

All Saints, Hérault

Minutes of the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 10.00 am by Zoom

Present: Revd Roger Smith (Chairman), Patricia Bigot (to item 10), Jim Mallett, Phyl Mallett, Sue Robinson, Delia Smith, Nigel Summersall, Ian Thomas.

The sign in sheet was marked and it was agreed to record the meeting. The chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Action

- 1 **Apologies for absence** Graham Gardner, John Gifford and Jac Phillips
- 2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023** were approved and signed by the chairman as a correct record.
- 3 **Matters arising**
 - 3.1 **4.1 & 15.1 Agreement for use of the Temple and 2024 services dates** Nigel reported that the agreement for 2023-24 had been signed and our requested dates confirmed, including a service at 6.30 pm on Christmas Eve.
- 4 **Finance**
 - 4.1 **Payments pending** None.
 - 4.2 **Income and Expenditure year to date**

Reports had been distributed prior to the meeting, showing net income for the year to date of around €9,200, with €6000 a year going to the Succession Fund.
 - 4.3 **Budget**

The budget was on target.

Jim raised questions, currently difficult to answer, about how much money would be available for charitable giving and chaplaincy development when a new chaplain was in post.
 - 4.4 **Donation re Prayer Group** Nigel would give Jenny a cheque for €100 for her to pass on to Mont Rouge at the last Prayer Group meeting of the year.
 - 4.5 **Charity donations from general fund**
 - 4.5.1 **Decision making for charity donations**

Roger said he believed the council should review how and when decisions were made, suggesting merging the Disaster Appeals Fund and 10% tithe monies to a total of €1500 a year and making donations throughout the year.

Other suggestions and comments were:

 - decide on a fixed list, including large international charities;
 - regular donations to charities such as UNICEF and Médecins sans Frontiers were de facto donations in response to disasters;

- continue to support small known groups, such as Solidarity with Refugees and the local branch of Restos du Coeur;
- decisions on changing the system should wait until the result of the current recruitment process for a new chaplain was known.

4.5.2 The decisions made at the September meeting were reviewed (noting suggestions by John Gifford) resulting in agreement to make the following donations:

€200 to the Bishop's Advent Appeal (Christians in South Asia)
 €50 to Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees (to add to the €150 raised by John Gifford at Harvest)
 €250 to Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar
 €250 to the UNICEF appeal for Gaza (rather than Morocco & Libya as that appeal was closed and there was now urgent need for aid to Gaza)
 €250 to the UNICEF appeal for aid to Armenia

Nigel

5 **Electoral Roll update** Since Francis Bigot had died the roll stood at 69.

6 **Chaplaincy development**

6.1 **Update on the Three Chaplaincies project**

Ian reported that four House for Duty posts in France had been advertised together for two weeks in the Church Times, resulting in 14 requests for information packs. There had been two webinars, organised by the Archdeacon, intended to give the four chaplaincies an opportunity to present themselves to potential candidates. The organisation of these had left our representatives very disappointed.

There were three applicants for the four posts, one of whom had a definite preference for the post at Pau. These candidates would be interviewed by Zoom by the Archdeacon on 24 November, with chaplaincy representatives present. This may result in in-person visits to chaplaincies between 4 and 8 December.

Chaplaincy representatives had drawn up a list of questions they would like asked. Ian had drafted and circulated a structured interviewers' check sheet, reflecting best practice, and was awaiting a response to emails to the archdeacon before he could complete it.

7 **Correspondence**

Correspondence had been circulated before the meeting and noted.

The Diocesan Bishops' letter about Living in Love and Faith was discussed briefly, with sadness that so many General Synod members seem still to be "sitting on the fence".

8 **Safeguarding** Steven Hopkins had reported in an email to Roger that outstanding training certificates remain outstanding.

9 **Lent Groups and new Theology/Doctrine Group**

Ian was coordinating a new occasional Theology/Doctrine Group in which 15/16 people had expressed interest. It was agreed that there was no reason not to run both this and Lent Groups, using a film and organised along the same lines as each year. Roger would look for a Lent course. Jim and Phyl thought 15/16 people and

Roger

the possible 20 involved in Lent groups were too many for a single group and suggested that there could perhaps be two sessions, on different days of the week or at different times of the day.

- 10 **Any Other Business** Sue reported that the Music Team had chosen hymns for services to 17 March.
- 11 **Date and place of next meeting and date of AGM** Wednesday 31 January at Ian's home at 10.30 am and Sunday 17 March after the service.

Roger closed the meeting with prayer at 11.06 am.