



CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE IN EUROPE

CHRIST CHURCH IN VIENNA CONSTITUTION

1. Title and Address of the Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy takes for its title 'Christ Church, the Anglican Church in Vienna'. The registered address of the chaplaincy is c/o British Embassy, Jaurèsgasse 12, 1030 Vienna, Austria. It can be altered by decision of the chaplaincy council.

2. The Boundaries of the Chaplaincy

The chaplaincy shall be deemed to include all residents of Austria who voluntarily affiliate themselves with Christ Church, or who are otherwise affiliated with Churches of the Anglican Communion, but no local church, and who are also resident in Austria.

3. Duration of the Chaplaincy

There is no limitation on the life of the chaplaincy.

4. The Diocese in Europe

The chaplaincy of Christ Church in Vienna is a constituent part of the Church of England (Anglican) Diocese in Europe. It conforms (1) to the provisions of the laws and decrees relating to religious associations in Austria, and (2) to the regulations of the Church of England (Anglican) Diocese in Europe, and is constituted according to the canon law and other regulations of the Church of England, and the regulations of the Diocese in Europe, namely:

- *The Canons of the Church of England* (London, 6/2000) and its updated editions and supplements thereafter
- *Diocese in Europe Constitution* (London, 1995)
- *Church Representation Rules* (London, 7/2001) and its updated editions thereafter
- *Diocese in Europe Handbook 2001* (which includes *Diocesan Constitution 1995* and other documents) and its updated editions thereafter

The chaplaincy maintains appropriate canonical, synodical and financial rights and responsibilities in the Diocese in Europe.

5. Objects of the Chaplaincy and Legal Personality

The objects of the chaplaincy are the public exercise of Anglican worship and witness in conformity with the canon law of the Church of England of which the Diocese in Europe is a constituent part; the proclamation of the gospel; every pastoral activity allowed by law; the administrative management of the congregation; and all actions consonant with the objects of the congregation.

The chaplaincy has established legal personality under Austrian law in the form of the Christ Church Support Association (CCSA), which is governed by its Articles of Association (“Statuten”) dated 15 October 1995. The chaplaincy’s formal meetings (Annual Chaplaincy Meeting, Chaplaincy Church Council meetings) are conducted and minuted also as meetings of the CCSA (Annual General Meetings, Board meetings). The chaplain shall not be an officer of the CCSA. Elections of chaplaincy officers and Council members are held every year, elections to the Board of the CCSA every three years. It is deemed desirable but not mandatory for the officers of the CCSA to be elected officers or Council members of the chaplaincy. The membership of the CCSA is identical with the persons included in the Electoral Roll.

The CCSA is the legal owner of the chaplaincy’s assets and liabilities and represents the chaplaincy in all legal contracts (insurance policies, leases, employment contracts etc.).

6. The Ordinary

The chaplaincy of Christ Church in Vienna is under the ordinary jurisdiction of the Bishop for the time being of Gibraltar in Europe. The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe is a diocesan Bishop of the Church of England.

7. The Chaplain or Priest-in-Charge

The chaplain or priest-in-charge is a priest of the Church of England, or a Church in communion therewith, and is both appointed by, and serves under a licence issued by, the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, after consultation with the relevant officers of the Diocese in Europe and the duly elected representatives of the laity in the chaplaincy. The chaplain represents the chaplaincy in relation to third parties in missional, pastoral and ecumenical matters. The chair of the CCSA represents the chaplaincy in relation to government services and local authorities, and in legal matters. The chaplain is responsible for the execution of chaplaincy council resolutions.

8. The Laity: Membership and Provision for Representation

The chaplaincy is made up of those, of major age, whose names are registered on the electoral roll in accordance with the *Church Representation Rules* of the Church of England, and reviewed annually prior to the general chaplaincy meeting. Names may be removed from the roll in accordance with current diocesan regulations.

The *Church Representation Rules* provide for the election of lay officers and a chaplaincy council, the rights and obligations of whom are laid out in the documents listed above in §4.

9. Liturgical Provision

The liturgical rites used by the duly appointed chaplain and other ministers in the chaplaincy of Christ Church in Vienna are those allowed by the canons and regulations of the Church of England, under the provisions of the *Diocese in Europe Constitution*.

10. Local Law

The ecclesiastical and canon law of the Church of England is binding on the chaplaincy, its officers and all persons serving it holding the Bishop's Licence. The only exception is where an ecclesiastical law is in direct conflict with a local national law. In such a case the local law takes precedence to the extent of the point at issue, not further.

11. Constitutional Amendments

Any changes to this Constitution, decided by the chaplaincy council and affirmed by the membership, shall be authorized by the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, who shall also have sole authority in the event of any dispute or other question that arises upon the interpretation of this Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of J3(d) of the Bishop's Regulations (*Diocesan Handbook*).

12. Dissolution

In the event of a dissolution being ordered by two thirds or more of the members present at a general or chaplaincy meeting, one or more liquidators are named by the latter, and the assets, if any, are employed for charitable or pastoral purposes in accordance with the objectives of the CCSA in Austria.