



Church of England Diocese in Europe

Church of St. John and St. Philip, The Hague

CONSTITUTION

1 Title and address of the chaplaincy

The chaplaincy takes for its title ‘Church of St. John and St. Philip, The Hague’.

The chaplaincy is also known as The English and American Episcopal Church of Saint John & Saint Philip, The Church of England St John and St Philip The Hague, Anglicaanse Kerk St Philip and St John, Engelse en Amerikaanse Episcopale Kerk, The Anglican Church, The Hague St John & St Philip, The Church of England St John & St Philip The Hague, Church of England (Anglicaanse Kerk in Nederland, Engelse kerk Den Haag, and The English and American Church of Saint John & Saint Philip.

The registered address of the chaplaincy is Ary van der Spuyweg 1, 2585 JA Den Haag, The Netherlands.

2 Duration of the chaplaincy

There is no limitation on the life of the chaplaincy.

3 The Diocese in Europe

The chaplaincy of the Church of St. John and St. Philip in The Hague 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 The Netherlands, and (2) to the regulations of the Church of England (Anglican) Diocese in Europe, and is constituted according to the prevailing canon law and other regulations of the Church of England, and the prevailing regulations of the Diocese in Europe, namely:

- ◆ [*The Canons of the Church of England*](#)
- ◆ [*Diocese in Europe Constitution*](#)
- ◆ [*Church Representation Rules*](#)
- ◆ [*the Diocesan policies and guidelines*](#)

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

4 Objects of the chaplaincy

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, financial and legal management of the congregation; and all actions consonant with the objects of the congregation.

5 The Ordinary

The chaplaincy of the Church of St. John and St. Philip in The Hague 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.

6 Legal Representatives

The chaplain and churchwardens, *ex officio*, represent the chaplaincy in relation to third parties, government services and local authorities, and in legal matters, subject to Section 8 contained herein.

7 The Chaplain

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 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 role in accord 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.

The council must present, at least annually, a report of its activities, financial and administrative, to the general chaplaincy meeting for its verification and approval.

The lay officers and council must prepare each year a financial statement for the year past and an inventory of its property, buildings and contents.

In financial and property matters the chaplaincy church council can validly decide on such purchases and sales of properties as is necessary for the purposes of the chaplaincy, on mortgages, leases, sales of possessions belonging to the chaplaincy, and loans, without requiring the consent of the general chaplaincy meeting.

9 Liturgical provision

The liturgical rites used by the duly appointed chaplain and other ministers in the chaplaincy of the Church of St. John and St. Philip in The Hague 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 shall only 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; and be authorized in accordance with the provisions of the prevailing Bishop's Regulations or as otherwise directed by the Bishop.

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, devolve on the Church of England Diocese in Europe or its successor.