



Anglicans in Switzerland

There are currently 9 Church of England chaplaincies as well as one Episcopal (USA) parish in Switzerland. Established to serve English-speaking workers and visitors to the country, some date back to the early nineteenth century. In fact, the first Anglicans in Switzerland originally came as exiles fleeing from the Roman Catholic Queen Mary around 1554, settling in Basel, Geneva and Zürich.

Anglican Churches in Switzerland	
Anglican Church in Basel	
St. Ursula, Bern	<i>also serves Thun</i>
Holy Trinity, Geneva	
Emmanuel Church, Geneva	<i>Parish of the Episcopal Church (USA)</i>
La Côte, Gingins	<i>also serves Divonne (F)</i>
Christ Church, Lausanne	
St. Edward's, Lugano	<i>also serves Muralto</i>
St. John's, Montreux	<i>also serves Anzère, Monthey & Villars</i>
All Saints', Vevey	<i>also serves Château d'Oex & Neuchâtel</i>
St. Andrew's Zürich	<i>Also serves Baden, St Gallen & Zug</i>
<i>Seasonal services are also held at Interlaken, Kandersteg, Mürren, St Moritz, Wengen & Zermatt</i>	
For information about specific churches see: www.anglican.ch	

The churches are self-funding and managed by their own Church Councils but are led by their respective Bishops (of the Church of England Diocese of Europe or of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe) and are governed by local, diocesan and national Synods.

The Anglican Church

The English reformation took place over about 30 years, the first phase beginning under Henry VIII. In 1534 an Act of Supremacy declared that the king, not the pope was the supreme head of all things material and spiritual in England. Henry was then able to obtain an annulment of his marriage to his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, from the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer. While Henry VIII himself remained Catholic in theology, the theological reformation, and the issuing of new liturgies in a new prayer book, occurred later under Henry's son, Edward VI.

The Church of England emerged from the reformation as the national Church in England. It is reformed in doctrine, looking to Scripture, reason and tradition as its three sources of authority but has retained certain elements from the Catholic Church (the historic episcopate and liturgical order). The Church has three orders of ordained ministry, open to both women and men: bishops, priests and deacons.

The Church uses only authorised creeds which are statements of faith formulated by the Early Church.

There are many strands within the Anglican church: evangelicals, liberals and Anglo-Catholic. This wide variety gives rise to such characteristics and strengths as tolerance and freedom of conscience, humanity, dialogue, dispersed authority, and internationalism.

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church spread across the world with the growth of the British Empire in the seventeenth century and through the work of missionaries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Over the years these churches have become independent from the Church of England but retain common aspects of history, tradition and worship. Today, this 'fellowship' of churches makes up the Anglican Communion which currently comprises 85 million Christians, who are members of 44 different Churches spread over more than 165 countries around the world.

(For more information see www.anglicancommunion.org)

Worship

Anglican worship is liturgical in accordance with authorised Prayer Books, but the style may vary from one church to another. There is a strong emphasis on music in Anglican worship and many of the churches in Switzerland maintain the Anglican choral tradition. Our churches attract people from many other denominations who wish to worship in English and all baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at our services.

Ecumenical Matters

The Anglican Church recognises the baptism of other Christian churches that baptise with water in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Anglican Church in Switzerland is a signatory of the 'Charta Oecumenica' (2005) and the Riva San Vitale Declaration on the mutual recognition of baptism (2014) along with other member churches of the AGCK.

Anglicans are free to marry someone from another Christian denomination, of no faith, or from another religion.

The Anglican Church has been in full communion with the Old Catholic Church since the Bonn Agreement of 1931. The Willibrord Society (www.willibrord.org) seeks to promote cooperation between the two churches.

The Anglican Church in Switzerland is a member of the AGCK.CH. Our churches are open to participating in ecumenical services or activities with other churches of the AGCK.

www.anglican.ch