**THE FRENCH ANGLICAN ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD**

**FINANCE MEETING – A SUMMARY**

**Saturday 4 March 2023, 8:30 – 13:00**

The official minutes will be available at the next meeting.

The focus of the meeting was on finances and we heard from **Andrew Caspari, Diocesan Chief Operating Officer and Juliet Evans, Diocesan Fundraising Advisor**

**SESSION 1 DIOCESAN FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023-2026**

The overall aim is to enable mission and ministry to flourish in the Diocese, and we are all working together: Diocesan office, Archdeaconry, Chaplaincies.

A sustainable financial model is vital for the future and the Diocese has used a significant amount of our reserves to help us reach forward.

Brexit plus Covid plus the economic crisis have had huge effects but people have shown remarkable resilience and inventiveness.
The Diocese is now better included in Church of England funding, and has noticeably come together.

A copy of the presentation is available on the Archdeaconry website:

<https://anglicanfrance.fr/france-archdeaconry-synod-2023/introduction-to-the-finances-of-the-diocese/>

**SESSION 2 CURRENT HEALTH OF OUR FRENCH CHAPLAINCIES: WHAT IS CHANGING IN OUR CHAPLAINCIES POST BREXIT/COVID**

The meeting split into groups, and discussed these questions:

* What does the ‘new normal’ look like in your Chaplaincy?
* In what ways are you stronger/weaker than before?
* What are the biggest opportunities/challenges facing you in the coming year?

The New Normal means changes in congregations – number, type, origin – and increased use of technology like Zoom and YouTube. Visa restrictions and ageing populations were often mentioned.

It is necessary to improve income and to encourage commitment while struggling with distance and also with interregnums and ageing ministers.

The question of safeguarding training suitable for France was raised again.

Details of the feedback can be found at this link: <https://anglicanfrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/THE-NEW-NORMAL.docx>

**SESSION 3 GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

This presentation covered communication, improving giving mechanisms and good practice and the presentation is available in full, with notes, on the Archdeaconry website.

One of the main lessons from this session was the need to motivate giving by showing what the church is doing and how it is meeting people’s needs, not just pleading for more money.

The presentation can be found at this link: <https://anglicanfrance.fr/good-financial-stewardship/>

During the breakout sessions, groups discussed all the ideas and some of their own.

Some of the main points to emerge were France-specific, such as the question of legacies and rules for Associations.
It was also pointed out that tax relief is only of use to people who pay tax.

It is clear that there is still a lot of misunderstanding about how chaplaincies are financed, and indeed what happens to the money which is given.

But groups had some useful ideas about how to “give back to God”.

Details of the feedback can be found at this link: <https://anglicanfrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/GOOD-FINANCIAL-STEWARDSHIP.docx>

**SESSION 4 ARCHDEACONRY BUSINESS**

The accounts for 2022, the budget for 2023 and the minutes of the meeting in May 2022 were all approved.

**Archdeaconry Plans for 2023**

The Archdeacon reminded members that synod representatives hold office for three years, and there need to be elections this year at the chaplaincy AGM.

**Meetings**

* There will be a meeting on 30 March from 19:30 – 21:00 with updates on the revised French laws for Associations
* There will be a synod meeting with the new representatives on 12 September from 19:00 – 21:00. At that meeting we will discuss how we wish to meet over the next three years, and the key subject areas. There will also be elections to the standing committee (Lay Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).

**Other**

* Generic statutes are nearly ready
* There will be a Zoom meeting for Congregational Worship Leaders in the French and Swiss Archdeaconries
* There will be a presentation for Treasurers on the Common Fund

A question from the floor mentioned the **Lay Learning Course** “Walking together in Faith.

Anyone interested can find out more at this link : <https://europe.anglican.org/resources/lay-learning-course-1>

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