

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND

**Archdeaconry Synod 22 June 2019
held at St. John's Church, Montreux**

Present	Revd Canon Adèle Kelham, Archdeacon
Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Hilary Jones, Robin Hall
Bern St. Ursula's	Revd Helen Marshall, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd Canon Alex Gordon, Mary Talbot, Swamikan Raja
La Côte	Revd Carolyn Cooke, David Bramley
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd Christine Bloomfield, Angela Fall, Vahé Jebejian
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Nigel Gibson, Linda Denkinger
Montreux St. John's	Revd Canon Paul Ormrod, Mid Squier, Seth Barker
Neuchâtel	Jenny Veenendaal
Vevey All Saint's	Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd Paul Brice, Julianne Funk, Miriam Keller, Joanna Koch, Peter Spychal
PTO	Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Revd Maree Wilson
Old Catholics	Revd Sarah Böhm-Aebersold

AD Treasurer Neil Kirby **Safeguarding** Jane François
Visitor Isabelle da Lara, Villars **Environment** Jan'ell Rolland, Vevey (afternoon only)

Apologies Basel Revd Russell Hilliard, Revd Anne Lowen, Nigel Spencer, Jane Weber-Miller
Bern Richard King **Geneva** Clare Amos, Ursula McGregor, Lameck Jaston
La Côte Revd Julia Chambeyron, Trevor Davies **Lugano** Sandra Pianezzi **Vevey** Mark Jones
Zurich Harry Devonshire **PTO** Revd Canon Alan Amos, Revd Canon Peter Hawker, Revd David Marshall, Revd Mark Pogson, Revd Lars Simpson **Old Catholics** Rt Revd Harald Rein, Revd Ukrike Henkenmeier **Emmanuel Episcopal** Revd Michael Rusk, Revd Richard Cole, Helena Mbele-Mbong **Partner Sein** Robert Amstutz **Diocesan Synod Representative** Diana Dell'Acqua

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Archdeacon Revd Canon Adèle Kelham opened Synod with a prayer and welcomed newcomers, Revd Helen Marshall (Bern), Swamikan Raja (Geneva), Seth Barker (Montreux) to their first synod.

1. Approval of Minutes Archdeaconry Synod 26 January 2019

There was a minor correction on page 4 **Safeguarding**, line 4/5. The sentence should read "Then further obligatory training of a day/half-day level 2 session for some people." The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

Various matters will be covered in the following minutes.

(NB useful email addresses are quoted at the end of the minutes)

3. Finance

- **Update on Common Fund** Mary Talbot reported from Diocesan Synod. The chaplaincy increases payable to the diocesan Common Fund have led to a good deal of discussion. The Common Fund Working Group has not found any better formula to the way the Common Fund is allocated, but several aspects are being taken into consideration, based on the principles of **Fairness, Transparency, Mutuality, Justice**, to find an acceptable method of application for all, rich and poor. For example, is electoral role membership or average attendance at services a better indication of the size of a church? Are legacies part of the income, or are they exempted? In some places, the city or state contributes to church expenses, in others not. There are many questions reflecting the different circumstances in which our diverse spread of chaplaincies in the diocese operates. If your chaplaincy thinks a special ruling might apply, contact Rosemary Raedler, the Swiss representative on the diocesan Working Group. The diocese is still running a deficit account, despite the fact that the great majority of churches paid their quotas in 2018 and most already in 2019. Good news is that the Church Commissioners are continuing to pay the diocese £165,000 for another 3 years, which will allow for the appointment of free-standing archdeacons.
- **Archdeaconry Finances** Archdeaconry Treasurer Neil Kirby reported
 1. The transfer of all files and information from former treasurer, John Waygood, is now complete and Neil has everything in hand and under control.
 2. All chaplaincies have paid their 2019 quotas on time. Many thanks.
 3. We have CHF 48'440.42 cash on our accounts. A couple of small refunds are outstanding and these will be processed soon.
- **Bank signatories** At the moment the archdeacon and the treasurer can sign off payments on our PostFinance accounts. In some emergency situations, if for example, the archdeacon or treasurer is abroad, this could be a problem. The treasurer proposed the following resolution:

The treasurer proposes that, due to the archdeacon's many responsibilities and related frequent travels abroad, a third person, Ursula McGregor, becomes signatory on the Archdeaconry's Post Office Account.

The synod unanimously approved the resolution.

4. Report on Diocesan Synod

Mary Talbot summarised her very comprehensive report, which was subsequently sent to all synod members . Please read the text for full details.

- **Setting God's People Free** is a new initiative designed particularly to involve lay people in the church and in their daily lives. The emphasis is that this is not a top-down exercise, but based on ground-level experience of members. Our archdeacon, Adèle Kelham, has been appointed diocesan sponsor and the Lake Geneva churches in Switzerland will form a pilot group to implement the scheme.
- **Ministerial training** for lay people is also being looked at.
- Clare Amos is working on a **Rule of Life**. Diocesan **prayer cards** are available from Damian Thwaites, Diocesan Communications Officer.
- **CEMES** Ministry Experience Scheme interns. Chaplaincies are encouraged to think about an internship, whereby interested young people – aged 18-30 – spend 10 months

in a chaplaincy. This may lead them later to ordination, or not, but all young people taking part have been very enthusiastic about it. Contact Clare Amos if your church would be interested in taking on an intern.

- **Youth Ministry** Considerable time was devoted to this. See later minutes here for input.
- Other themes covered were the participation of **BAME** - Blacks, Asians and other Ethnic Minorities – in our churches. Are they proportionally represented on church councils etc?
- **Bishop's authority to grant and withdraw licences** from licensed clergy, a complex question as our churches must also conform to local legislation.

5. Other Reports

- **Archdeacon's report** There is a full complement of clergy in the archdeaconry and everything is running well.
- **Safeguarding** Jane François There is a shortage of trainers generally in the diocese. Trainers from one archdeaconry could well go into other archdeaconries for training sessions. The next meeting of Swiss Safeguarding Officers will be in Bern on 29 June. Apparently not all churches mention safeguarding on their website. Please check what your chaplaincy says (or doesn't say).
- **OC/Willibrord** Revd Sarah Böhm brought greetings from the Swiss Old Catholic Church. The Canton of Berne and other cantons are cutting back on the financial support which they give to the three national churches, which naturally involves changes in operating. A big youth project on the subject of integration "What does religious tolerance mean today?" is being planned for 2020 or 2021. The OC church is grateful for the ongoing support for the aid agency Partner Sein.
Willibrord Society Leaflets available. Amongst other activities, the Willibrord Society supports students from abroad who come to Europe to study .
- **Choir Festival 2019** Report circulated prior to meeting. This was a successful event held at Holy Trinity, Geneva, with over 40 singers from five chaplaincies. Next year the Choir Festival will be held in Zurich. It is hoped that more singers from more chaplaincies will take part.
- **Partner Sein** Report already circulated. Most projects continue unchanged. A new project in Mozambique provides psycho-social care for refugees in a camp in the Anglican Diocese of Niassa. Several members of Partner Sein will travel to Mozambique and Tanzania in October to review projects there.
- **SACEP** Meetings coming up are the Youth Ministry day in October and in May 2020 with Paul Jones from Release International – Voice of persecuted Christians. A question was asked about having a session on Fundraising. Elizabeth Bussmann, SACEP Co-ordinator, will look into this.

6. Young People's Ministry, led by Vahé Jebejian

First of all we saw a short video produced by Nick Shepherd, Programme Director for Setting God's People Free, the main points relevant to children and youth mission being:

Numbers are dropping

Need for new fresh ideas

Disappearance after confirmation or in teen years

Difficult to tell what their spiritual state is Teaching on sensitive topics e.g. divorce

Family dynamics and attitude of father/mother towards church

How do we support teachers get congregations engaged present the bible
involve the youngsters in church life build a safe place for them
teach them application of the bible to daily life
equip them from a young age for discipleship

We should/
must build a network to exchange ideas find new resources
encourage teacher training see a bigger perspective of Sunday School
be aware that teenagers are maybe interested in different forms of worship
consider effect of being in a church outside the UK

Vahé asked us to keep him informed about activities in our churches, particularly any involving parents and children and attracting unchurched people.
Recommended reading "Faith Generation" by Nick Shepherd

7. Environment led by Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Diocesan Environment Officer
It is no secret to any of us that we are a spoilt mass of people in the western world; we are fed, we waste resources, we often exploit the rest of the world. But God created the world and all peoples and it is our duty to look after his creation.

The Diocese in Europe is an ECO diocese and therefore the chaplaincies must also be ECO and always keep this on their agenda. In our archdeaconry, Basel and Vevey have recently won Bronze awards for their ECO achievements. Other chaplaincies said what they were doing, ranging from car-sharing, recycling as much as possible, having an ECO lunch avoiding foodstuffs with long travel delivery times, reduction in use of plastic, church refurbishment consistent with ECO standards, don't buy more than you need, also with zero packaging.

8. Future Dates 2019

- 19 October SACEP day with Mary Hawes, CofE National Children & Youth Advisor at St. Andrew's Church, Zurich
- 26 October Willibrord Day Outing
- 2 December 12.30 Bern Münster service for Opening of new Federal Parliament

2020

- 25 January Archdeaconry Synod at St. Ursula's, Bern
- 9 May SACEP with Paul Jones from Release International – Voice of Persecuted Christians
- 15-17 May Choir Festival at St. Andrew's, Zurich

Useful email addresses

Revd John Newsome, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor john.newsome@europe.anglican.org

Damian Thwaites, Diocesan Communications Officer damian.thwaites@europe.anglican.org

Rosemary Raedler, Working Group Common Fund r.raedler@bluewin.ch

Clare Amos, Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship clare.amos@europe.anglican.org

Setting God's People Free www.churchofengland.org/sgpf

Diocesan website www.europe.anglican.org

Many thanks to St. John's Montreux for their hospitality and a delicious lunch.

Miriam Keller Synod Lay Secretary

