

**DIOCESE IN EUROPE
ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND**

**Archdeaconry Synod
Saturday, 16 June 2018**

All Saints Church, Avenue de la Prairie 40, 1800 Vevey

Present

Archdeacon	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham
Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Hilary Jones, Revd Anne Lowen, Nigel Spencer, Robin Hall, Jane Weber-Miller
Berne, St Ursula's	Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Richard King
Geneva Holy Trinity	Canon Alex Gordon, Mary Talbot, Ursula McGregor
La Côte	Revd Carolyn Cooke, David Bramley, Trevor Davies
Lausanne Christ Church	Vahe Jebejian
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Nigel Gibson, Linda Denkinger,
Montreux	Mid Squier
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal
Vevey All Saints	Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Daghish, Mark Jones
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd Paul Brice, Julianne Funk, Joanna Koch Peter Spychal, Nick Leaver, Robert Amstutz (Partner Sein) John Waygood (Treasurer)
PTO	Revd Maree Wilson
Visitors	Prof. Grace Davie, Courtney Gill (CEMES candidate, Geneva) Carol Squier, (Montreux) John Lowen (Basel)

Apologies/Absent **Basel** Revd Russell Hilliard, **Geneva** Roy Damary, Clare Amos,
La Côte Revd Julia Chambeyron, **Emmanuel Church** Revd Michael Rusk, Revd Richard Cole,
Helena Mbele-Mbong, **Lausanne** Angela Fall, **Lugano** Sandra Pianezzi,
Vevey Revd Elisabeth Bussmann, **Zurich** Harry Devonshire, Miriam Keller,
PTO Revd Canon Alan Amos, Revd Peter Hawker, Revd Roy Farrar, Revd Mark Podgson,
Revd Lars Simpson, Rev Nick Peacock **Old Catholics** Rt Revd Harald Rein, Revd Ulrike
Henkenmeier
Revd Sarah Böhm-Aebersold

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Archdeacon Revd Canon Adèle Kelham opened Synod with a prayer and welcomed all present. She welcomed Mark Jones as a new member from Vevey. Apologies as above.

Morning Session

1. Approval of Minutes Synod 27 January 2018

The minutes were approved without any amendments and signed by the Archdeacon.

2. Matters arising

2018 elections for Diocesan Synod representative. The diocesan office will be sending out the nomination forms by early July. Nominations will need to be submitted by end September. The meeting was reminded that any member of our congregations can stand

but they need to be sponsored by two elected members of the Archdeaconry Synod. Nominations which represent the diversity of our congregations are to be encouraged.

3. Address by Professor Grace Davie: Part 1 Religion in Britain 1994 – 2015

Adèle introduced our illustrious guest speaker, Professor Grace Davie. Professor Davie is retired professor of Sociology at Exeter University and holds an honorary doctorate from Uppsala University. Her research interest has always been the sociology of religion.

Professor Davie invited us to share her journey when she was requested to work on a second edition of a book she had published in 1994 – “Religion in Britain since 1945, Believing without Belonging”. She quickly realised that so much had changed since 1994 and there was new information available that it was a new book rather than a new edition which was necessary.

She considered five factors:

- Cultural heritage
- Vicarious religion – essentially a public utility
- A shift from obligation to consumption – a market
- New arrivals from various Christian and Non-Christian traditions
- Secular Alternatives

A complex picture emerges and a worrying paradox, that whilst the trend of secularization continues there is also increased public debate on religion in a society which has lost the tools, concepts and vocabulary to enter into constructive religious debate and hence the growing ill-informed and ill-mannered nature of the debate. She also gave us fascinating insights into the “expected” and “unexpected” results of her research, such as regional differences between England, Scotland and Wales and the surprising success of cathedrals and urban churches.

For more details and information on the structure of her book as well as the references and web links please see the **attached slides of her presentation**.

Her talk inspired a number of questions. Carolyn Cooke expressed concern about whether we knew how to deal constructively with immigration. Richard King asked for some more explanation of what was meant by “vicarious” religion. Robin Hall has experience of the diocese of Southwark and asked what the trends were in suburban as opposed to inner-city churches. Nigel Gibson raised the impact of the liturgy and asked whether Holy Eucharist was dead. Paul Brice wondered if there was any indication of future trends emerging from universities. Trevor Davies spoke about the difference between faith groups and religion.

Professor Davie chose to group her answers to the questions. She had used the epithet “vicarious” because the established church had started from a position where everyone “belonged” but to-day an increasingly small number “belong” whilst the structure has to support a society that expects the church to be there as a public utility. She pointed out that the church is also increasingly re-entering the welfare debate and pointed out the role played by faith communities immediately after the Grenfell Tower disaster. St Clements Dane became a focal point for response – even for politicians. In terms of responding to migration she drew the contrast between the Bishop of Paris who opened his churches to

immigrants and the Bishop in Budapest who saw the immigrants as a threat to Christianity. She saw the trend of suburban churches as on the whole tracking the decline of the rural churches. She believed that the diocese Southwark contained both areas which resembled more the suburbs and areas which were more like the inner London environment where churches have become hubs of welcome for all.

4. Report on Diocesan Synod, Mary Talbot and Anne Lowen (presentation attached to minutes)

Adèle Kelham, Anne Lowen and Mary Talbot had attended the Diocesan Synod. The themes were the financial plan and the Environment.

For the work on the Environment the Synod was joined by the Revd David Bookless from A Rocha who led the daily bible studies. Mr. Richard Bee, also from A Rocha, shared the environment project A Rocha was engaged on with immigrant populations in Southall. Elisabeth Bussmann introduced the film "The Green Patriarch". We are all encouraged to work towards creating Eco Churches in our own parishes.

Mike Fegan introduced the finance session by making it clear that when he took over diocesan finances last autumn the diocese was on the road to bankruptcy. There had to be a new financial basis. The Bishop had made it clear in his opening address that the Church Commissioners were prepared to fund projects but not on-going costs. There could be no stable financial plan unless the synod could reach agreement on the funding mechanism and the representatives then went back to their chaplaincies prepared to support the solution. The Swiss motion was discussed throughout the synod. During the synod four amendments were added: a review of the work of the Area Deans, consideration of the timing of the appointment of the free standing Archdeacons, a review of the increases in the common fund by the Bishop's council in October 2018 and a review of the formula to calculate the common fund sharing to make it more equitable. (See attached presentation for complete wording.)

The motion was then voted on by each amendment. The first two (the Swiss original motion) were not accepted whilst the other four were all accepted. The Bishop thanked the Swiss archdeaconry for out motion which had fostered constructive discussion. However the contribution remains at 10%, though the phasing in will be longer and the sharing amongst chaplaincies reviewed.

David Bramley expressed some disappointment about the outcome and asked if the other chaplaincies were on board. Trevor Davies asked how parishes can influence the October Bishop's council meeting. Mary Talbot replied that there will be consultation between now and then. Julianne Funk asked if there could be more explanation on the financial needs of the diocese. Mary Talbot confirmed that this was available and would be circulated.(MT) Carolyn Cooke asked how archdeacons are paid in the UK to which the answer is by the diocese. Peter Spycher wondered if the idea of engaging a fund raiser could be addressed again, but Mary Talbot felt this was not the right time to go back to the diocese on this subject. She did however suggest that perhaps an archdeaconry group could be set up to raise funds at the Swiss level. Comments and ideas on such a group are to be sent to Mary.

Reference was also made to a presentation by John Preston the National Stewardship officer on Stewardship which included information about a contract with a company called Sumup to provide for giving electronically and by credit card. (See presentation for references). Andrea Watkins will take up her position as diocesan Safeguarding Manager in June 2018.

We finished the morning session with a celebration of Eucharist and then a delicious lunch provided by Vevey in their hall.

Afternoon Session

5. Address by Professor Grace Davie: Part 1 Europe from Without

Professor Davie started by pointing out that the factors and trends we had seen in the morning for the UK are similar in the rest of Western Europe and drew our attention to a recent Pew Foundation report "Being a Christian in Western Europe" which confirms the persistence of "nominal" or "cultural" Christians in our society whilst our society becomes increasingly secular. Outside of Europe there are many places where secularization is not gaining ground. The key question thus becomes is Europe secular because it is modern or because it is Europe?

She looked at the cultural impact of the 18th century Enlightenment in Europe which gave society a freedom FROM belief and replaced belief with the social sciences which permeate our health and welfare institutions. The European churches are also traditionally territorially embedded which means churches are often in the wrong place as society and demographics evolve. She drew a contrast with the US where the Pilgrim Fathers brought freedom TO believe and where the church is not territorially embedded but built on congregations rather than parishes, which creates a more vibrant religious market which moves to where the believers are.

She drew our attention to the work she is doing with IPSP (International Panel of Social Progress). She and a colleague have been asked to write the chapter on religion as a factor for social progress in a global context. Globally religious identification is growing, currently it is at 80% of the world's population. In conclusion she emphasised the importance of context in understanding the role of religion in social progress.

For more information and references the **slide presentation is attached**.

Again Professor Davie talk inspired questions and comments. Trevor Davies brought up the issue of what we call "shared values" which underpin much human rights and social progress work. However many Muslims believe that these "shared values" have been sculpted from Christian values. Carolyn Cooke shared her perception that in the Swiss village environment where she lives she is seen as somewhat of an "oddity" as a priest. Nick Leaver responded by that in the Zurich village community in which he lives the priest or pastor are figures of great respect. David Bramley pointed out that during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, talked to the religious leaders to impact the burial practices which were in fact spreading the disease. It was only once they were cooperating with the religious leaders that the epidemic began to abate.

6. Reports

- **Archdeaconry Choir Festival:** The choir festival in April, held in Basel was a great success and the report has been circulated.
- **Archdeacon's Report:** The appointment for Lausanne will be announced shortly. Montreux has started the process for a Bishop's nomination. Bern now has a vacancy as the Revd Stephen Stuckes will shortly be returning to the UK.
- **Old Catholics:** As there were no Old Catholic representatives present, Adèle shared with us that the OCs held their 150th synod in Basel and Bishop Robert and David sent their greetings. Bishop Harald sends his greetings to us to-day.
- **SACEP :** The Archdeaconry retreat, led by Alan and Clare Amos will take place from 26-28 October near Spiez. So far there have been 16 registrations and there is room for 35 so please encourage people to sign up. The cost for the weekend is CHF 250. Fliers were handed out for representatives to take back to their parishes.
- **Environment Update:** Elizabeth Bussmann's report had been circulated.
- **Partner Sein:** Robert Amstutz reminded us that he was an Anglican and represented us with Partner Sein, he felt that some of us were under the impression that he was an Old Catholic. He made the point that although the Anglican churches in Switzerland only contributed 4.6% of the income (CHF 13'500) the bulk of the projects supported were in fact Anglican projects – he estimates we get a twelvefold return on our investment! He would like to revive a former practice in which the collections on Trinity Sunday were given to Partner Sein. John Waygood gave enthusiastic support to this motion. Mary Talbot pointed out that Trinity Sunday would be problematic for Geneva as it was our patronal feast day and was linked to a gift appeal for our church. Geneva however could look at possibly another time to make a collection for Partner Sein.

As there was no other business, the Archdeacon closed the meeting with the Grace. Our thanks go to All Saints Vevey who hosted us so graciously.

Future Dates

- 30 Aug – 10 Sept Pilgrimage to Israel & Jordan (organised by Hilary Jones)
 - 26 – 28 October AD Retreat with Clare Amos at Hotel Kurhaus Grimmelalp
- 2019**
- 26 January Archdeaconry Synod in Bern
 - 26 – 28 April Choir Festival Geneva
 - 22nd June Archdeaconry Synod, venue to be announced

Ursula McGregor

26th June 2018

