



COSTA BLANCA ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 10.30 am.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and opening prayer- 10.34 Fr Paul
2. Apologies for absence. Calpe: Suzanne & Terry Lloyd, Ted Barnett, Sally Creeasy, Liz Fredrikz. Philip Ashley, Diana Hills. Gandia: Clare Neve-Scott and Mark (flying to UK to her dying mother) Denia: Maria Lyons

Attendance: 34 : Clergy 4, Alfaz 8, Calpe 4, Denia 2, El Campello 2, Gandia 3, Javea 7, La Fustera 4. Numbers include Lead Chaplain Fr Paul, Treasurer Dennis Johnson and Secretary Elaine Mitchell. (Full list available)

3. Minutes of 2023 Annual Parochial Meeting (Previously Circulated)
Proposed : Gail Johnson Seconded: Wyndham Neish
There were no Matters Arising
4. Chairman elected in accordance with the Spanish Constitution. Fr Paul unanimously elected
5. Election of Chaplaincy Secretary - Elaine Mitchell unanimously elected.
6. *** Fr. Jim reiterated the need to be prepared for Lay Led Worship, i.e. Congregational Worship Leaders - this can't be handled on the spot. There are Safeguarding Protocols that must be considered:- CDF (Confidential Declaration Form) Spanish Safeguarding Checks, Basic Awareness, Foundations , Leadership and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse.
Fr Paul encouraged everyone to take the challenge, to pray and think about it.

*** Fr Rodney had circulated copies of Morning Prayer. Canon law overrides safeguarding on a one off basis. Parish representative can take morning prayer if a member of Clergy has not been able to attend.
Fr Rodney then stressed the 6th paragraph of his report. Succession planning needs to be put into place soon.
- 7.*** Report by Lead Chaplain. Nothing else to add but Fr Paul said please keep the congregation in Alfaz in your prayers due to the move from Albir and the fact that we are still looking for a permanent home.
8. Calpe House. Dennis elaborated on the Sale. Problem with Water supply on the urbanization. Situation was a take it or leave it situation. The pump: €60k (Shared across the Partida) to replace pump and system. We reduced the price by €20k due to the work needed. This resulted in a relatively quick sale with a price of €375k €20k will go to the selling agency. Finalisation anticipated early September, principally because the purchaser is Ukranian. The new pump failed at a further cost to the Chaplaincy of €20k (again, shared throughout the Partida) but not yet paid as it is being disputed by the Partida with the contractors. There are 58 houses in the Partida. Our Agent is holding part of the Arras Deposit. Dennis elaborated on the plans for the income in the treasurer's report.
- 9.*** Reports by the Chaplaincy Wardens, Paul Winter and Diana Pringle. No questions. Fr Paul expressed his gratitude to Diana and Paul for the valuable work they do in the chaplaincy.
- 10.*** Report by Safeguarding Officer including Policy Statement which was signed by Fr Paul, Diana and Paul. Gail will contact everyone who needs to catch up. A comment from the floor, the need for safeguarding is understood 100% but there is a problem with the way London works. Gail responded by saying she sometimes despairs of what they are asking. In future everyone will have to comply with the Jay report. (The report by Professor Alexis Jay, published on Wednesday (News, 21 February), recommended a total overhaul of the Church's safeguarding structures, to shift responsibility away from individual dioceses to two new charities, which would be completely independent of church authorities).



Fr Paul added that Safeguarding has been badly handled. Everyone who has a responsibility with other people has an obligation to complete the safeguarding. Safety in our church is paramount. All clergy agree that safeguarding is very necessary, after talking to other Clergy at Walsingham. Definitely makes our churches a safe place. The Spanish checks are the most onerous to complete. Difficult for people who are not technically able. However, help is always available. **It is important that we treat everyone with the respect, care and love that we would like them to do for us.** Unanimous gratitude to Gail for all that she does.

11. Appointment of Auditor- Unanimous agreement that Peter Varley be appointed to continue.

12 *** Report of the Chaplaincy Treasurer & presentation of the accounts including Stewardship
Dennis's report reflects the current situation. We are not alone with the problems and issues. Accounts show what we received in 2023 just about paid for our expenses. Not been carried over into 2024. Dennis stressed that we WILL NOT be frittering the money away. At synod Dennis discovered that there are other clergy who do not get paid to use their own property. The deposit with the Diocese from the sale of Calpe House would go a considerable way to pay the Diocesan share. This Chaplaincy is unique within the Diocese and difficult to serve due to its size. We HAVE to pay our diocesan share so that the Bishop can license new clergy. The Diocesan share calculation has for the first time been documented. Two thirds should be found by members on the electoral roll. €35k was the cost of supporting the chaplaincy during the pandemic. We are one of the 10 best off in the Diocese.

13 *** Questions answered on Electoral Roll and related to Christian Stewardship:

We don't know how much we are contributing to other small chaplaincies. Fr Paul added although we sound as we are doing alright, he is extremely grateful to those churches who fundraising. We still need to fundraise, it is very important. Comment from the floor - If everyone joined the stewardship scheme then it would be easier. We have been talking about a stewardship Sunday. Investment in the Diocese in the UK is preferable to Spain because it is now managed by professionals. There are Tax implications in Spain, investing with the Diocese does not incur any tax. Also better than fluctuating exchange rate. Dennis answered questions from the floor: Not all income is known, especially in the Yellow envelopes. That is an agreement between the individual and the Diocesan Finance Office. The Diocese claims and at the end of the year Dennis gets a notification about the total income and the Tax that is refunded. The loss of individuals for whatever reason has hits the Chaplaincy hard.

14 *** Report on the Archdeaconry Synod 2023 . This was the same report as to Council.

15 Re-appointment of current Chaplaincy Legal Representatives - Unanimous

Lead Chaplain: Fr Paul D Dean, Treasurer: Dennis Johnson, Secretary : J. Elaine Mitchell

16 Election and admission of Chaplaincy Wardens, Diana Pringle and Paul Winter.

Diana Pringle – proposed by David Baggaley and Seconded by Hazel Layt.

Paul Winter - proposed by Peter Johnson and Seconded by Hazel Layt.

They both signed the individual Declarations.

The Certificate of Admission of Church Wardens was signed by both together by Fr Paul.

These legal documents will be sent to the Diocesan Secretary.

*All reports marked *** were circulated to Council to be read prior to the meeting.*



17 Fr Paul read the elections of local representatives:

ALBIR	Peter Johnson	Elaine Mitchell	Kath Andrews
CALPE	David Baggaley	Majorie Prebble	Penny Clifford
EL CAMPELLO	No Representative	N/A	N/A
DENIA	Susan Varley	Sylvia Cavanagh	Wendy Farrant
GANDIA	Clare Neves-Scott	Trina Mumford	Jilly Chalk
JAVEA	Colin Welch	Su Gillespie	B Said
LA FUSTERA	Helen Chapman	Eileen Hodson	Pauline Arnold

18 Any Other Business: There was nothing notified to Fr Paul.

Comments from the floor related to items in the meeting:

Stewardship is something we should talk about. We will plan a Stewardship Sunday. However, it is not all talk about the money, but it is about **time, gifts talents**. It will come from Clergy, who are very much aware that something needs to be done but not a negative way of looking at it

We need to wish Fr Rodney well in his retirement whenever it happens. Our Priests are under pressure, over and above their roles. How about a fortnightly service? Fr Paul stressed that whenever possible a weekly Eucharist should be celebrated in every worship centre. There are PTO's who are all willing to work. They give of their free time to make this chaplaincy work. Maybe we need to look at say, 3 months house for duty.

A vote of thanks to our clergy.

Fr Rodney, reiterated that we should start thinking and planning now for his imminent retirement.

Dennis informed the meeting of the issues with replacement of Clergy. There is a big issue of Visas in the EU. Minimum salary is another issue. We can't have part time clergy who are not retired. €27k pa set by the Spanish government. The ideal situation is if we can persuade retired clergy to relocate to Spain then pay them as a PTO. They must have been Residents for 5 years before we can employ them. Other chaplaincies manage with clergy 3 months at a time.

An agreement is definitely needed between the Church of England and the Spanish government.

Fr Paul, mentioned Fr Steve McPeck who has recently moved to Callosa and said he is currently going through the Safeguarding and also planning his Visa. He will be a PTO.

Gail advertised her beautiful patchwork bags using all recycled fabrics. Using her Time and Talents as talked about under Stewardship. Selling for €25 for Chaplaincy funds. (A photograph is circulated with these minutes)

The Rock, next issue 1st June. David still needs more advertisers. He spends a lot of time seeking advertisers but an introduction would help. Printers get paid by directly the advertisers. David asks every time, really needs help. He is trying to increase on the current 1000 copies. People have turned up at church as a direct result of The Rock.

Fr Paul added that we are very grateful to David for the work in producing this Parish Magazine. .

The meeting closed at 12 noon with The Grace.

Fr Paul D Dean
Lead Chaplain

J Elaine Mitchell
Chaplaincy Secretary