

All Saints, Hérault

The English Church at Saint Pargoire

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held at 14 Rue du Parc, Autignac, at 1.30 pm on Friday 15 May 2015

Present: Revd Roger Smith (Chairman), Patricia Bigot, Ros Heley, Sally John, Julie Johnson (to item 14), Alison Kane, Jenny Morgan, Delia Smith & Nigel Summersall.

The sign-in sheet was completed and the chairman opened the meeting with prayer.

	Action
1 Apologies for absence Richard Acworth, Barbara Marsh and Christine Marshall.	
2 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.	
3 Matters arising	
3.1 3.2 Tax deductible giving More paperwork had been requested by the French authorities. This was seen by Nigel as a positive sign of eventual acceptance of the chaplaincy's application to issue tax certificates and was now ready to be submitted. However, a change in regulations meant a positive "yes" from the authorities was needed before tax certificates could be issued.	Nigel
3.2 3.3 Date of December service It was decided to hold the December service on 6 December (to avoid a clash with the Fontès Carol Service). Jenny would speak to Chris and Bryan Payne about changing the date of Breakfast Club, which was due to be held on 6 December.	Jenny
3.3 3.4 Long Term Planning Following synod, when two sessions were devoted to discussion of filling chaplain vacancies and procedures were explained, Roger suggested that the council might want to make long-term plans for his eventual retirement.	
Points made were:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roger does not, and will not, wish to be paid• Roger's licence as priest-in-charge will expire in three years, when he will be 70• 70 is the required retirement age for Church of England priests; there is no certainty that the Bishop would permit Roger to continue beyond that age• It could be necessary to offer some sort of payment if it were necessary to replace Roger• "House for Duty" is a possibility in the Archdeaconry but would have tax implications, as well as the obvious cost• The council is well aware that payment for/of a priest is a sensitive issue• Since his accident, Richard has not been able to take services, giving Roger fewer opportunities to plan holidays and/or visits to family.	

	<p>It was agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to divert more income from the budget to pay locums, if required To reconsider a long-term plan at the next meeting, after some fact-finding and thinking. <p>Nigel would check the tax implications of any form of payment and Julie would find out the possible cost of renting accommodation.</p>	Nigel Julie
3.4	<p>9 Disposal of unused hymn books The music team had checked and there was no objection to disposing of the unused hymn books. Delia and Roger could take them (when the possibility arose) to a Christian bookshop in Northampton which welcomed donations of second-hand books.</p>	Delia Roger
3.5	<p>10.3 Photos of Council Members Ros would ask Andy Marshall to take photos and print them for the church notice board.</p>	Ros
3.6	<p>15.1 Grass cutting at the Temple Nigel had done this earlier in the week.</p>	
3.7	<p>Bilingual notice for Temple gate Updating this was outstanding. Nigel and Patricia would look for a digital copy and produce a replacement notice.</p>	Nigel Patricia
4	<p>Elections/Appointments</p>	
4.1	<p>The statutory posts were filled by acclamation, as follows:</p> <p>Lay Vice Chairman Nigel Summersall Secretary Nigel Summersall Minutes Secretary Delia Smith Treasurer Barbara Marsh Safeguarding Officer Jenny Morgan Safeguarding ID checker Julie Johnson</p>	
4.2	<p>Publicity and Website It was agreed that Andy Marshall should be asked by Roger to continue and that Sally would continue as deputy.</p>	Roger
4.3	<p>Events Organiser(s) Alison and Ros were willing to help with social events but would prefer someone else to take the lead role. It was agreed that Ros should ask Christine Marshall if she would accept this responsibility.</p>	Ros
4.4	<p>Music Team It was agreed that Alison, Ros, Chris Payne and Bobbie Trickett should continue. Alison and Ros would check that Chris and Bobbie were willing.</p>	Alison Ros
4.5	<p>Lay members of standing committee It was agreed that Barbara and Delia should continue.</p>	
5	<p>Finance</p>	
5.1	<p>Diocesan CME fund contribution and quota These had been fully paid for the year.</p>	

5.2	Second quarter payment for use of the Temple. This was due and would be paid soon.	Barbara
5.3	Income and Expenditure update The previously circulated statement was reviewed. Patricia was concerned that the cost of consumables was not sufficiently clear for inventory control. Suggestions were made to address this issue.	Barbara Nigel
5.4	Funeral and other fees This issue arose out of a recent funeral enquiry. Roger said he would prefer more flexibility, especially in respect of fees charged to church members. After discussion, it was agreed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the agreed fees for funerals and wedding blessings were reasonable • that funerals should include memorial services • that Roger should have discretion to modify fees • that the website should say that these services are available, for a fee, and that baptisms are free of charge. 	
5.5	Stewardship Scheme Deferred until permission to issue tax receipts granted.	
5.6	Budget Review The chaplaincy was in a comfortable financial position. Being slightly over budget to date was due to one-off payments early in the year. It was agreed that the 750€ currently against “chaplain expenses” should be moved to “locum costs”.	Nigel
6	Correspondence	
6.1	Annual Returns to Diocese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stipend review, Churchwardens admission/declaration and Statistics for Mission had all been completed and submitted. • The finance return had been prepared, by the auditor, and was ready for submission. • The Council Officers return and Safeguarding Confirmation would be completed and submitted immediately following this meeting. 	Nigel
6.2	Other correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted and/or dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.	
7	Safeguarding	
7.1	Safeguarding Report and Training There was no formal report but Jenny had prepared and delivered an excellent training session before the council meeting, for which she was thanked.	
7.2	Annual Safeguarding Confirmation Nigel read to the members the Diocese in Europe's Policy Statement, which it was resolved to accept. Proposed Jenny Morgan; seconded Patricia Bigot.	
8	Music Team Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team continued to try to choose hymns to cater for most tastes, within the theme for the day. • Loose sheets for hymns not in the book had been collected and collated for future use 	

12.3	Holy Week and Easter The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services had been appreciated and would be repeated.	
12.4	Points from AGM	
12.4.1	Publicity for Fontès Carol Service 2015 There had not yet been a meeting of the planning group but Roger Armson had offered to take charge of publicity and it was expected that his offer would be accepted with gratitude.	
12.4.2	Oak cupboard to be added to inventory Nigel would do this.	Nigel
12.4.3	Annual Report to include presentation of Standing Committee This would be done.	January meeting
12.4.4	Website to report thanks for donations Barbara would be reminded to tell Andy of letters received.	Barbara
12.4.5	Hymn accompaniment to be played louder Noted, in respect of recorded accompaniments.	Nigel
13	Future Events	
13.1	Contemporary worship at Pentecost In hand.	
13.2	Service at Roquessels on 28 June Patricia had spoken to Monica Coulshaw; all seemed in hand. Nigel would check formally with Simon Coulshaw, especially about wine for the shared meal. Roger would e-mail the local priest for his permission to use the chapel.	Nigel Roger
13.3	Harvest Festival event, 11 October Roger Armson had suggested asking local businesses with an English market to donate raffle prizes. The council agreed that Roger should pursue this.	Nigel
13.4	Cassan Fair 2015 It was agreed that All Saints should not take part.	
14	Any Other Business	
14.1	Service at Margon Patricia said the Countess had offered use of the chapel at Margon for a service. It was agreed to accept this offer. Patricia would try to organise it for Sunday 27 September.	Patricia
14.2	Second Sunday of the Month Services Roger said he would prefer that, as far as possible and for the sake of consistency, the main service, normally on the second Sunday of each month, be held at St Pargoire and be a Common Worship Eucharist. BCP services, Evensongs, etc, would then normally be on the 4 th Sunday. This was agreed .	
15	Date and place of next meeting Wednesday 15 July at 10 am at Patricia's home.	

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

Studying to Become a Reader in the Diocese of Europe

Studying to become a Reader in the Diocese of Europe means you have to complete six modules of a distance learning programme run by St John's Nottingham. St John's sends me a huge folder containing all the study material for the module but I have to buy a lot of books myself. My essays are marked by Elaine who is a priest at a Chaplaincy near Versailles.

I completed my first module on the Old Testament in February this year. This module consisted of three quite large sections which included the history of the Hebrews in the Old Testament from the Patriarchs through to the exile and restoration, the Law and Prophecy as well as the Wisdom literature and finally a section called "The Human Response" which consisted of quite a bit of theology. I wrote four essays: two quite short ones on "Is an "ideological battle" a fair way to describe the conflict between Yahweh and Baal during the Conquest?" and "What are the strengths and limitations of archaeology in helping us to understand the Biblical story?" as well as two longer ones, the first of which was "What are we taught about the nature of humanity in Genesis 1-11?" Then finally I wrote one on the moral influence of the Old Testament as a whole, defending it against criticism that it apparently supported the slave trade, violence, Apartheid in South Africa and was against homosexuality. My overall mark for the essays was A-. It is necessary to study a lot to complete the module and it is suggested that Readers in training should spend at least 10 hours a week on study and this is certainly the case. In fact I think I probably spend more time and quite enjoy the challenge.

I am now working on the New Testament module and just about to write my first essay. After that I will be studying modules on the Early Church and the Creeds, the Holy Spirit and the People of God, Personal and Social Ethics and Common Worship. I am going to a workshop on Common Worship in June which is being held in Woking. At this stage it all feels quite daunting and I should be very grateful for your prayers.

If anyone would like to read my essays then I should be happy to share them with you. They could either go onto the website or I could email them to you as a Word document.

As well as studying I am expected to preach and I have given two sermons this year and expect to do more.

Report on Archdeaconry Synod April 2015 for Church Council Meeting 15th May 2015

This year we did not attempt the long journey to Brittany in one day but instead we set off just after lunch and stayed overnight in Montluçon. This meant we arrived the next day in plenty of time for the Synod Eucharist at 6 pm. In fact we were early enough to have a cup of tea and greet lots of people we had met last year. This time I was lucky enough to have a room looking out onto the beautiful gardens and every morning I was woken up by the sounds of early morning birdsong.

The Eucharist and Morning and Evening prayer are held in a large room with chairs arranged in a sort of semi-circle. The windows are huge and once again look out onto the gardens and especially a beautiful large eucalyptus tree with leaves moving in the breeze.

After the Eucharist we had supper and then on to the "Business Section" meeting where the Archdeacon formally welcomed us and the Treasurer gave information about the Archdeaconry finances.

The next morning, after Morning Prayer at 7.30 and breakfast we went over to the conference room where we had the first of two fascinating Bible studies on Sex in the Bible by Revd Canon Dr Simon Taylor, followed by the first of two talks by Revd Dr Charlotte Methuen on the History and Theology of Marriage. She went through the views of marriage in the Old Testament, then the differences in the New Testament, followed by a discussion of the views of some of the medieval Church fathers like Augustine, Jerome and Aquinas. It was a morning with a lot to think about, but it wasn't yet finished as we all trooped over to the large room for a Eucharist led by a young woman priest from St Michael's in Paris. Finally it was lunch time!

In the afternoon I met with Elaine Labourel who led a group of Readers and Readers in training (like me). It was great to meet up with them and it gave me a lot of confidence. After that, Synod divided into the House of Laity and the House of Clergy. In the House of Laity there was a lot of discussion about the payment of chaplains.

The last afternoon session was a very interesting presentation of a document which proposed the ecumenical sharing of Morning and Evening Prayer, gathering together both the French Roman Catholic church and the French "Eglise Reformée".

After supper, there was time for a short walk to the beach where the tide was coming in. It is amazing how quickly the water covered the beach but as it began to get dark I went to join a quiz and bar. I decided to join a group which had a great deal of fun cheating like mad but of course not entering our quiz sheet to be checked!

The second day followed very much the pattern of the first day with Bible Study, a talk on the History and Theology of Marriage before Eucharist, which this time was led by Bishop Robert Innes.

In the afternoon Bishop Robert talked about his life as Bishop of Europe and the sort of things he does. There were two more sessions before we had a silent vigil and Evening Prayer then supper and once more a bar. The next morning the archdeacon led the Eucharist at 7.30 and after breakfast people began to leave

What do I get, as your Synod Rep, out of going to Synod? Well, firstly it is the opportunity to be there for so many celebrations of the Eucharist, as well as joining in the congregation for Morning and Evening Prayer. It is wonderful and I felt very blessed. (I went to every service this time!) Secondly I get to meet such interesting people from very different kinds of Chaplaincies. Several Chaplaincies are as large as Wales and so they too have problems of having to travel long distances to a service. Some chaplaincies have no chaplain but rely on visiting priests. Other chaplaincies have to spend a lot of money on the "fabric" of their church. Some chaplaincies have groups of children and teenagers and their mission is different from ours. I make a lot of really good friends. But finally I think I come back really happy with a renewed feeling of mission and energy.

Julie Johnson April 2015