

HOLY TRAINING

23 June 2016

On 20 and 21 June, six newly appointed priests of the Diocese in Europe gathered for a “new chaplains” course led by the Rt. Rev. David Hamid, our Suffragan Bishop; the Venerable Geoffrey Johnson, Archdeacon of Gibraltar; and Mr Adrian Mumford, Secretary of our diocese and Chief Executive Officer of our diocese’s Board of Financial.

The course was held at St Columba House a retreat centre in Woking. St Columba House consists of two buildings in a small park like estate with simple and modest 22 bedrooms. There is a beautiful chapel and full cafeteria catering service.

Father David said, “The course was really quite interesting. We covered the governance of the Church of England and how it differs as an Established Church from elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. I’m from Canada and though we are part of the same Anglican Communion the Church of England uses terms and has canonical laws different from the Anglican Church of Canada.”



Bishop Hamid (centre) and course leaders and participants gather at the St Columba front doors.



Each of the bedrooms at St Columba’s are simple and comfortable.

Along with our Fr David, the students included the Rev. David Bruce of St. Andrew’s Gothenburg and the Rev. Dr Christopher Seitz of St. Luke’s Fontainebleau both originally from the Episcopal Church in the USA; the Rev. Ajit John of St. Mark’s Versailles and the Rev. Canon Christopher Parsons of the Anglican Church Freiberg coming to us from the Anglican Church of Canada; and the Rev. Mark Pogson of St. Ursula’s Berne from the Church of Pakistan.

The course covered Church Administration such as the role of Church Wardens, Treasurers and Parochial Council Committees (PCC) as well as the PCC Secretary, filing and record keeping, safeguarding and records, and audits; and general requirements such as vocations discernment, involvement of Readers and Honorary Assistants, Continuing Education, holidays and contract reviews, Bishop's permits, faculties, repairs, maintenance, new construction, terriers (inventories), insurance, and grants.



St Columba House, Woking.