

All Saints, Hérault

The English Church at Saint Pargoire

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022 at 2 Chemin de la Fourquette, 34320 Margon

Present: Revd Roger Smith (Chairman), Patricia Bigot, Graham Gardner, John Gifford, Jim Mallett, Phyl Mallett, Jac Phillips, Delia Smith, Nigel Summersall, Ian Thomas.

Members present signed in. The chairman thanked Patricia for her hospitality and opened the meeting with prayer. He asked to add two agenda items: Electoral Roll update and Jane Griffin, Reader. This was agreed.

		Action
1	Apologies for absence Julie Johnson and Sue Robinson	
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.	
3	Matters arising	
3.1	3.1 Altar linen Jac had not found the purificators and corporals but needs had changed. There was now a need for another altar cloth, which Jac offered to make, after measuring the table now used as the altar.	Jac
3.2	3.3 Sound system training Roger had written a manual and circulated it. It was agreed that he would do a training course at 9.45 am on Sunday 21 August for volunteers: Ian Thomas, John Gifford, Francis Bigot, Nigel Summersall. It was thought Trevor Jones and Martha Augustin might also like to be trained. Delia would ask them. Roger said, to avoid damage, knowing how to take down the equipment was as important as setting it up and untrained volunteers should be discouraged.	Roger Delia
3.3	3.5 Insurance Nigel reported that cover had been changed to reflect the current pattern of services and events and the slightly increased premium had been paid. However, the policy had changed to no longer include liability for the building and chattels and a further premium would have to be paid for this cover. He was arranging it and confirmed that the chaplaincy's insurance covered services and events wherever they took place.	Nigel
4	Electoral Roll update Patricia reported no change.	
5	Finance	
5.1	Payments pending There would be a small claim from Roger for website domain renewal and some printing.	
5.2	Income and Expenditure year to date Nigel pointed out that restricted donations were high, largely due to the amount given for aid to Ukraine. Bobbie wished money raised by her bookstall to go to the Croix Rouge for their work in Ukraine. Roger would make a notice to this effect for the bookstall. Delia would put a note on the website.	Roger Delia

5.3	<p>2022 Budget</p> <p>Both income and expenditure were slightly above budget.</p> <p>The budget for chaplain's expenses needed to be increased to reflect Roger's travel on chaplaincy business and also possible expenses claims by assisting priests. Concerning rates per kilometre, Roger would check the rate quoted by the Archdeacon, Patricia would check the barème and bring up travel cost rates with the other chaplaincies in the discussions about a link. A quick check by Graham indicated that the top barème rate was €0,66 per kilometre.</p>	Roger Patricia
5.4	<p>Charity donations from general fund</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed to put to the congregation a plan to share 10% of General Fund income at the end of the year (rounded to €1200) thus: €400 to Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees, €400 to La Ligue Contre le Cancer at Montpellier (subject to Patricia checking that the money would be used locally) and €400 to either Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal or Médecins Sans Frontières. This to be decided when details of the Bishop's appeal were known.</p>	Patricia
6	<p>Link with Fenoarivo parish in Toliara Diocese in Madagascar</p> <p>The formal Link Agreement had been agreed and signed. Roger had had several e-mail exchanges with Revd Delphin, including asking him who Phyl and Carol, the chaplaincy link leaders, could contact and how. Revd Delphin had sent photographs, now on our website. Phyl and Carol would be more free to fulfil their role actively when summer family commitments and holidays were over. In the meantime Roger would remind Revd Delphin about named contacts in Fenoarivo.</p> <p>Ian asked how communication would work and suggested using Zoom and possibly recording and sending a service.</p> <p>Delia suggested sending photos. To comply with data protection legislation, Roger would ask at the service on Sunday that anyone who wished not to appear in photos to be sent to Revd Delphin say so. Those who agreed would be asked to sign a data protection sheet. Patricia would check that Francis was willing to take photos.</p>	Roger Roger Patricia
7	<p>Correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and noted.</p>	
8	<p>Safeguarding</p>	
8.1	<p>Progress of council members' training</p> <p>Basic Awareness: Jac still needs to do this.</p> <p>Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse: Jim, Phyl, Graham and John need to do this.</p> <p>Leadership: Julie was about to do the second part of the Zoom course.</p>	Jac Jim Phyl Graham John
8.2	<p>Congregation's awareness At the next service, Roger would again mention that all but the Leadership course is available to anyone and encourage everyone to have a look. Council members had found the Domestic Abuse course in particular very good.</p>	Roger

9 **Archdeaconry Synod Report**

Jim's report had been circulated to council members and is appended. He said the theme, ecumenical relationships, had highlighted for him the differences between rural and city chaplaincies.

Ian asked about local ecumenical links. Roger said relationships were good but there was nothing formal. Covid had stopped the two annual shared services: one for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the other an open-air service each June.

10 **Music Team Report**

Sue had sent the following report:

The Music team have continued to select hymns that are both relevant to the Bible readings of the day whilst incorporating hymn suggestions from the congregation, which are always welcomed. Our thanks go to Nigel Summersall for providing appropriate music before, after, and during communion, and also to our chaplain Roger, who takes on that task when Nigel is away. Following the offer from Ian Thomas to be involved with the music at our services, we look forward to discussing with him the possibility of having more live music at our services from time to time.

Ian commented that his involvement springs from the council's request for volunteers. How and when to include live music still needed to be worked out.

11 **Website** Delia and Roger continued to try to keep this up to date.

12 **Church and Diocesan Initiatives**

Living in Love and Faith Jim said he was disappointed this was not discussed at the recent Lambeth Conference. He would arrange a date for chaplaincy members who had started the course to finish it in September/October. Jim

13 **Chaplaincy Development**

13.1 **Proposal from the Archdeacon to combine with St Michael's in the Gard and St George's, Vernet-les-Bains**

The Zoom meeting with the Archdeacon in June had not moved anything forward. There would be another Zoom meeting on 12 September and financial information from the Archdeacon was awaited.

Roger enjoyed taking a service at Vernet in July.

13.2 **Assisting Priests and Reader: Revd Gwilym Richards, Revd Kevin Conroy and Jane Griffin**

Roger said Gwilym has PTO (Permission to Officiate) and would like to take the service on Sunday with Roger to preach. This was approved. Kevin is in the process of gaining PTO. Jane, a Reader in the Diocese of Salisbury, would also welcome the opportunity to minister in France. Roger had initiated the process. He proposed that the council support these three working in the chaplaincy. This was unanimously agreed.

	Patricia had mentioned to Kevin claiming expenses. Roger would mention it to Gwilym.	Roger
13.3	Julie Johnson Julie's Reader's licence has expired. Roger needed to do a ministerial review with her before it could be renewed.	Roger
14	Recent Activities Service on 19 June at Clermont l'Hérault This was very difficult due to the unsuitable space which is not somewhere to go again. Service on 3 July when Roger was away This went well after a very great deal of planning.	
15	Future Events Harvest Festival at Margon on 2 October. Patricia said the hall was booked for the lunch. She had not heard from the priest about permission to use the church but the hall could be used for the service if necessary. Patricia would need to tell the Mairie about a week beforehand how many tables and chairs would be needed. This would partly be determined by plans for the lunch and for fund raising. Bobbie would be asked about taking her bookstall and Barbara about fund raising for Resto du Coeur. 16 October service The date clashes with the Cancer Support France Walk for Life. Roger would ask the Église Protestante minister if we could use the Temple on 30 October, which would be All Saints' Day, our patronal festival. Remembrance Sunday It was agreed to follow the usual format, on 6 November. Christmas Eve Roger would ask for permission to use the Temple, as usual.	Patricia Jac Roger Roger Roger
16	Any Other Business Roger said he would not be arranging a carol service at Fontes.	
17	Next Meeting Wednesday 16 November at 10.30 am at Jac's home.	

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm with members saying the Grace together.

Archdeaconry of France and Monaco

Annual Synod 14th, 18th and 25th May 2022

The Synod was once again conducted by zoom this year over three half days.

Archdeacon Peter Hooper welcomed everyone to the Synod and said that there were two reasons for deciding to conduct the Synod by zoom this year. There was continuing uncertainty about Covid at the time when the decision had to be made, but, perhaps more importantly it would have cost about 20,000 euros to have a live Synod whereas meeting by zoom costs virtually nothing. He suggested that future synods could be conducted by zoom to save money. If people really wanted to return to live meetings, chaplaincies would be expected to contribute about 300 euros for each person attending.

Peter Hooper then went on to say that the focus of this year's synod would be ecumenical partnerships.

Giles Williams then introduced the programme for the three sessions.

After this, Bishop Robert gave his presidential address.

He started by referring to two Bible passages; the dry bones passage in Ezekiel and the passage from John about Jesus with the disciples in a locked room. They are examples of the Holy Spirit breathing new life into people.

The Bishop pointed to three challenges for the diocese in France. Far more British people were leaving than coming to France. And the impact of the war in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis were further challenges.

However he recently toured South West France and was encouraged by the many good things he witnessed that were happening in the Diocese.

Bishop Robert was delighted to say that 350,000 euros had been raised for the Bishops' Fund for Ukraine.

In the autumn. The bishops of the Church of England would look at the feedback from churches that had embarked on the LLF course.

The Church of England has set aside £400 million for growing the church of young people.

And it is aiming to be carbon zero in 8 years.

Finally the Bishop reminded us that Jesus speaks words of peace and hope in troubled times.

Andrew Caspari, the Chief Operating Officer, (Diocesan Secretary) then talked to us about Diocesan finances.

He said that there is a £900,000 common fund for the overall growth of the Church.

He highlighted challenges for the future; growth of young people in the Church, reaching net-zero, racial justice and welfare of the clergy.

Andrew told us that 71% of funding comes from the chaplaincies, the rest from dividends, interest and the Church Commissioners.

The diocese received the Bronze Award for 'Caring for Creation'.

Then Grace Fagan- Stewart, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, talked to us about Safeguarding recruitment policy changes for 2022. There were to be vetting check changes for elected churchwardens and changes for Confidential Declaration and Renewal forms.

There followed a half -hour coffee break where people were able to get to know one another in six 'breakout groups'.

After the break, Charlotte Sullivan introduced the the Business Meeting.

David Bean supplied a financial statement for the year 2021 and a budget for 2022.

Rosemary Ulyett referred to the minutes of the last meeting which were approved.

Peter Hooper pointed out that there were to be changes to the 1905 Law concerning financial management and registration.

He said that the first modules of the Congregational Worship Leaders course should be available in autumn 2022.

Peter Hooper wants to establish regional working groups (4 deaneries in each group) to reduce travel etc.

We finished the session in our breakout groups discussing how we see our identity in France, the key words being Anglican, Anglophone and Ecumenical, We fed back our thoughts to the Synod.

Bishop Robert gave some concluding remarks and closed the meeting with prayers.

The second session began with a talk by Pere Miguel Desjardins, co-secretary CECEF.

CECEF (Le Conseil d' Eglises Chretiennes en France) was founded in 1987 to promote consultation between Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox Christians.

He gave us an outline of the structure of the Roman Catholic Church in France. There are 94 dioceses each with a bishop and a vicar-general (the bishop's right- hand man). Most dioceses have appointed a delegate for ecumenism and ecumenical groups have been set up in many dioceses. Every diocese is made up of parishes each with a priest. Each bishop is master of his diocese so that all dioceses are self-governing.

Some of the challenges ahead are: how to be more missionary, how to evangelise, to learn from catholics abroad – for example in the USA and Canada, how to react to the fact that 50% or more of the population do not believe in God, address the fact that the number of priests is diminishing.

Other information Pere Miguel gave us was:-

There are twice yearly meetings of the bishops to discuss ecology safeguarding etc.

There have been CECEF meetings to discuss Ukraine, Cop26 etc.

He edits a magazine entitled 'Unite'.

There are an increasing number of catholic run Alpha courses in France.

There are several other organisations, as well as CECEF, in France seeking to bring together different denominations.

Overall, Pere Miguel sees his mission is to persuade catholics in France to be more ecumenical.

There then followed a talk by the Reverend John Murray, co-chair of the ARC.

ARC is an organisation dedicated to helping protestants and catholics to get to know each other.

There are 17 national ARCs around the world of which French ARC is one. French ARC was set up by French Roman Catholic Conference and Bishop Robert.

There is another organisation, ARCIC set up in 1970 concerned with doctrine and theology within the different churches.

French ARC meets twice a year and has protestant, catholic and episcopalian representatives. They have focused on areas of co-operation and sharing with the orders of morning and evening prayer and other daily offices. Recently they have translated the daily core liturgies into French which will

be available later this year. They are working on the development of lay ministries – a paper will be available in October. Both churches have laid emphasis on the part played by every church member in ministry.

John Murray pointed out that there 7500 lay ministers in the UK but only 70 in France. However lay people play a big part in running the parishes in France, more so than in the UK.

He spoke about synodality, the concept that decision making, discussion and listening is not just for priests but for all members of the church. Pope Francis is very keen for the Roman Catholic Church to embrace a synodal approach.

To finish the session, we separated into six breakout groups to consider the questions:-

What local activities do we have running or would like to run in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church?

How can we facilitate the local activities at an Archdeaconry level?

The groups then fed back a list of activities already running and a list of ideas for the future.

The evening finished with compline.

The final session began with a talk by Christian Krieger, the co-chair of the 'Reuilly Working Group'. Synod members had to hand the 'Reuilly Common Statement and Declaration'.

The Reuilly Declaration acknowledges the positive elements which link the French protestant churches and the churches of Great Britain and Ireland and outlines their commitment to share a common life and mission. The declaration was agreed in July 2001.

Christian talked to us about how the working group was putting the principles of the Reuilly Declaration into practice. He said that there were different qualities of relationship between the churches; for example, fellowship, partnership and membership of a council of churches. The Group had decided that two aspects of practice, the preaching of the Gospel and the celebration of the Eucharist were of the utmost importance, If agreement could be reached on these two, that is all that is really needed. Other aspects were minor in comparison.

The Reuilly Declaration outlines 6 points of agreement (too detailed to state in this summary).

The French Protestant and Lutheran churches came to full agreement in the late 20th century.

The French and Anglican churches have achieved a very high but not full level of agreement.

The churches of France, Britain and Ireland have met every 18 months or so since 2001, to review and refine their agreement and in 2013 Christian was challenged to take things further. There were a number of administrative problems, but in 2020 the group decided they were ready to consider shared ministry.

Just this year, 2022, Peter Hanson has been appointed to the first shared ministry post In Lyon for the Anglican Trinity Church and the Eglise Protestante Unie. The setting up of another shared ministry in Strasbourg is underway.

Other points made by Christian were:-

The group is considering how parishes with small congregations (both Anglican and French Protestant) could share a priest. The way forward with ecumenism is not to pontificate but to take practical steps!

There is no real agreement yet with the evangelical and other smaller churches of France, but the group is working on it.

Following Christian Krieger's talk we went into breakout groups.

In introducing ourselves to each other, it became clear that there is a great diversity in the chaplaincies. There are big differences in size and in the composition of congregations between urban and rural chaplaincies.

We outlined what we were doing to engage with protestant churches in the vicinity and what we would like to do.

There followed a talk by Peter Hanson, the first person to be appointed to a shared ministry. He is not a British Anglican, but by birth an American with a back-round in the evangelical church. In the Lyon Project, half his time is taken up as priest for the protestant church and the other half in shared ministry with the two churches. He said that his ministry was particularly geared towards welcoming people new to Lyon, especially refugees, migrants and people who are on the edge of congregations. He tries to be a bridge between people of different denominations and people with different levels of faith.

Other points he made were:-

A café has been set up by the Evangelical Free Church as a meeting point for different groups and people new to Lyon.

An Alpha Course was launched 3 weeks before the Synod across the two churches.

Overall it's a work in progress – lots of big ideas, finding one another again after covid.

We completed the session with feedback from the breakout groups and the Synod closed with Compline.

Jim Mallett