

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
The Church of England
Archdeaconry of Switzerland

Archdeaconry Synod held on Saturday, 19 June 2010
St. Andrew's Church. Promenadengasse, 8001 Zurich

Present

The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Diocese in Europe
The Ven. Peter Potter, Archdeacon of Switzerland

Basel St. Nicholas	Revd Anne Lowen, Robert Keene, John Lowen (guest)
Berne St. Ursula's & Neuchâtel	Ven. Peter Potter, Hector Davie, Brian Morgan, Jenny Veenendaal (Neuchâtel)
Geneva Holy Trinity	Revd Roy Taylor, Revd Maree Wilson, Susan Kunz Ursula McGregor, Yvette Milosevic
La Côte	Revd Paul Holley
Lausanne Christ Church	Revd Adèle Kelham, Julia Rengier
Lugano St. Edward's	Revd Andrew Horlock, Linda Chiesa
Zurich St. Andrew's	Revd Canon John Newsome, Revd Dan Morrow, Vicky Atchison Nadine Christen, Miriam Keller, Nick Leaver, Gerald Prater Fiona Tolhurst
P.T.O.s	Revd Canon Peter Hawker, Revd Dr Roy Farrer Revd Andrew Ling, Revd Dianne Cox
Old Catholic Church Churchwardens	Revd Klaus-Heinrich Neuhoff Esther Hutchinson-Funkhauser, Maxine Wildhaber (Berne) Rosemary Raedler (Lausanne), Melitta Ling (Montreux) Vivian Nind (Zurich), Julian Plumley (Geneva)

Apologies

Basel Revd Geoff Read, Revd Russell Hilliard **Berne** Janet Wenger
La Côte Revd Julia Chambeyron, Valerie Geschonke, Catherine Crocoll
Geneva Mary Talbot **Lausanne** Angela Fall **Lugano** Mary Palesino
Emmanuel Helena Mbele-Mbong **Montreux** Joy Fookes, Middleton Squier
Vevey Revd Clive Atkinson, Penny Wells **Zurich** John Waygood (Partner sein)
PTOs Revd Hugh Pettingell, Revd Lars Simpson Revd Canon Ted Karpf
Old Catholics Revd Christoph Schuler

MORNING SESSION (chaired by Lay Vice-Chair Vicky Atchison)

The Archdeacon welcomed our Bishop, The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell, all clergy and chaplaincy representatives and churchwardens from various chaplaincies. The Revd Canon John Newsome of Zurich opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Approval of Minutes Synod 30 January 2010

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising which did not appear on the present agenda

Address by The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Diocesan Bishop

The central theme of the Bishop's address concerned the duties of churchwardens. This is actually an ancient office, first mentioned in 1396 as "church reeves". They were the oldest democratically elected officers in Europe. It is a lay office; the duties could be summed up as: to support the priest in his ministry; to act as formally-admitted Bishop's officers; to preserve unity in the parish. This means involvement in all aspects of church affairs: financial, church building fabric, records and registers, ensuring that the priest has time off for himself, impartiality towards the congregation and the clergy, being familiar with Church Representation Rules, security, and lastly, avoiding any abuse of power in the warden's position.

A warden's term of office is normally restricted to 6 years. Finding new church wardens often creates a major problem in a parish/chaplaincy when no-one suitable wants to take on the job. Nowadays it should be possible to learn from the experience of others through Internet exchanges. Are Information Packs available? The Diocesan Office is always there to help and give advice.

3. Financial Matters (Brian Morgan)

The Treasurer had nothing to report on the finances. He reiterated, however, that he was still looking for a successor as he definitely intended to resign at the end of this year. (It has since transpired that John Waygood of St. Andrew's has offered to take on this job)

4. Report by Diocesan Environmental Officer (Brian Morgan)

Brian Morgan showed a DVD on how the job of Diocesan Environmental Officer was conceived: job description, diocesan environmental policy, shrinking the carbon footprint, encouraging chaplaincies to appoint environmental officers, introduction of Creationtide. Out of 117 diocesan chaplaincies with a resident priest, 36 now have an environment officer. The returns for a questionnaire recently sent round asking how chaplaincies are making efforts to reduce pollution resulted in a satisfactory response rate of 33%. Even small changes such as not using plastic cups can count.

More information on www.ecocongregation.org

5. Archdeaconry Retreat (Revd Maree Wilson)

24 – 26 September at La Pelouse, Bex *The Ignatian Way* Led by Fr Louis Christiaens S.J. Maree Wilson said that this would essentially be a silent retreat based on the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola, suitable for those with experience of meditation and newcomers. The emphasis would be on prayer and silence, but also moments to relax and share thoughts. Chaplaincies were encouraged to publicize this retreat, which costs Fr. 190.-

Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop

Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION (chaired by the Archdeacon, Ven. Peter Potter)

6. Report on Diocesan Synod May 2010 (Vicky Atchison)

The text of this report is attached.

The main points, however, were

1) the results of the long discussions held by the Strategic Review Group on the restructuring of the diocese. The following motion was passed by Diocesan Synod

This Synod:

- a) welcomes the work undertaken by the Strategic Review Group;*
- b) endorses the recommendations contained in section 2 of the SRG report (i.e. the part concerning the four free-standing archdeacons supported by area deans);*
- c) requests the Bishop and his staff, in conjunction with the Bishop's Council and the Diocesan Board of Finance, to take all necessary steps to give effect to the recommendations, having regard to the views of Archdeaconry Synods; and*
- d) requests that the diocese should keep under regular review the number, locations and geographic jurisdiction of funded archdeacons as mission plans for the diocese develop and funds become available.*

Bishop Geoffrey can now approach the church commissioners for more financial equality for the diocese.

2) the problem of clergy pensions for those working outside the UK. This will be debated at the forthcoming General Synod.

Thanks were expressed to Vicky for the enormous amount of work which she put into compiling the review. We will be looking at this in the January Synod.

7. SACEP (Revd Paul Holley)

Paul expressed his disappointment that the weekend with John Bell of the Iona Community had had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. As Paul and Linda Chiesa are standing down from SACEP, Vicky Atchison presented them both with small gifts as a token of our appreciation for their work. The Revd Roy Taylor will now take on the organisation of SACEP events. Roy asked for programme suggestions and thought that maybe having the same person doing two one-day workshops, e.g. one in Geneva and one in the Swiss German part of the country would enable more people to attend. We should also consider what talent there is in Switzerland for leading such workshops – not always bringing in speakers from the UK, with the attendant costs.

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

The OC Synod was held at the beginning of June in Neuchâtel, when child protection was one of the items on the agenda. The International Old Catholic Congress will be held in Zurich 9 – 13 August 2010. Information on future events of the Society of St. Willibrord Switzerland was handed round. Anyone interested in joining the society, whose aim is the strengthening of fellowship and co-operation between Anglicans and Old Catholics in Switzerland, should contact Hector Davie.

9. Reports

- **AGCK** Report on the last General Meeting 4 May 2010 by Adele Kelham circulated
The following subjects were discussed
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| Church-State Relations | Talks between AGCK and Neo Apostolic Church |
| Recognition of Baptism | Label Oecumenica |
| Date of Easter | Sharing experiences of ecumenism at Easter |

- **Choir Festival** 30 April-2 May 2010 Written report from Steve Collyer, Lausanne
This was not only a Choir Festival in Christ Church Lausanne, but the choir also sang at the ecumenical evening song in Lausanne Cathedral on Sunday evening. The festival was rated as a success, also financially. The Co-ordinator, Steve Collyer circulated a questionnaire to get feedback from both singers and congregation as to whether the Choir Festival should continue in its present form, or, for example, be limited to a one-day event. Results are still coming in.

- **Revision of Archdeaconry Constitution (Hector Davie)**

We are the only archdeaconry in Europe to have a constitution. The purpose of the present exercise is to revise the 1986 one: to simplify, remove inaccuracies, up-date, incorporate Church Representation Rules. Questions were asked about the correctness of the title – are we Anglican or Church of England? It was pointed out that the constitution of the Diocese in Europe is not always the same as the Church Representation Rules. Which has preference? The Archdeacon thanked Hector Davie and Nick Leaver for their work on this revision. Comments, suggested alterations should be sent to Hector (hector@davie.ch) by end October so that the final copy can be presented and approved at the January Synod.

A Standard Policy of Child Protection for the Anglican Church in Switzerland

The draft document presented to Synod also includes the phrase “volunteers working with vulnerable adults”. Ursula McGregor (Geneva) pointed out that this makes it more complicated, although the diocese does treat children and vulnerable adults together. Please submit comments/suggested alterations to Adèle Kelham (kelham@bluewin.ch) by end October, so that we can discuss it further in January.

- **Guidelines for the Employment of Clergy in Switzerland (Hector Davie)**

Considerable discussion ensued on the sections regarding: furnished/unfurnished accommodation and relocation allowances; cost of living adjustment; incapacity benefit. The question of pension fund contributions is currently being discussed at C of E General Synod. No decision can be taken by the Archdeaconry until this is clarified. The document as it stands with 3 paragraphs highlighted was accepted by a majority of Synod representatives present.

Please refer to this revised document on www.anglican.ch/Synod/Guidelines.pdf

It is hoped to have the final document ready for presentation and approval at the January Synod.

10. Any Other Business

- **Request from the Swiss Committee for World Day of Prayer** for an Anglican representative. They are looking for someone who would translate the texts into English from French and German. Volunteers please contact Miriam Keller.

11. Future Programme

- Archdeaconry Retreat 24 – 26 September 2010 at La Pelouse, Bex
- Archdeaconry Synod 29 January 2011 at St. Ursula’s Berne

Please don’t forget to inform the archdeaconry diary-keeper – Valerie Geschonke - valerie.geschonke@vtxnet.ch of any events which you are planning and which you think would be of interest to people outside your chaplaincy, or which might clash with plans for an archdeaconry event.

Thanks to Zurich for hosting the synod.

Miriam Keller
24.06.2010/MK