

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

ARCHDEACONRY OF SWITZERLAND

Archdeaconry Synod 25 January 2020
held at St. Ursula's Church, Bern

Present

Speaker

Grace Fagan, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Archdeacon

Revd Canon Adèle Kelham

Basel St. Nicholas

Revd Hilary Jones, Revd Mark Pogson Jane Weber-Miller

Bern St. Ursula's

Revd Helen Marshall, Hector Davie, Donna Goepfert, Richard King

Geneva Holy Trinity

Mary Talbot (Gen. Synod & Dio. Synod Representative)

Ursula Mcgregor, Lameck Jaston

La Côte

Revd Carolyn Cooke, David Bramley, Trevor Davies

Lausanne Christ Church

Revd Christine Bloomfield, Angela Fall

Lugano St. Edward's

Revd Nigel Gibson, Linda Denkinger, Sandra Pianezza

Diana Dell'Acqua (Diocesan Synod Representative)

Montreux St. John's

Revd Paul Ormrod, Mid Squier, Seth Barker, Neil Kirby (AD Treasurer)

Neuchâtel

Jenny Veenendaal

Vevey All Saints

Revd Clive Atkinson, Claire Dalgish

Zurich St. Andrew's

Revd Paul Brice, Julianne Funk, Miriam Keller, Joanna Koch,

Peter Spychal

PTO

Revd Canon Peter Hawker

Old Catholic Church

Revd Sarah Böhm-Aebersold

Partner Sein

Robert Amstutz

Safeguarding Officers

Amanda Dawson & Pierre Laravoire (Geneva), Bernice Reid (Vevey)

Jane François (Montreux), Cecily Klinger & Maxine Wildhaber (Bern)

Ashley Maffioli (Lugano), Carolyn Guler (Zurich)

Apologies/Absent

Basel Revd Russell Hilliard, Revd Anne Lowen, Revd Mathias Kissel,

Nigel Spencer, Robin Hall **Geneva** Clare Amos, Swamikan Raja **La Côte** Revd Julia

Chambeyron **Emmanuel Church** Revd Michael Rusk, Revd Richard Cole, Helena Mbele-

Mbong **Vevey** Mark Jones **Zurich** Harry Devonshire **PTO** Revd Alan Amos, Revd David

Marshall, Revd Maree Wilson, Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Revd Lars Simpson (OC & PTO)

Old Catholics Rt.Revd Harald Rein, Revd Ukrike Henkenmeier, Revd Daniel Konrad

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Archdeacon Revd Canon Adèle Kelham opened Synod with a prayer and welcomed all those attending. Apologies were received. During the Morning Session of Synod the chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers met separately with Grace Fagan, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

1. Approval of Minutes Synod 22 June 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matter arising which were not dealt with during this Synod.

3. Archdeaconry Finance presented by AD Treasurer Neil Kirby

- **Presentation and Approval of the Accounts for 2019**

See attached accounts. There were no big variances.

Total assets stand at CHF 35'000.-

Hector Davie read the **Auditor's Report**. The Treasurer had done a good job, everything was accurate and he recommended acceptance of the accounts.

The accounts for 2019 were approved

- **Budget**

Slight amendments were being made from the previous budget to correspond with income needed or not needed, e.g. Standing Committee had fewer claims for reimbursement. In view of the amount already put aside for CME (formerly named SAMTS), the 2020 contribution is being reduced to CHF1800.- (see note 7 on expenditure). This fund is foreseen as a reserve to cover clergy or e.g. readers' costs for training, also to contribute to expenses for attendance at a diocesan clergy meeting, planned in the next year or two.

Greece For several years we have supported the Anglican Church in Athens with the equivalent of CHF 3'000 for their refugee aid programme. It was decided to continue support, but for the **Hestia Hellas Programme**, which concentrates on the psychosocial needs and mental health of the refugees. The Archdeacon has seen this project in action and recommended our support. This was unanimously agreed.

Our regular **Partner Sein** contribution was also approved.

Quotas These are based on the same proportions as the Common Fund payments.

The Budget was approved unanimously.

- **Hon. Auditor** Hector Davie was re-elected as Hon. Auditor for 2020.

Heartfelt thanks to Neil Kirby and Hector Davie for their care of our accounts.

4. Bishop's Council October 2019

Mary Talbot's report was previously sent to all synod representatives. Mary elaborated on several points. The guidelines laid down in the **Diocesan Strategy**, formulated 5 years ago, are still the aims. More work needs to be done on **Lay Ministry Development and Lay Readers**. Several new **free-standing archdeacons** have recently been appointed. In the course of time, **Switzerland and France** will remain as separate archdeaconries, but under one archdeacon. We may have an Area Dean for Switzerland to assist the Archdeacon. It is almost certain that the archdeacon will reside in France.

Questions were asked about the **location of the diocesan offices**, split between London (Diocesan Office) and Brussels (Bishop's office). This usually a question of practicality and money. It was felt that it was a real advantage having the bishop in Brussels. How things will work out after Brexit is an open question. Our archdeaconry was particularly congratulated on paying our quotas in full and on time.

5. Reports

Archdeacon's Report

- **Common Fund** Chaplaincies were recently informed about the conditions for exemptions and applications are now being considered. A new basis for calculations taking income and usual Sunday attendance is being studied. Further increases in costs are expected.

- **Church Representation Rules 2020** It is important to note that although the new CRR give 31 May as the deadline for chaplaincy AGMs, our Diocesan Constitution stipulates 30 April – this remains in force as our Diocesan Constitution cannot be changed easily.
- **Setting God's People Free** Enabling lay people to reflect the church in everyday life. Switzerland is running a pilot project. Adèle Kelham, Clive Atkinson (Vevey) and Nigel Gibson (Lugano) plus one lay representative from each chaplaincy will be involved and we should be moving forward.
- **Events**
OC Epiphany Celebration with OC Bishop Harald Rein 1 February 2020 in Epiphany Church at Biel
14-16 February OC Symposium in Bern
JC2033 is gaining momentum. Check website: <https://www.jc2033.world/en/>
- **Environment** (see also written report from Revd Elizabeth Bussmann, Dio. Environment Officer) We must encourage churches to become ECO, which means getting someone enthusiastic and passionate to pressure congregations to do something. The ECO Church website has practical suggestions. Look at what Basel, Vevey and Bern have achieved and won awards for.
- **SACEP** Events in 2019 on Migration and Children & Youth Work Training were well attended and very worthwhile. Please support the SACEP 2020 meeting in Bern on 9 May, when Paul Jones, UK Operations Manager of Release International – voice of persecuted Christians, will be speaking.
- **OC/Anglican Relations** presented by Revd Sarah Böhm OC Church
Greetings from Bishop Harald Rein. An Extraordinary Synod in Zurich on 7 March is open to all. The OC church is considering the problem of same-sex marriage and this Synod will deal with the different theological perspectives and what it could mean for the church should it become the norm. There will be a consultative vote, but nothing has been decided yet. Thanks for our continued participation in the Partner Sein projects.
- **Partner Sein** presented by Robert Amstutz, Anglican representative on PS Board
The project list is now available in English. Please distribute in your churches. Robert himself recently took part in a visit to projects in Tanzania and Mozambique, which was strenuous, but interesting. All is not easy with political and local interests affecting our work and decisions. Robert will be glad to write an article for your church magazine or visit a service and show slides etc. (robert_amstutz@yahoo.com)

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Subjects for discussion at Synod** Peter Spychal would like to have a discussion on **LGBTI**, a topic which the CofE has been addressing at General Synod, but like all contentious issues, it will take time to reach consensus. Mary Talbot reported that things are moving slowly. A repeat of the **SACEP workshop on Children & Youthwork** in the church (see above) would be welcome on a regular basis. **Overnight Synod** This received general support. Maybe next year. **Archdeaconry Retreat** Is another one planned? Ask Elizabeth Bussmann (SACEP) ** see date below **AD Secretary** Miriam Keller reiterated her intention of relinquishing this post in June after many years of service. Who would like to take over this interesting job? Contact Miriam

Eucharist / Lunch

Afternoon Session with Grace Fagan, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Grace's aims could be spelled out as

Review of what is working well

An exploration of areas we are worried about

Setting out our collective next steps

John 8:32 You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free

Reflections –Which places are safe? Nowhere is safe. We have a fear of saying anything. We want to make our places safe but we don't do enough. More intensive awareness all round is necessary. Report everything. Take advice. Ask for information. Not all gestures are what they seem. Take cultural norms into consideration – handshakes, hugs, kisses.

There is still much to do on safeguarding checks and some are coming up for renewal. Please take them seriously.

Many thanks to Grace for her talks both in the morning and afternoon. See PDF attachment.

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Future Dates

2020

- 7 March OC Open Synod on subject same-Sex Marriage in Zurich
- 9 May SACEP with Paul Jones from release International – Voice of persecuted Christians St. Ursula's, Bern
- 15-17 May Archdeaconry Choir Festival St. Andrew's, Zurich
- 27 June Archdeaconry Synod at Christ Church, Lausanne
- 16-17 October Retreat - details to follow

2021

- 30 January Archdeaconry Synod St. Ursula's, Bern

Many thanks to St. Ursula's for their generous hospitality (as always!)

Miriam Keller Archdeaconry Secretary

06.02.2020