

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
The Church of England
Archdeaconry of Switzerland

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD
Saturday, 20 June 2015
All Saints Church, Vevey

Present

Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Anne Lowen, Jane Weber-Miller, Roger Dietiker
Berne St. Ursula's	Ven Peter Potter, Hector Davie, Richard King
Geneva Holy Trinity	Christine Damary, Mary Talbot
La Côte	Revd Carolyn Cooke, Valerie Geschonke, Trevor Davies
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd Adèle Kelham, Philippa King Rojo
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Andrew Horlock, Annie Horlock, Linda Chiesa
Montreux St. John's	Revd Paul Dalzell, Mid Squier
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal, Christa McCartney
Vevey All Saints	Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish
Château d'Oex	Donato Rampa
Zurich St. Andrew's	Miriam Keller, Nick Leaver, John Waygood
PTOs	Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Revd Mark Pogson
Geneva Emmanuel Church	Helena Mbele-Mbong
Old Catholics	---
Visitor	Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary

Apologies **Basel** Revd Russell Hilliard, Revd Hilary Jones, Nigel Spencer **Berne** Revd Linda Bisig, Donna Goepfert **Geneva** Revd Canon Alex Gordon, Betty Talbot, Dr Clare Amos **La Côte** Revd Julia Chambeyron **Emmanuel Church** Revd John Beach **Lausanne** Howard Yu **Lugano** Sandra Pianezzi **Montreux** Guy Padfield **Zurich** Sarah Emch-Jones, Joanna Koch **PTOs** Revd Peter Hawker, Revd Roy Farrar, Revd Hugh Pettingell, Revd Lars Simpson **Old Catholics** Rt Revd Harald Rein, Revd Sarah Boehm, Revd Ukrike Henkenmeier **Partner Sein** Robert Amstutz

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1. Welcome, Introduction, Opening Prayer

The Archdeacon welcomed everyone, particularly the newcomers from Berne and La Côte and Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary. Revd Clive Atkinson led us in an opening prayer. Apologies for Absence as above.

2. Approval of Minutes of Synod held on 7 February 2015.

The circulated minutes included amendments from Lugano and Neuchâtel. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

- The Bishop's Strategical Plan was adopted at Diocesan Synod
- Revd Elizabeth Bussmann has been appointed Diocesan Environment Officer
- Sadly Sue Siddall, wife of former Archdeacon of Switzerland, died just before Easter
- Website: Revd Anne Lowen of Basel has taken this on. It should not be too elaborate, but rather to be used as a directory. Chaplaincy matters are better advertised on the individual chaplaincy websites.

4. Finance

The Treasurer, John Waygood, had nothing to say. Financially everything is OK.

5. Diocesan Synod Report

Mary Talbot had written a very comprehensive report of the Synod. All members had received a copy. She encouraged people to go into the links quoted and emphasised the importance of recognising migration and trafficking. The latter is not only prostitution, but also, for example, growing hashish.

6. Archdeacon's Report

- Canon Colin Williams has been appointed as first freestanding archdeacon in Europe. He will be responsible for northern Europe, thus relieving our Archdeacon, Peter Potter, of these duties which he took over temporarily.
- 19 September An ecumenical open air event in Berne supported by AGCK (unfortunately same day as the bible study meeting in Geneva)

7. Report by Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary

Safeguarding Adrian stressed the importance of safeguarding, both for the children and adults who might be victims of abuse and also for us as responsible carers. Charles Clark is now Chairman of the Safeguarding Advisory Group. His emphasis is on training, policy and the resources available. Training is now available electronically at level 1. Policy changes frequently, but there are now more centralised guidelines. Electronic resources are being extended continually.

Diocesan Strategy This has been adopted. The aim is to know what we are doing, or should be aspiring to do. Councils can take what is applicable in their chaplaincies. Diocesan Office Communications Officer, Paul Needle, is happy to have feedback with ideas or examples, to know what is important and may be useful for other churches. We are on the spot; we see what can be done.

Finance Grants of money are now available for the Diocese of Europe from the Church Commissioners. When the next allocations are made, we hope to receive more than the first time. However, then we did get £84,000, which has enabled the Diocese to appoint the first freestanding Archdeacon. The Common Fund was put up by 8/9% last time. This money is used for standing costs and the increase was necessary for extra safeguarding expenses.

8. SACEP

Anne Lowen read the report from SACEP leader Hilary Jones. The SACEP training on 30 May entitled Words for Worship and led by Alison and Peter Callway was very successful and the feedback positive. Thanks to Neuchâtel for hosting it. The next training will be on 17 October on Conflict Resolution. A day on Discipleship with John Pritchard is planned for next year. A request for early prior notice of event dates was made to avoid clashes.

9. Choir Festival (report circulated)

The 2015 Festival in Zurich was top quality choral music. Members from all congregations should be encouraged to sing at the festivals, even if they are not members of chaplaincy choirs.

10. Diocesan Environment Report: Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Diocesan Environment Officer

Elizabeth Bussmann spoke on the effects of climate changes, how these affect wide aspects of the environment, from whales to wine to human trafficking. We make little real effort to use the environment sensibly and all over there is ill-considered abuse of nature. We need to adopt simpler and more wholesome life-styles. St. Francis refers to the earth as our sister and mother, but one

cannot serve God and Money. She warmly recommended Pope Franziskus' Encyclical on Care for our Common Home, i.e. the environment www.papalencyclicals.com. Please think about Creationtide in September. Elizabeth Bussmann is updating literature on this. Some chaplaincies have an Environmental Officer. Please mail these contacts to Elizabeth at mebussmann-morton@bluewin.ch If you have no person responsible for the environment, please think of appointing someone. She also recommends the following two petition websites relating to campaigning for the environment and against climate change www.avaaz.org <http://home.38degrees.org.uk>

11. Old Catholic/Anglican relations

Revd Adèle Kelham brought greetings from Bishop Harald and the two other OC representatives, who were not able to attend Synod. She reported on the recent OC Synod in Lucerne. The OCs are keen to have young representatives on Synod; they place an emphasis on congregation training; thanks came for our participation in Partner Sein projects. In particular, Bishop Harald wished to correct our misconception of what he meant at our last Synod by closer co-operation. We are two separate churches with our own liturgies, constitutions, practices; we recognise the differences, but we can aim to work more closely for our mutual benefit and nevertheless keep our own identity. For this he would like a joint working committee to see how we can go forward. Diocesan Representative Nick Leaver argued that Bishop Harald had specifically stated a final aim as One Church, one Synod, one Bishop. As a Synod, do we want a working committee? The Archdeacon was asked to talk to Bishop Harald. Generally, the principle of working together on small issues e.g. the soup kitchen in Geneva, was welcomed. Chaplaincies were asked to feed into Peter Potter how they stand in their areas with the Old Catholics and Standing Committee will discuss the situation. A reminder that Revd Ulrike Henkenmeier of the OCs is prepared to come to any church to explain who and what the Old Catholics are.

Willibrord Society dates:	29 August 2015	Outing to Montreux
	30 April 2016	Annual General Meeting
	27 August 2016	Day Out

12. Farewell to Revd Andrew Horlock Lugano The Archdeacon thanked Andy and his wife Annie for all they have achieved at Lugano in the past 6 years. Despite the distance, Andy regularly attended Synod and Chapter meetings and put his heart and soul into making Lugano a welcoming and living church.

These sentiments were repeated by Linda Chiesa of Lugano later in the meeting in the 2-minute chaplaincy reports.

12. Election of member to Standing Committee

Following the resignation of Janet Wenger, Jane Weber-Miller of Basel was elected as a member of Standing Committee.

13. Diocesan Synod / General Synod

Elections for both are coming up this year. Our two Diocesan representatives, Mary Talbot (Geneva) and Nick Leaver (Zurich) are both willing to stand again for Diocesan Synod.

14. 2-Minute Chaplaincy Reports

- a) Our congregations are very scattered and midweek and daytime events often do not attract viable numbers. How do you avoid overloading Sunday morning?
- b) How do you tackle the problem of the social integration of older church members when they are unable to travel alone by public transport?

The general consensus on this was that unless an event is something very, very special, mid-week does not attract an audience. Scattered communities, travelling distances, work and family commitments deter people from driving into town during the week. Friday, Saturday and Sunday

and not too often, are more likely to attract an audience. On the question of transport facilities for, say, elderly persons, all chaplaincies depend on the goodwill of friendly neighbours to give people a lift. Other news:

Basel has small house groups based on locality. **Berne** has separate house groups. **La Côte** has erratic attendance on Sunday and some week meetings. **Geneva** is not so scattered, has a mid-week service and is making an effort to set up house groups. **Lausanne** Some week-time events attract people, some don't. **Lugano** The Soul Café on Thursday morning is working well. Few people come to the mid-week service. **Montreux** There are small groups in various places. For their 140th anniversary they are planning events. **Neuchâtel** They try to help refugees. They have "singing together" evenings. **Vevey** They have clusters on a pastoral basis in a geographical structure, each with a leader. **Château d'Oex** has a Sunday evening service. **Emmanuel Church** They feel that any event offered has to be worth it to get people to come. **Zurich** Interesting is the situation in the daughter community at Zug, where there are a lot of ex-pat wives, not working, children away all day at international schools. The very efficient Reader living at Zug runs a successful bible-study group on Wednesday afternoons.

Future Dates

2015

Saturday	19 September	Exploring Acts together at Holy Trinity Geneva
Also	19 September	AGCK Ecumenical Church event in Berne
Saturday	17 October	SACEP Conflict Resolution venue to be announced

2016

Saturday	6 February	Archdeaconry Synod at St. Ursula's Berne
Friday-Sunday	22-24 April	Choir Festival at St. Ursula's Berne
Saturday	25 June	Archdeaconry Synod at Holy Trinity Geneva

Many thanks to Vevey for hosting this informative synod and looking after our material and culinary needs so generously.

Special Note

Please keep me, Miriam Keller, and SACEP leader, Hilary Jones at Basel, informed of any educational and social events which your chaplaincy is arranging, to avoid dates clashing.

Miriam: keller-thompson@bluewin.ch

Hilary: hilaryjones@bluewin.ch

Environment information to Elizabeth Bussmann
mebussmann-morton@bluewin.ch

2 July 2015/MK