

Report Archdeaconry Synod 2018 18th – 21st April

The representatives from All Saints, Marseille were Anne Roumieu and Gaston Roumieu replacing Helen Brooking who was unwell.

The Synod was held, as in previous years, at the St Jacut de la Mer Abbaye near St Malo.

Despite the train strike most chaplaincies in France had sent one or more representatives, a total of around 60 members of the laity and 25 members of clergy.

Wednesday evening 18th April

After a eucharist service led by the archdeacon Meurig Williams, he gave a talk entitled "Hints Hopes and Horizons"

First some information about next year when the Synod will be held in Lyon for a shorter duration the dates being 16th-18th May 2019, with an arrival in Lyon at 4pm on Thursday and finishing 2pm on Saturday.

The archdeacon gave some details of his occupations during the year but started by introducing us to the chaplains who have taken up their positions in France in the past year – Midi-Pyrenees, Strasbourg, Christchurch Brittany, Chantilly and Pau plus a new chaplain in St Raphael who could not be present.

2017 was described as a "troubled year" especially as regards **safeguarding issues**. He felt that the church had not always protected the vulnerable, but that now the church was doing a lot to encourage training in safeguarding. Huge progress had been made especially regarding the training days but still a large number of areas had not been involved in these training days (not AS!).

Brexit was also mentioned with a reminder that although by the same time next year we will not be European citizens, this does not bring to an end the ministry of the Anglican church in France.

Nearly every chaplaincy in France has been **visited** by the archdeacon during the year. At other times he is based in Brussels.

The **Reuilly Group** had been actively encouraged. This is for closer ties between Anglicanism and the United Reformed Church.

The new chaplaincy in **Pas de Calais** with its very particular problems regarding immigrants will now become part of the archbishopric of Canterbury.

Mention was made of the 3 **area deans** who all have their own chaplaincies to look after, but who are there to be a first port of call for other chaplaincies with problems.

Readers and Readers in training were encouraged to contact Elaine Labourel (labourel.elaine@gmail.com)

Also introduced to us was **Liz Hudson** in charge of communication and who asked for contributions to the newsletter on the web.

Thursday morning

Bible Study led by Michael Sadgrove. "Citizens of Nowhere, citizens of Everywhere; citizens of God" This study can be found in entirety on the Archdeaconry Synod 2018 website.

Presentation led by Grace Davie "Understanding religion in modern Europe" Equally this can be found on the Archdeaconry Synod 2018 website.

GDPR Report as above.

Thursday afternoon

Brexit a talk from Michael Lodge, minister from the British Embassy in Paris. Some had already heard most of this as Michael Lodge has been visiting many towns in France to explain some of the finer points of this change. Unfortunately many of the questions facing British in France have not yet been resolved: "onward movement" for young people, voting rights, mutual recognition of certain qualifications etc.

We must hope these will be resolved during the **transitional period** until 31/12/2020

We were strongly advised to get a "carte de residence" or even French nationality if at all possible.

Meeting of the House of Laity chaired by Kate Giry Deloison. This seemed to focus more on financial matters than anything else! The amount each church pays into the CME Fund seemed to be felt by many to be unfair, particularly churches with declining numbers. This is very much the case in areas where age/death has contributed and those where British people have returned to the UK over Brexit worries. As contributions are based on 3 year previous incomes, this can be very penalising.

Next year's **Synod 2019** is going to be more expensive for participants. Also travel expenses will no longer be paid on the spot. (Each rep to bring stamped addressed envelope for later reimbursement)

All church persons with specific responsibilities asked to fill in **consent form** regarding data communication. All churches reminded that by end May, they must submit list of parish officers.

Friday morning

Bible study part 2 As before this can be viewed/downloaded from Archdeaconry Synod site.

Where are we going as a Diocese? Talk from Bishop Robert. Available as above

Diocesan Financial Plan Talk from Michael Fegan, Interim Diocesan Secretary. This is not apparently yet available on the website although we were told it would be soon....The main point was that our contribution as chaplaincies was already going to increase considerably both for 2018 and then again in 2019. It seems that Diocesan costs are estimated to have gone up by 50% in three years, a lot of this over safeguarding issues. The reserves of the Diocese are going down. For 2018 we are still using existing reserves. Only by increasing the common fund can we break even in 2019. However we can refuse to pay (!). For this year 6 chaplaincies have paid reduced contributions, 6 have not paid at all. The Financial Plan will be discussed at the Diocesan Synod in May and perhaps a more equitable distribution will be found.

Friday afternoon

Strangers at the Gates A talk from Bishop Robert.

Talk about migrants/refugees/stateless persons/asylum seekers

Bishop Robert's talk is not yet on the website. But we were asked to do everything we can to welcome immigrants by Public/Private sponsorship and of course the Bishop's appeal for 2018 especially for the refugees in Calais. We were reminded that one group in Belgium had welcomed 130 families from the Middle East and that in Canada and Italy many of the churches had made individual moves to help.

Eucharist at parish church of St Jacut

NB Concerning All Saints Church Marseille

I was able to talk briefly to Father Meurig about the ongoing situation at All Saints and the absence of a permanent chaplain. Particularly worrying to those people who worship at the mother church in Marseille was the appearance of an advertisement for a "long-term interim chaplain" when we thought we were looking for a permanent chaplain. The period mentioned now by the archdeacon was 6 months although our last locum had thought that (in general terms) such an appointment would be up to 18 months. I was given to understand that the archdeacon had some definite persons in view.