

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
The Church of England
ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND
Archdeaconry Synod Saturday, 21 June 2008
at St. Ursula's Church, Bern

Present

The Rt. Revd. David Hamid Suffragan Bishop, Diocese in Europe
Ms Frances Hiller Personal Assistant to Bishop David
The Ven. Arthur Siddall Archdeacon of Switzerland, Italy and Malta

Basel St. Nicholas	Revd. Geoff Read	Revd. Anne Lowen	Terry O'Reilly	
Bern St. Ursula's	Revd. Peter Potter	Hector Davie	Brian Morgan	Janet Wenger
	Jenny Veenendaal (rep. Neuchâtel)			
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd. Maree Wilson	Claudine Haenni-Dale	Valerie Offord	
La Côte	Revd. Paul Holley	Valerie Geschonke	Catherine Crocoll	
Emmanuel Church GE	Revd. John Beach	Bill Voight		
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd. Adèle Kelham			
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd. Ted Schurr	Mary Palmesino	Linda Chiesa	Jen Schurr (visitor)
Montreux St. John's	Ven. Arthur Siddall	Geoff Fookes	Joyce Fookes	Sue Siddall (visitor)
Vevey All Saints	Les Cutter			Penny Wells
Zürich St. Andrew's	Revd. Canon John Newsome	Miriam Keller	Fiona Tolhurst	
	Nick Leaver	Gerald Prater	Vicky Atchison (ex.off. Dio. Rep.)	
P.T.O.	Revd. Roy Farrar			
Old Catholic Church	Revd. Klaus-Heinrich Neuhoff			

Apologies

Revd. Linda Bisig (Bern), Jean Mayer/Nick Meyer (Geneva), Rev. Julia Chambeyron (La Côte), Helena Mbele-Mbong (Emmanuel), Revd. Clive Atkinson (Vevey), Caroline Wenger (Zurich), Revd. Christoph Schuler (OC), PTOs: Revd. Russell Hilliard, Revd. Andrew Ling, Revd. Lars Simpson, Revd. Hugh Pettingell

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The Synod opened with a prayer and the new chaplain at Bern, The Revd. Peter Potter, welcomed all those present. The new synod representatives were introduced. Mrs. Sue Siddall, wife of the Archdeacon, introduced herself as diocesan representative of the Mothers' Union.

1. Approval of Minutes of Synod 2 February 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Elections

As this is the beginning of a new 3-year cycle, the following members were proposed, seconded and elected

House of Clergy

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| • President of Archdeaconry | The Ven. Arthur Siddall Archdeacon, Montreux |
| • Clergy Vice-Chair | Revd. Canon John K. Newsome, Zürich |
| • Chapter Clerk | Revd. Clive Atkinson, Vevey |

House of Laity

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| • Lay Vice-Chair | Vicky Atchison, Zürich Diocesan Representative |
| • Lay Secretary | Miriam Keller, Zürich |
| • Standing Committee Member | Valerie Geschonke, La Côte |
| • Archdeaconry Representative AGCK
(Swiss National Ecumenical Council) | Claudine Haenni-Dale, Geneva |
| • Archdeaconry Treasurer (elected by both Houses) | Brian Morgan, Bern |

3. Rt. Revd. David Hamid “The Future of the Anglican Communion”

Bishop David spoke with particular reference to the forthcoming proposed Anglican Covenant. What is it? Why should we have it? To understand the need for a covenant, we need to look first at the history of the Anglican Church.

What is the Anglican Communion? - We are part of the One Holy, Apostolic Church, founded by the apostles of Jesus Christ and we are a true part of the Church of Christ.

What are our key characteristics? The diocese, communion with the See of Canterbury, we are catholic and apostolic in faith and order and we have a common liturgical inheritance (Book of Common Prayer).

The history of the church in Britain goes back to the very early days of Christianity. The big change came with Henry VIII proclaiming himself Supreme Head of the Church of England out of political, rather than religious motives. This meant that much went on as before e.g. liturgy, compared with the changes made by reformers such as Calvin or Luther in the protestant churches. The important difference after Henry's move was the right of the national church to govern itself.

With the expansion of the empire and trade, the Church of England became worldwide, with the consequent question of how to maintain unity of faith in such a global body covering many schools of thought. The present tensions are particularly focused on the diverging views on human sexuality and same-sex unions. This has led to some strong reactions in the overseas churches. The forthcoming Lambeth conference will discuss the proposed Anglican Covenant text, emphasising our common Anglican inheritance, the vocation of the church, its unity and procedures to be followed in settling disputes.

See www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/index.cfm

4. Reports

Archdeacon's Report

- The Archdeacon thanked Revd. Adèle Kelham for carrying out her duties as Area Dean of Switzerland during the time that he was not resident in Switzerland.
- Ministerial Review: The Archdeacon expressed his thanks to Angela Fall who had led the Ministerial Review team for several years. Her place is now being taken by Mary Talbot of Geneva.
- Archdeaconry Constitution: Our constitution dates back to 1987 and several revisions need to be made. The Standing Committee will set up a working party.

SACEP (Revd. Paul Holley and Linda Chiesa)

Various successful events have taken place

- Swiss Social Landscape- Unemployment systems and social security
- Faith in the Earth – a Christian Perspective: Rt. Revd. James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool
- Making the most of Resurrection: Rt. Revd. John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford This was very good, but less well-attended than hoped. Maybe it was too expensive for some people, although additional funds were available for those wishing for financial assistance. Another SACEP weekend is tentatively planned for 2010.

Forthcoming events

- October 2008 Archdeaconry church wardens meeting which Revd. Kevin O'Brien, Bishop's Chaplain, will attend

Nothing yet has been arranged with the banking communities or on communications.

Anglican – Old Catholic Relations (Revd. Klaus-Heinrich Neuhoff)

Greetings from OC Bishop, Rt. Revd. Fritz-René Müller, who will be retiring at the end of February 2009. He will then look after the OC communities in Italy.

Partner Sein: the Anglican contribution 2007 was just over CHF 10,000. The OC aid agency Partner Sein supports several Anglican projects in Africa.

8 November 2008 Nacht der Religionen in Bern: Anglicans and OCs are taking part together.

AGCK (Swiss National Ecumenical Council)

The report from Revd. Adèle Kelham had already been circulated. The Archdeacon reported that the motion from the AD Italy and Malta to Diocesan Synod concerning the trafficking of women is going forward. During the EURO 08 the AGCK appealed for support in the campaign against human trafficking e.g. television spots.

Choir Festival 25 – 27 April in Geneva (Geoff Fookes)

Geoff Fookes reported on a successful and beautiful Choir Festival led by Geoff Weaver, consultant for the Royal School of Church Music. The 2009 Choir Festival will be held in Zurich. Private accommodation will be available for all visiting participants who wish to take advantage of the offer.

Guidelines for the employment of clergy and norms for remuneration Report circulated

General Synod 2008 Report circulated

Diocesan Synod 2008 Report circulated

5. “Shrinking our Footprint” – our care of the environment (Brian Morgan, Diocesan Environmental Officer)

The target of the C of E is that energy costs in churches be reduced to 40% of our present consumption by 2050. After a short introductory talk by Brian Morgan, Synod divided into chaplaincy groups to discuss how costs in their church had already been, and could be further reduced. This applies also to people’s private lives and how energy-conscious they are at home. Feedback from group discussions:

Lighting Use energy-saving bulbs. Turn off lights. Remove some bulbs.

Heating Turn it down, also in adjacent buildings. Check temperatures regularly. Wear appropriate clothing. Replace boiler or whole system. Maybe heating with wood pellets. Solar possibilities. Check that your premises well insulated.

Driving Use public transport whenever possible. Smaller cars. Introduce car pooling/sharing. Reduce speed when driving. Some chaplaincies have given up the chaplain’s car.

Recycling Use less paper e.g. are service sheets really necessary. Recycled paper for copy machine. No more plastic cups for after-service coffee. Review whole rubbish concept.

Water Reduce flow

Youth Ask for their ideas. Make them motivate parents. Show Al Gore film

Awareness Saving energy means saving your money. “Sell” energy-saving methods. Report on this meeting. Put up instructions for using building. Use theme of Creation to emphasise responsibility of stewardship for the environment. Get professional advice on how to save.

Publicity Have a “Green Spot” in your magazine. Advertise the fact that you have an Environmental Officer.

And more Don’t forget other ways to combat pollution like collecting snails instead of using snail Pellets. Or using gravel instead of concrete slabs for better water absorption in the earth.

See websites. www.shrinkthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org
www.ecocongregations.org (click you live in England or wales to enter the site)

All chaplaincies have been asked to appoint an Environmental Officer. Could we have a job description?

6. Future Dates

2008

September 12-14 Archdeaconry Retreat led by Revd. Martin King at Foyer Montbarry, Le Paquier, nr. Bulle/Fribourg

September 13 Children's Ministry Workshop with New Wine Network Basel

October Church Wardens' Meeting with Revd. Kevin O'Brien

2009

January 31 Archdeaconry Synod at Basel or Montreux
(The Archdeacon would like the seating arrangement to be less formal)

May 8 – 10 Choir Festival in Zürich

7. Any Other Business

- Crisis Intervention and emergency health problems. Bernice Reid, a member of All Saints, Vevey, is concerned about first aid facilities and measures to be taken in the chaplaincies to deal with critical health problems arising during church services e.g. heart attack. This will be brought to the attention of chaplaincies.
- Selection procedure for new chaplains. Valerie Offord, Geneva, questioned the current procedure whereby it seems that the relevant chaplaincy has little or no say in the selection process. The Diocesan Handbook sets out the various routes for the appointment procedure. The Standing Committee will consider whether we should submit a motion to Diocesan Synod requesting more consultation with chaplaincies.

Many thanks to St. Ursula's for their splendid hospitality.

28/06/2008 – M. Keller

For quick reference your Standing Committee is made up as follows:

The Ven. Arthur Siddall	Archdeacon
Revd. Canon John Newsome	Clergy Vice-chair
Revd. Clive Atkinson	Chapter Clerk
Victoria Atchison	Lay Vice-chair & Representative to Diocesan Synod
Miriam Keller	Lay Secretary
Brian Morgan	Archdeaconry Treasurer & Representative to Diocesan Synod
	Diocesan Environmental Officer
Valerie Geschonke	