

All Saints, Hérault

The English Church at Saint Pargoire

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held at 14 Rue du Parc, Autignac, at 10.30 am on Wednesday 18 May 2022

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

Members present were marked on the sign-in sheet. The chairman welcomed Ian Thomas to his first meeting and opened the meeting with prayer.

	Action
1	Apologies for absence Julie Johnson and Sue Robinson
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022 were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.
3	Matters arising
3.1	3.1 Altar linen Jac was still looking for what she had made and mislaid. Mary Pinnell had given twelve white handkerchiefs which had belonged to William, to be used as purifiers.
3.2	3.2 Projector Members at the Annual Meeting had agreed by a large majority not to buy a projector.
3.3	3.4 Sound system and new cupboard A cupboard had been bought and installed in the garage at the Temple. The new sound system was now in that cupboard. Roger said he planned a training session on setting up and taking down this equipment.
3.4	3.5 Crack in Temple wall The Église Protestante had received an estimate for fairly extensive building work needed at the Temple and was seeking funding at their regional level before work could begin.
3.5	3.6 Insurance Nigel had advised our insurers that cover was needed for 24 regular services, 12 church festivals, etc, and 4/5 social events. He was awaiting changed paperwork and expected a premium increase.
3.6	3.3 Recording of Services Roger said he was not now routinely recording services.
4	Election/appointment of Church Council Officers The following was agreed:
4.1	Lay Vice Chairman Nigel Summersall
4.2	Secretary Nigel Summersall
4.3	Treasurer Graham Gardner assisted by Nigel Summersall

- 4.4 **Two lay members of Standing Committee** Graham Gardner and Delia Smith
- 4.5 **Electoral Roll Officer** Patricia Bigot
- 4.6 **Safeguarding Officer & ID Checker** Steven Hopkins
- 4.7 **Environment Link/Officer** Post not filled
- 4.8 **Youth Officer** Post not filled
- 4.9 **Sidespeople** Trevor Jones, Steven Hopkins, Jim Mallett and Phyl Mallett
- 4.10 **Minutes Secretary** Delia Smith
- 4.11 **Website and Publicity Manager** Delia Smith
- 4.12 **Events Organiser** Jac Phillips and John Gifford
- 4.13 **Music Team** Ian Thomas volunteered and it was agreed that he would join Alison Kane, Carol Gardner and Sue Robinson

5 **Electoral Roll update** Patricia reported three additional members: Ian Thomas, Juliette Thomas and Christopher Hall.

6 Finance

6.1 Payments pending

Picrights €200. Roger explained this was for a copyright photo which had been missed when other such material had been removed from All Saints' website. The charge had been largely covered by donations from council members.

Donations of **€562** to the **Bishop's Lent and Easter Appeal** to provide practical help to Ukraine, in conjunction with USPG. Jim said the appeal had raised over €350,000 by the previous week.

c **€50** for the **gift for the retiring Independent Examiner**.

€91.58 for materials for the **Living in Love and Faith** course.

€355.81 for the new **cupboard and consumables**.

€50 to **Les Amis de la Chapelle St Guiraud**, for use of the chapel on Good Friday.

£400 Diocesan Common Fund contribution, which was due but not yet requested.

The cost of the **gift given to Eleanor Grant**. Sue would be reminded to claim.

6.2 **Income and Expenditure year to date** Statements had been circulated prior to the meeting but were difficult to follow due to lack of detail. Nigel agreed to include full details in future. He said "upkeep of services" included Yola and Zoom payments and the new book stand for the altar. Patricia commented that consumables costs were higher due to Covid-related expenditure, eg paper cups. In general, income was ahead over expenditure.

Nigel

- 6.3 **2022 Budget**
A revised budget had been circulated with the meeting papers, showing collections and donations ahead of budget.
Roger said the allocation for his travelling expenses needed to be increased. This led to a brief discussion of the usefulness of this paper exercise, which had been started as part of succession planning. A future priest could expect to be reimbursed at French government set levels, rather than at Roger's current level. Patricia felt the accounts should make clear that what Roger claimed was given back as a donation.
- 6.4 **Ratification of payments approved on-line** The following decisions were confirmed:
Purchase of a metal cupboard, €285,99.
Donation from the Discretionary Fund for the Croix Rouge Ukraine appeal, €250.
- 6.5 **Chapels used for Prayer Group meetings** Delia reminded members that in 2015 it had been decided to donate €100 a year to St-Joseph de Mont-Rouge for use of their chapel for Prayer Group meetings over the year. Mont-Rouge had been increasingly unable to accommodate the group, who were then welcomed at Chapelle St Guiraud. She proposed, to replace the current agreement, "A donation, at the end of each year, to venues used for Prayer Group meetings, will be considered in line with requests from Prayer Group members." This was seconded by Patricia and agreed.
- 6.6 **1905 Association** Changes to French law would involve extra reporting and new statutes. The Archdeaconry was working on this in conjunction with other churches and would produce generic statutes.
- 7 **Link with Fenoarivo parish in Toliara Diocese in Madagascar** Revd Florent was unwell and was to be replaced by Revd Delphin, who speaks English. The next step was for Roger to draft a Link Agreement. Phyl said Toliara Diocese was busy at present with a visit by the Archbishop of the Province of the Indian Ocean. She said Toliara Diocese was part of the American Episcopal Church, the link had come about through personal connection and was to offer friendship, prayer and regular contact with our Link Leaders: herself and Carol Gardner.
- 8 **Correspondence** had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been noted and/or acted on, as necessary.
- 9 **Archdeaconry Synod Report** Jim said for the second year, due to the Covid pandemic, Synod was via Zoom, this year in three separate sessions. Zoom Synod saves the Archdeaconry €20,000. The theme this year is unity, including our church's identity and ecumenical links via ARC with French Catholics and through the Reuilly Agreement with French Protestants.
- 10 **Safeguarding**
- 10.1 **Progress with Training** Jac still had to do Basic Awareness training. Several members still needed to do Domestic Abuse training. A link to this on-line training is on the front page of All Saints' website.

Roger

10.2 **Changes** Steven Hopkins is invited to a Zoom meeting at the end of May to learn about significant changes in safeguarding requirements.

11 Music Team Report

Sue had sent the following report:

The Music Team have prepared the music for the services up to the end of June and will be meeting next month to organise the choices to take us through to the end of September. It was wonderful to have live music on Easter Day and our thanks go to Tim and Ian. Ellie sang beautifully at her own Confirmation service too. Hopefully we can look forward to more live music going forward. It was also good to receive a list of favourite hymns from a member of the congregation, and these are taken into account when we're making our choices. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions please do not be afraid to put these forward.

John asked if the website said that hymn suggestions are welcomed. Delia would check.

Delia

11.1 **Gifts of electric pianos** It was agreed that the electric piano given to the chaplaincy by Nigel now be gifted to Sue, in exchange for the Casio electric piano she has given.

12 Website

Delia said she tried to keep the website up to date, largely as a resource for chaplaincy members. However, statistics showed that most visitors to the website were newcomers. Members seemed reluctant to use it.

13 Church and Diocesan Initiatives

Living in Love and Faith Jim reported that there had been some concerns about running a course due to the difficult material but the first day-long meeting had been very successful. Three more sessions would be completed over a day in June. Three chaplaincy members who could not come to the meetings were following the course at home. A lot of material is available on the diocesan website via a link from the chaplaincy website.

14 Chaplaincy development

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

This proposal had been made to Roger and the Standing Committee at a meeting on the afternoon of the Confirmation with Bishop Robert, the Archdeacon, the Area Dean and two representatives of each of the other two chaplaincies.

Prior to the council meeting Roger had circulated a map of Occitanie showing our nearest Chaplaincies:

- Midi-Pyrénées and Aude, with seven worship centres and currently no priest,
- Gard, with no priest,
- Pyrénées-Orientales, with no priest.

He had also listed points to consider, such as:

- Distances - St Michael's in the Gard is adjacent but Vernet-les-Bains is separated from our chaplaincy by Aude.
- Patterns of worship, financial situations, availability of premises.
- Montpellier, a major city, nominally cared for by the Anglican Episcopal Church but seemingly no longer with any Anglican community.

After brief discussion, it was agreed that it was necessary to await more information from the Zoom meeting with the Archdeacon, on 13 June. After questions had been asked and answered the council would meet to consider their vision for the future of All Saints within the proposed larger chaplaincy.

Roger agreed to work further on his map and points to consider, send the modified document to council members and, if agreed, forward it to the Archdeacon well in advance of the Zoom meeting.

Roger

15 Recent Activities

Lent Coffee Mornings had been good.

Holy Week and Easter The swap of locations for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday had been good. Patricia suggested trying Margon for Maundy Thursday in 2023, as attendance at St Pargoire had been low.

Confirmation This had been a really lovely occasion.

16 Future Events

Patricia would ask for use of the church and hall at **Margon** for **Harvest Festival on 2 October**.

Patricia

17 Any Other Business

The Inventory had been updated. Patricia circulated it for signing by those who held chaplaincy property.

18 Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 August at 10.30 am at Patricia's home.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm with members saying the Grace together.

