his Lenten Pastoral Letter 2015, which deals particularly with OC/Anglican relations. The OC and Anglican Church worldwide have been in communion since 1931, but this has largely meant that each church has continued to go its own separate way. Unity would be a good thing, but “only if you do what I want”. In Switzerland our churches are separated because of constitutions, language, liturgy, traditions, not because of Christ or the Trinity. In a world where Christianity is struggling for recognition, we should be able to strive for unity, as the Early Church proclaimed. But what is the goal? Simply: One Church, One Bishop, One Synod, because we are united in Jesus Christ.

However, do the churches, the bishops, the parishes want this? Mostly not at the moment, which is all the more reason why we should start in a small way at ground level. In Switzerland, Bishop Harald would like to see a commission set up to study how more unity could be achieved. We need to be convinced that this is the ultimate will of God.

8. 2 Minute News from the Chaplaincies

- **Basel** An interregnum. A successful candidate had to withdraw for health and personal reasons, but a new appointment will hopefully be made soon. Basel is in the fortunate position of having three assistant chaplains and a reader. Family church events, a bazaar, a discussion on recognising talents and how to use them have all taken place. The youth leader is leaving. The revised constitution is ready for approval at the AGM. This complies legally with Swiss law.
- **Berne** The church enjoyed a successful nativity play despite young and youth problems. A Church Breakfast is held on 1st Sunday of the month at 8.30am. An Energy Efficiency Team is looking into the problem of heating three entities – church, community centre, vicarage. The Lenten 7 – part Study CMS “The Possible World” has brought a good response.
- **Geneva** There is a new notice board in front of the church, now entitled “Église anglicane de Genève”, instead of “Église anglaise”. It is noticeable that the congregation is becoming less and less English. The new chaplain, Canon Alex Gordon, displays many human qualities, gives tip-top sermons and is a great liturgist.
- **Emmanuel Episcopal Church** Also supports Partner Sein. They are looking forward to a visit of OC Bishop Dr Harald Rein very soon.
- **La Côte** Owing to a church event with Bishop John Pritchard, no-one from the chaplaincy was present, but Carolyn Cooke had sent in a report mentioning a positive reaction to the appointment of a youth leader, with the aim of integrating the young people more into the life of their church; plans for developing the chaplaincy in Divonne and Gingins are underway; a new look at finances and how to raise more money is also a concern for the chaplaincy.
- **Lausanne** They have a very restricted budget, which calls for lots of imagination in financial matters. The congregation is multilingual with many Nigerians. The church is successfully being opened up for outside musical events and the acoustics are excellent. Adèle Kelham will retire in 2 years’ time and the Church Council is already getting prepared.
- **Lugano** It was expected that there was going to be a significant shortfall in covering expenses, but a truly amazing response to the Gift Day resulted in a surplus of over CHF 20,000.- The church is becoming more multicultural. A recently conducted Questionnaire was helpful in evaluating what they are doing well and what still needs to be done and also encouraged more people to get involved. A new initiative, the “Soul

Café” is open twice a month as a friendly meeting place. Sunday School now takes place (sadly) only two Sundays per month; the new Safeguarding Policy has had a negative impact and more teachers are needed.

- **Montreux** The only representative from the chaplaincy finds that the council meetings are introspective.
- **Neuchâtel** They are without a priest-in-charge. The community is moved by the plight of refugee children in Athens and is planning two events for the Bishop’s Lenten Appeal (hostel for refugee minors in Athens).
- **Vevey** Needs more volunteers. Many church visitors are people in transit. The aims of the chaplaincy are to raise awareness of the challenges facing the church, how to carry forward its mission and sharing responsibility.
- **Zurich** Until a new chaplain is appointed a series of locums are covering the interregnum. A fascinating workshop with Keith Lamblin last year gave the Church Council a starting point for the profile for a new chaplain. A large renovation programme is currently underway, costing over half a million. CHF 310,000 has been raised so far, and fortunately this has not led to a reduction in the normal pledge contributions. The youth leader is leaving. There was a successful bazaar, a nativity play and several social events have been organised.

9. Reports

- **SACEP** Two excellent well-supported events took place last year in July and October on communication and music in church. The next SACEP event is on 30 May at Neuchâtel “Words for Worship” This should be of particular interest to church wardens, clergy and in fact, everyone. In October 2015 a meeting “How to recognise the gifts God has given you” is planned. Hilary Jones is hoping to have a session on “Discipleship” in 2016.
- **AGCK** Report on 2014 meeting by Revd Dr.Paul Dalzell circulated. OC Bishop Harald is now the president of AGCK. The new constitution no longer stipulates a smaller presidential council (which would have reduced our representation). The AGCK will hold the service for the new parliament on in Berne 30 November after the national elections.
- **Bishop’s Council** Report by MaryTalbot circulated
- **Partner sein** Robert Amstutz, the archdeaconry representative, is now also Project Leader for English-speaking Africa. Christoph Schuler from the OC is retiring from the committee to take up other duties and various other committee changes are taking place.
- **Willibrord Society** The AGM will be held in Thun on 14 March. A trip with Eucharist and Picnic at Montreux is planned for 29 August. OC Revd Ulrike Henkenmeier is ready to come to any chaplaincy to explain what the OCs and Willibrord do.

10. Future Programme

- Friday-Sunday 10-12 April Choir Festival at St Andrew’s Church, Zurich
- Saturday 30 May SACEP “ Words for Worship” led by Alison Calway, Lay Ministerial Adviser, Diocese of Rochester. At Neuchâtel
- Saturday 20 June Archdeaconry Synod at All Saints, Vevey
Diocesan Secretary Adrian Mumford will speak on the new Safeguarding regulations

Many thanks to Berne for hosting the Synod

The summary of Bishop Robert’s address is on the next page

Address by Bishop Robert at Synod 7 February 2015

Bishop Robert spoke firstly about himself, his family, what a bishop is expected to do and what he has learnt so far. He then went on to talk about developments in the national church. This is a moment of great opportunity for the Church of England. Instead of a gradual decline, we are looking now at a programme of renewal.

Reform and Renewal

- Developing discipleship: discipleship of the whole people of God, establishing a checklist for every diocese; using fresh theological resources; working on a revised catechism for the Church of England.
- Resourcing for the future (funding) and the distribution of funds.
- Resourcing ministerial education: poor quality leadership brings nothing, good leadership produces growth; a large number of clergy will be retiring in the near future so there is a commitment to keep up the numbers of ordinations; a rapid development of lay ministries will help to cover the shortage of clergy in many churches.
- Simplification to reduce bureaucracy and facilitate flexibility: This applies mostly to the UK, not so much in Europe.
- Breaking the Commissioners' promise on Inter-Generation Equity i.e. not using tomorrow's money today: we should be ready to spend heavily to generate growth in the coming years.

Diocese in Europe

- Importance of strategy: a working group is "working" on this with a bottom-up approach. We can walk together in faith, with a common purpose throughout the Diocese in the knowledge of being beloved children of God. Let us share the good news with a shared sense of direction and a focus on all we do.
- Building up the Body of Christ and fostering growth within the Anglican tradition and in partnership with other churches; by deepening our faith and practice in prayer and worship; by teaching the faith and education at all ages and encouraging new disciples.
- Sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe; proclaiming the good news; encouraging a culture of welcome, invitation, hospitality; seeking opportunities for growth.
- Striving for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment: defending the poor, disadvantaged and those in need; promoting safeguarding; combating slavery; challenging the inactivity of comfort; encouraging care for the creation.
- Working for reconciliation within churches at all levels, among nations, ethnicities and religions, by valuing European solidarity.
- Resourcing: through stewardship; encouraging vocation of all who are baptised; increasing the number of clergy. The aim is 50% more. Having well-structured archdeaconries.

On the subject of archdeaconries, the Bishop regretted that the plans for 4 full-time archdeacons had fallen through. We probably had too many illusions. However, there is enough money for one full-time post to cover Germany, the Nordic and Baltic States. This will relieve Peter Potter of his temporary assignment in the northern archdeaconry, hopefully as from September 2015.

27.02.2015
Miriam Keller