

All Saints, Hérault

The English Church at Saint Pargoire

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held by Zoom beginning at 10.05 am on Wednesday 2 June 2021

Present: Revd Roger Smith (Chairman), Patricia Bigot, Graham Gardner, John Gifford, Julie Johnson (to 9.1.3), Jim Mallett, Phyl Mallett, Andy Marshall, Jac Phillips, Sue Robinson, Delia Smith and Nigel Summersall.

Members present were marked on the sign-in sheet. The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

		Action
1	Apology for absence None; all present	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.	
3	Urgent matters arising None	
4	Urgent financial matters Roger reported that a change of treasurer was being investigated, given the lack of bespoke accounting software.	
5	Urgent correspondence The diocese had asked chaplaincies to remind their congregations to apply for permanent resident status. Sue said she was helping one member with this. Roger would draft an email reminder to everyone on the mailing list.	Roger
6	Urgent safeguarding matters Julie and Nigel had applied for places on a C2 training course.	
7	Madagascar Link No action had yet been taken.	Julie
8	Chaplain's re-licensing The following was proposed by Nigel, seconded by Julie and unanimously agreed: The All Saints Chaplaincy Council wishes to apply for an extension of the licensing of our Chaplain, Roger Smith, beyond the end of his present term of office on 24 November 2021. Roger decided recently that he would like to continue to serve, but expressed a desire to be relieved of some of his duties which could equally well be carried out by lay members. The Council, on behalf of the Chaplaincy, has willingly and enthusiastically endorsed his desire to carry on and to lighten his load, while recognising that the chaplain's role can be stressful and demanding and that Roger would be working beyond the normal retirement age. It was therefore unanimously resolved that the Archdeacon be requested to approach the Bishop with a view to relicensing Roger Smith as Chaplain of All Saints Hérault for a further period of at least three years.	

9	Plans for the chaplaincy's future	
9.1	Live services and prayer group meetings	
9.1.1	<p>Open-air services After further contact with the Coulshaws, it seemed unlikely that such a service could take place in their vineyard until after the summer.</p> <p>Andy suggested Notre Dame de Capimont. This would be born in mind but for after re-establishing services at the Temple.</p>	
9.1.2	<p>Services at the Temple</p> <p>Roger reported that numbers listening to the podcast services had dropped sharply in recent weeks.</p> <p>After discussion, it was decided to re-start services at St Pargoire on Sunday 18 July. The French and Diocesan Covid rules and advice in force at the time would be adhered to. Under current guidance, there would be an opportunity to socialise outside after the service.</p> <p>Roger had discovered that, amongst other changes at the temple, there was no longer a PA system. He would make something to serve until the chaplaincy bought its own. Roger would contact the Pasteur saying we wish to return on 18 July and notify those on the mailing list.</p> <p>Nigel would try to find which lay Église Protestante member is currently responsible for the Temple.</p>	<p>Roger</p> <p>Nigel</p>
9.1.3	Livestreaming services This idea was considered and rejected.	
9.1.4	Recording services It was decided this would be done as and when the chaplaincy had suitable equipment and someone to use it. Recordings would then be made available via the internet.	
9.2	Prayer Group Podcast downloads were stable. Jenny, who organises the Prayer Group, felt continuing with two Prayer Group meetings a month at the end of the pandemic could only be done if there were more volunteers to lead. Jim commented that two podcasts a month were a response to the pandemic. There was little enthusiasm for a suggestion that face-to-face meetings be recorded. Roger suggested that members who attended the first face-to-face meeting should decide on the way forward.	
9.3	Sound system Roger would return to his investigations into what to buy.	
9.4	<p>Listening Course</p> <p>Jenny Morgan had recommended a three module course by the Acorn Trust, at a cost of £45 per module. After discussion, it was thought that before offering to sponsor volunteers to do this course, a pastoral care structure should be created alongside a way of identifying and training suitable pastoral care assistants.</p> <p>Sue spoke of the pastoral care in her former church in England and offered to find out more about how it was organised.</p>	Sue
9.5	<p>Authorised Congregational Worship Leaders</p> <p>This was a relatively new ministry within the Diocese in Europe, for which</p>	

chaplains are currently authorised to provide practical and spiritual training. Roger reported that he had had input into the proposal from the French Archdeaconry Synod in 2019 that had initiated the devising of a Diocesan training course. It is hoped this will be available soon. Roger would check.

It was agreed to publicise this ministry to members and invite expressions of interest in doing the diocesan course when it becomes available.

10 **Church and Diocesan Initiatives**

10.1 **Caring for Creation**

As the chaplaincy has no control over the Temple, Roger suggested that carbon offsetting could be something to which we could contribute. The diocese suggests appointing an Energy Champion. Patricia thought one of our young members might take on this rôle. Roger would contact the families concerned.

Roger

10.2 **Living in Love and Faith**

It was generally agreed that the chaplaincy should play its part in this Church of England wide initiative. Jim and Phyl would both read the lengthy book and consider whether the course proposed would be appropriate for the Wednesday Group or should be something separate, perhaps for the autumn.

Jim
Phyl

10.3 **Breathing Life – Racial Justice**

Nigel offered to complete the questionnaire. Roger would write comments to be included on the form indicating that, whilst racial justice is certainly of great concern and importance, ethnic origin is largely unknown by, and irrelevant to, members of our congregation.

11 **Any Other Business** None

12 **Next Meeting** 10.30 am on Thursday 9 September at Patricia's home.

The meeting closed at 11.53 am with members saying the Grace together.