ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE

AN UPDATE ON HOW TO PROCEED FOR RE-REGISTERING YOUR CHAPLAINCY (following French legislation changes)

**A meeting held via Zoom**

**on 30 March 2023**

**A total of 49 people attended.**

A previous meeting on this subject was held on 7 December 2022

A summary and links can be found on the Anglican France website

<https://anglicanfrance.fr/resources/french-law-on-non-profit-organisations-1901-and-1905-associations/procedure-for-re-registering-a-chaplaincy-to-comply-with-recent-french-legislation/>

The document in French includes links to all the official forms required

<https://anglicanfrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/ASSOCIATIONS_Nouvelle-reglementation_-numeros-CERFA-et-sites-1.docx>

**Timeframe**

The French government has set a **deadline of 30 June 2023** for all religious organisations in France to re-register their association.

**Requirements**

All of these documents must be submitted at the same time, not piecemeal. Each chaplaincy must prepare items 1 – 6 and the Archdeaconry will provide a generic format of statutes (item 7) to be completed appropriately but not changed.

The Préfecture has two months to accept or query any of the documents, after that date they are automatically accepted.

It is important that all chaplaincies use the same form of statutes because organisations with multiple places of worship (such as the Anglican church in France) must have one legal, central point of contact. The Archdeaconry is proceeding with the creation of a “Union Nationale”; not only can this help with possible difficulties, but might be able to negotiate rates for eg a mutuelle or outsourced payroll facilities.

A reminder that ALL documents need to be in French.

**Documents**

**1 List of 7 people resident** in the area of the chaplaincy, to include the département where the church is registered and any other départements where you may operate.

Do NOT put “France”.

Form CERFA 13971 refers.

**2 List of Members of the “Conseil d’Administration**”. As stated in the new statutes, this is the Chaplaincy Council. It includes all ex-officio members such as wardens, readers, synod representatives.

***Note on who is a member of the Association:*** *the new statutes define members as those on the electoral roll.*

**3 Outline budget for 2023.** This is a top-level, general budget and does not need to be highly detailed.

**4 Accounts for 2020-2021-2022.** Again, simplicity is key. In the future however, it is understood that everyone will have to use a French accounting system and some chaplaincies are already using eg Caleb (from ActesVI) amongst others. A future seminar will be set up to help train people if required and there is a lot of internal expertise within the Archdeaconry.

As is already the case, chaplaincies whose accounts are over €153 000 must be fully audited, an accounts examiner is not sufficient.

**Note on overseas money**

* Money held in a named account overseas (eg at the Diocese) must be declared and can then be moved backwards and forwards as required.
* Money held overseas and not declared cannot be brought into France; it needs to be declared.
* The threshold for overseas income is €15 300 in total. Chaplaincies who receive Gift Aid need to look at the amounts involved. This total includes any grants from the Diocese or any other monies coming from outside France. (ie even from Europe not UK)

**5 A list of places where worship takes place**. This would include seasonal or temporary places, and also a House Church, but not a Home Group as this is not public worship.

**6 Justification of religious nature.** This can be justified either by the most recent Chaplain’s report (translated into French) OR if the chaplaincy has received a legacy, they will have received a document from the Préfecture because they had to prove their religious nature at that time.

**7 New statutes.** There remains one final area to be decided but otherwise they are nearly complete and they will be circulated by the end of April. Chaplaincies will need dates, the name, the association number and any previous statute update dates. An English version will be circulated for information only.  
Chaplaincies should hold a single item Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the new statutes which can then be sent with the other documents, to arrive at the Préfecture before 30 June.

**Specificity**

The new statutes link the two legal requirements, that of the Church of England Regulations and that of the French government.

They make clear how the priest is employed, “named and authorised by the Bishop”. This does not undermine the role of patrons like the ICS.

The final requirement is to define what happens if the chaplaincy is dissolved, what happens to the assets; there has to be a “unique beneficial owner”. A standard phrase which gives flexibility is needed because some buildings are owned by chaplaincies and some by ICS and there are some other variables too.

Rosemary Ulyett

Secretary

31 March 2023