

All Saints, Hérault

The English Church at Saint Pargoire

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held on 4 September 2019 at 2 Chemin de la Fourquette, 34320 Margon

Present: Revd Roger Smith (Chairman), Patricia Bigot, Eleanor Grant, Steven Hopkins, Julie Johnson, Sue Jones, Jenny Morgan, Jac Phillips, Delia Smith and Nigel Summersall (from item 3.2).

The sign-in sheet was completed. The chairman welcomed everyone, thanked Patricia for her hospitality and opened the meeting at 2.14 pm with prayer.

	Action
1 Apologies for absence Andy Marshall	
2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2019 were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.	
3 Matters arising	
3.1 3.1 Temple gate notice board No action.	
3.2 3.2 Photos on website The photo of council members had been posted.	
3.3 4 Elections/Appointments Steven confirmed his willingness to assume the rôles of Environment Officer and Youth Officer.	
4 Finance	
4.1 Payments pending Nigel proposed and it was agreed to raise the monthly transfer to the Designated Fund for succession planning to 500€ from September to December. The 4 th quarter payment for use of the Temple was due.	Nigel
4.2 2019 Budget Nigel said this was well on target and commented that an exceptional donation distorted the Charitable Giving figure. Nigel would remove the subscript "Readership and Ministry Training" from Exceptional Items, which was now just the cost of social events.	Nigel
4.3 Charity donations from General Fund In the knowledge that some members of the congregation had been upset to learn that the council planned not to invite suggestions before drawing up a list of charities to receive 10% of the General Fund income for the year, lengthy discussion ensued. After careful thought and bearing in mind that it is the responsibility of council members to decide how to spend General Fund money, the following six charities, half local and half national were selected to share €1200: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees• The Hérault branch of APF France Handicap, working to improve the lives of local handicapped people• The Abbé Pierre Foundation (Emmaüs)	

- British Charitable Fund
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Fondation Vaincre Alzheimer

Roger would let the congregation know this at the 2nd Sunday services in September and October and would ask anyone who had strong objections to the council's choices to talk to him or one of the wardens. Roger would also explain that nearly €4700 had already been given to charities this year from the Restricted Fund, ie money the council had to spend as directed by the donors.

Roger

4.4 **Charities to be supported at Harvest** The collection would, as previously agreed, be for Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees, Barbara would be raising money for Restos du Coeur and Bobbie's books would be sold to raise money for Société Protectrice des Animaux.

5 **Correspondence** circulated with the agenda had been noted and actioned as necessary.

6 **Safeguarding**

6.1 Jenny reported that since the last meeting no new issues or concerns had arisen but there were still concerns about the vulnerability of some members of the congregation. Diocesan staff had given no advice apart from to involve Social Services or the Police, which was not always as easy or appropriate as it might be in the UK.

6.2 **Website** The diocese had recently said that safeguarding arrangements should be clearly visible on the front page of each church's website. The chaplaincy website now had safeguarding information on its front page but essential contact numbers were missing. Jenny had written to Andy about this.

Andy

6.3 **Permission to use photographs.** Jenny had collected the signature of all council members agreeing to this.

6.4 **Clearance for Jim and Phyl Mallett, Wednesday Group Leaders** The diocesan office had said this was not strictly necessary. Jenny and Roger thought it important that they should be cleared and Jenny was pursuing this. Jenny also commented that ideally the venues for the group should be safety checked.

Jenny

6.5 **Sue Jones' clearance application** was in progress.

6.6 Steven is still awaiting a **level 2 training day** at a venue within reasonable travelling distance.

6.7 Jenny asked Patricia to send Andy a link for the website to a **drug rehabilitation site** she had mentioned.

Patricia

7 **Music Team Report**

Alison Kane had reported as follows.

The team would refer the council to the report sent to the last council meeting (in the last minutes), as the same applies this time.

However, there has been one further development. Back in the Spring we had two new members of the congregation join us for a while, Alastair and Alison Knights, and just before they left to return to the UK, Alison gave us a new version of the Gloria which she had composed for us to use if we wished. It was played to the congregation on two occasions, with a vote then taken as to their response. Being already familiar with the Christopher Tambling version, it was voted to continue with the current Gloria, but to keep Alison Knight's version for possible use at a later date.

- 7.1 Patricia said she receives positive comments about the choice of hymns, which she passes on to the team and the council expresses through these minutes their thanks and appreciation for the work music team members do and the choices they make.

8 **Website**

Andy had sent the following report.

Changes to the website includes bringing "Safeguarding information" (who to contact, etc) on to the front "Home" page. Information in the form of two photographs of the church council has been added to the "Our Church" page, accessed via a blue button.

Numbers visiting the site have remained basically unchanged. However, a number of recent visitors to the church have found us through the church website. I have over the last few months been adding key words to the "Home" page, such as "Pézenas" which results in bringing our webpage higher up the Google search results.

We are on the Church of England "A church near you" website. 79 people viewed our listing during the last week of August, 270 in total for August and 1222 year to date. Having said that, I need to have discussions with the site administrator as we only appear if St. Pargoire or France is entered into the search box. The website hosts a number of resources we can use and I shall seek to use some of these on our site.

9 **Chaplaincy Development**

9.1 **Succession Planning**

Nigel had circulated resources for writing a Parish Profile, etc, and would be trying to arrange an initial meeting of council members, excluding Roger and Delia, before the next council meeting.

Delia reported that a member of St Michael's in the Gard had offered help with drafting paperwork, on the basis that they had done this twice in recent years. Considering seeking a priest who might serve the two congregations had also been suggested.

9.2 **Listening Course**

Five members of the council had done the Acorn Trust Listening Course in June and decided to ask if other members of the congregation would like to do it. Jenny would ask after the next service.

Jenny had found out that there were options for Acorn Trust training at the next level but this would involve significant cost. It was decided to open the basic training to the congregation first and then consider what to do next.

9.3 **Pastoral Care**

It would appear that Diocesan Synod had not discussed the proposal from the Archdeaconry of France for a scheme of modular training.

9.4 **Coffee mornings**

Julie said she intended to begin inviting lonely people for coffee and a chat.

9.5 **Circulation of prayer lists** Following a request at a recent service, circulating the names and some information about individuals prayed for by each service's interceder was discussed but it was decided, for various reasons, not to do this. Roger commented that he appreciated the diversity of approach and content of those who lead intercessions.

10 **Recent Activities**

10.1 **Roquessels service on 26 May** had gone well.

10.2 **Morning Prayer on 23 June** Thanks were due to the wardens for ensuring that there was a service and its success.

10.3 **Margon service on 25 August** This had gone well but it was agreed that in future it would be better only to go to Margon once a year, preferably for Harvest combined with the use of the hall for a shared lunch.

11 **Future Events**

11.1 **Harvest at Margon 29 September**

Simply Church had been invited and would consider changing their plans in order to join us.

Jac would draft an email about arrangements for the **shared lunch** and would arrive early to take charge of the keys to the hall. Jac

11.2 **Remembrance on 10 November** Usual arrangements.

11.3 **Fontès carol service 15 December** Roger would soon be organising a meeting of the planning group.

11.4 **Christmas Eve** Nigel would ask for use of the Temple for a service at 6.30 pm. Nigel

12 **Any Other Business**

Nigel thanked Julie for her email message of hope and joy to the congregation, which arose from a long letter to clergy and churchwardens from Bishop Robert.

13 **Date, time and place of next meeting** Wednesday 27 November at 2.30 pm at Jenny's.

The meeting closed at 4.12 pm with members saying the Grace.