

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
The Church of England
Archdeaconry of Switzerland

Archdeaconry Synod Saturday, 20 June 2009
at Holy Trinity Church, Geneva

Present

Rt. Revd. Geoffrey Rowell, Diocesan Bishop
Ven. Arthur Siddall, Archdeacon of Switzerland, Italy & Malta
Margaret Gibson, Bishop's Personal Assistant
Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary

Basel St. Nicholas	Revd. Geoff Read, Revd. Anne Lowen, Robert Keene, Terry O'Reilly John Lowen (visitor)
Berne St. Ursula's & Neuchâtel	Revd. Peter Potter, Hector Davie, Brian Morgan, Janet Wenger Jenny Veenendaal Lynn Robb (visitor)
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd. Roy Taylor, Revd. Maree Wilson, Susan Kunz, Ursula McGregor, Yvette Milosevic, Mary Talbot
La Côte Emmanuel Church	Revd. Paul Holley, Valerie Geschonke Bill Vought
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd. Adèle Kelham, Angela Fall
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd. Andrew Horlock, Mary Palmesino, Linda Chiesa Annie Horlock (visitor)
Montreux St. John's	Ven. Arthur Siddall
Vevey All Saints	Revd. Clive Atkinson
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd. Dan Morrow, Miriam Keller, Fiona Tolhurst, Nick Leaver Vicky Atchison – Diocesan Representative Penny Holbrook (visitor)

Apologies

Basel Revd. Russell Hilliard **Berne & Neuchâtel** Revd. Linda Bisig, Revd. Roy Farrar
La Côte Revd. Julia Chambeyron, Catherine Crocoll **Emmanuel Church** Revd. John Beach
Helena Mbele-Mbong **Lausanne** Julia Rengier **Montreux** Geoff & Joy Fookes
Vevey Les Cutter, Penny Wells **Zurich** Revd. Canon John Newsome, Caroline Wenger,
Gerald Prater **PTOs** Revd. Canon Peter Hawker, Revd. Andrew Ling, Revd. Stephanie
Meier (SG/OC), Revd Lars Simpson (SG/OC), Revd. Hugh Pettingell
Old Catholic Church Rt. Revd. Harold Rein, OC Bishop, Revd. K-H. Neuhoff,
Revd. Christoph Schuler

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Morning Session

The Archdeacon chaired the morning session

The Archdeacon welcomed all representatives present and especially our Bishop, Rt. Revd. Geoffrey Rowell, his Personal Assistant Margaret Gibson and Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary. The meeting opened with prayers.

Bishop's Address "The Last enemy – death, dying and Christian faith"

Our Bishop chairs the Churches Funerals Group, which brings together representatives of the churches in England and Wales, together with representatives of the funeral directors and burial and cremation authorities, government and legislative bodies where civil and ecclesiastic laws are concerned.

First of all, the bishop spoke of the disposal of bodies. Christians want to bury their dead, giving them a reverent disposal. *See Bishop Geoffrey's book "Liturgy of Christian Burial"*. Burial customs have changed over the centuries from the Middle Ages' dark vision of death to the Reformation's complex Christian funeral procedure, when many of the earlier rituals disappeared. Cremation came only in the 18th century. Disposal of the body by burning was closely associated with other faiths and the church was reluctant about it. In fact, only recently has the Roman Catholic church accepted crematoriums.

Disposal of the body is not the end of the story. There are the problems of funerals of non-religious people and what their mourners want. And what about artificial body parts and the removal of organs?

A very topical issue is Euthanasia: assisted dying and assisted suicide. The 1998 Lambeth Conference Report deals comprehensively with this (*Google – Church of England Lambeth Conference 1998 Euthanasia*) Life is God-given and Euthanasia is not compatible with civil or church law. One could say that we own our own lives, but our choice to live or die can have far-reaching effects on other people – society, family, doctor/patient relationship. Just not giving further treatment or actively assisting death: where is the line to be drawn and how do we make a judgement?

The Archdeacon thanked the Bishop for a thought-provoking talk.

Talk by Revd. Peter Potter "The significance of John Calvin for Anglicanism"

The text of Peter Potter's talk is attached. This covers the historical background of the Calvin period (Reformation) and the influence of his teaching on Anglicanism.

Thanks to Peter for his research and presentation.

Eucharist The Bishop presided and the Archdeacon preached the sermon. Curé Jean-Claude Mokry, OC priest in Geneva also attended.

Lunch – excellent, provided by the ladies of Holy Trinity

Afternoon Session Chaired by Vicky Atchison

1. Minutes of Synod held on 31 January 2009.

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Diocesan Synod 2009 (Report, Revd. Geoff Read)

Clergy Representative, Revd. Geoff Read, reported briefly on the recent Diocesan Synod held at Cologne 1 – 5 June 2009. A key issue which will affect us all is the strategic review now in progress of the future structure of the diocese. Other important issues were finance, environmental policy, new guidelines on child protection. Full information on the Synod is available on the diocesan website, www.europe.anglican.org

- Archdeaconry Representatives to Diocesan Synod (elections 2009)

Clergy representative Revd. Geoff Read is stepping down. Clergy Chapter will choose a new representative

Lay representative Brian Morgan is standing down after 29 years

Lay representative Vicky Atchison is standing for re-election

Proposal for new lay representative is Mary Talbot, Geneva

Adrian Mumford stated that the voting forms were already in the post.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

7. A.O.B. (a) Weekend Synod 2010 Nobody was enthusiastic about this and in view of the changes about to take place in the Archdeaconry it was decided not to alter the present arrangement of 2 one-day synods per year at this time.

4. Crisis Intervention Thanks to Mary Palmesino and Annie Horlock, Lugano, for drawing up very comprehensive measures to be taken in case of emergency.

4. Finance (Brian Morgan, Treasurer)

The Treasurer reported that the finances are in a very healthy state. The Fr. 250.- previously held for Mürren has been transferred to the seasonal chaplain at Mürren.

Brian Morgan announced that he wishes to resign as Treasurer as from 31 December 2009.

Who is interested and willing to take on this not-too-arduous task? Please contact Brian Morgan, Vicky Atchison or Miriam Keller.

5. Chaplaincy La Côte (Revd. Paul Holley)

Over the past 20 years the community at La Côte has developed into an established church apart from Holy Trinity Church, Geneva, and now has two congregations on a firm footing. The next step is official recognition as a separate chaplaincy. This was approved at the 2009 AGM of HTC. La Côte fulfils all the conditions necessary for this step. Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary confirmed that the procedure can now go forward according to diocesan legislation. The Synod welcomed La Côte's move and expressed support and congratulations.

6. Anglican – Old Catholic Relations (Revd. Peter Potter)

The National Synod of the Old Catholics was held on 13/14 June 2009. Revd. Harald Rein, Zurich, was elected as Old Catholic Bishop in succession to Rt. Revd. Fritz-René Müller.

The consecration of Bishop Harald will take place on 12 September in the Augustiner Church in Zurich.

Partner Sein (John Waygood) Our representative on this aid agency's committee, John Waygood, brought handmade bags from the Philippines. The Trinity Sunday collection this year was in aid of a kindergarden in the Philippines. This is an on-going project, not just a one-off donation. More information on Partner Sein under www.partner-sein.ch

7. SACEP (Revd. Paul Holley)

The two events organised are (a) the seminar with Dr. Elaine Storkey 11-12 September at Crêt Bérard on "Parenting, Performing, Praying". This deals with the impact of the changing patterns in family life and how to address it. You can attend for one or two days.

Dr. Storkey is in Switzerland for the weekend and would be available to preach on the Sunday.

Contact Paul Holley.

(b) Visit of Revd. John Bell from the Iona Community. The SACEP committee is open to suggestions for the organisation of this event.

The Publishing/Media weekend has been delayed.

Paul Holley would like another member of the clergy to take over the responsibility for SACEP from him as his time is increasingly taken up by other obligations.

Archdeaconry Diary Archdeaconry events were not well planned in 2008. It has therefore been decided to keep a diary. Vicky Atchison has this in hand (*v.atchison@bluewin.ch*) and all chaplaincies are requested to inform her of what is planned in the way of events which could be of interest to other chaplaincies or clash with their dates.

Retreat 2010 Revd. Maree Wilson, Geneva, has agreed to take this on for 2010, also under the umbrella of SACEP.

8. Environmental Report (Brian Morgan, Diocesan Environmental Officer)

Brian Morgan as Diocesan Environmental Officer is encouraged by reports from diocesan chaplaincies, slow but sure. In the Church of England in general surprisingly much is going on in individual churches. Please encourage your congregations to be aware of environmental problems and how every one of us can make a contribution towards protecting the world around us. All churches are asked to recognise Creationtide (first Sunday in September to second Sunday in October). The following motion was put forward and passed at Diocesan Synod:

“This Synod calls upon all staff and chaplaincies of our Diocese to set aside annually one Sunday during Creationtide (1st Sun. September until 2nd Sun. October) when every member of the chaplaincy is encouraged to

- 1) pray for the environment and commit themselves to a personal, specific and sustainable energy-saving action
- 2) use the most practical (and safe) energy-friendly form of transport to attend church that day

Furthermore this Synod calls upon all chaplaincy church councils to take note of the Diocesan Environmental Policy (available on Diocesan web site) and draw up and execute plans to shrink their chaplaincy’s environmental footprint (www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org)”

The forthcoming conference on the environment in Copenhagen will be attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Suffragan Bishop David Hamid. The environment is an important moral issue for us all. Pray and act !

9. Reports

- **AGCK (Swiss Ecumenical Council)** The report by Revd. Adèle Kelham, our clergy representative on the committee (representing the archdeacon), was circulated prior to the meeting.

As our previous lay representative, Claudine Haenni-Dale is no longer a synod representative, a new member must be elected. Miriam Keller, Zurich, agreed to be the delegate.

- **Archdeaconry Constitution (Hector Davie)** The working party revising the constitution is making progress.
- **Choir Festival (Geoff Fookes)** In the absence of Geoff Fookes, his report on the very successful Choir Festival in Zurich was read out. After 5 years as Festival Co-ordinator, Geoff Fookes has handed over this responsibility to Steve Collyer (Christ Church, Lausanne). The Synod expressed its thanks to Geoff for his work and wished him all the best for his forthcoming heart operation.

9. Any Other Business

- 27 September “Back to Church Sunday” in Basel. Contact Revd. Anne Lowen, Basel for more information on this.

10. Future Dates

2009

11 – 12 September	SACEP seminar with Dr. Elaine Storkey “Parenting, Performing, Praying” at Crêt Bérard
21 – 25 September	Clergy Pastoral Conference in Cologne
27 September	“Back to Church Sunday” Basel

2010

30 January	Archdeaconry Synod at St. Ursula’s Church, Berne
28 – 30 May	SACEP Visit of Revd. John Bell from the Iona Community

Goodbye to Archdeacon

Our Archdeacon, Arthur Siddall, is retiring at the end of August. Vicky Atchison expressed our thanks to him and presented him with chocolates for wife Sue and a book of photos of Switzerland from a different angle for himself. Clive Atkinson from Vevey then presented him with a case of wine from the clergy.

Many thanks to Holy Trinity Geneva for their excellent hospitality.

1 July 2009
Miriam Keller
Lay Secretary