

## MINUTES OF THE FRENCH ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD, MAY 2017

The Archdeaconry Synod of France and Monaco met at the Abbey at St Jacut de la Mer from the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> to the morning of 20 May 2017.

### **Present:**

The Archdeacon; The Standing Committee; 30 members of the clergy; 60 chaplaincy representatives

### **Guests and speakers**

Bishop Robert and Mrs Innes

The Safeguarding Team: Ian Carter, Tola Akinde-Hummel

Dr Clare Amos, Director for Lay Discipleship

Professor Michel Bondurand

Dr Meg Warner

Monseigneur Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse

Monseigneur Denis Montel, Bishop of St Brieuc et Tréguier

Père Emmanuel Gougaud, French ARC

The Reverend Richard Bromley, Mission Director, ICS

The Reverend Robert Warren, TEC

The Opening **Synod Eucharist** was celebrated by the Archdeacon.

### **Session 1: Opening of the Synod**

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The session was chaired by the Archdeacon, who welcomed members and guests to the third annual Synod in this triennium.

- **The Archdeacon's Address**

The Archdeacon introduced the theme of the Synod, "Walking together in Faith?" Walking together in faith should give us a sense of belonging and a common goal.

- **Safeguarding**

The Archdeacon outlined the precautions on safeguarding that have become necessary in recent years. Training is particularly important and two training days for Stage 2 of the Diocesan programme had already been held. The Diocese would be the focus of an independent inspection in the autumn of 2017.

- **Website**

The new Archdeaconry Website is being launched at this Synod (*anglicanfrance.fr*). It aims to share information within the Archdeaconry and between individual chaplaincies, give news on developments and advertise events. The webmaster is Rosemary Ulyett and the contact address for sending information is [contact@anglicanfrance.fr](mailto:contact@anglicanfrance.fr). This year the individual chaplaincy reports can be found on the website.

- **RSCM**

Representatives of the Royal Society for Church Music are prepared to help chaplaincies with their music.

- **Positions vacant**

A new environmental officer is needed in the Archdeaconry, as well as a person to take over from the Rev'd Gareth Randall in preparing the Prayer Diary.

- **Finance**

The Archdeaconry Treasurer, David Bean, referred people to the financial report in the Synod brochure and then gave a brief summary of the current situation.

### **Sessions 2, 3 and 5: The Diocesan Strategy**

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The Bishop began his talk with reflections on Brexit. For the Diocese in Europe there could be difficulties in such areas as clergy recruitment

The Diocesan Strategy focuses on the following five major areas:

- Building up the body of Christ and fostering growth;

- Sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe;
- Striving for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment;
- Working for reconciliation;
- Resourcing through stewardship of our gifts and talents.

The Bishop's **presentation** is available on the Archdeaconry website.

Discussion of the Strategy, including examples of good practice etc., have taken place at Diocesan Committees and Councils, Archdeaconry Synods as well as Chaplaincy Councils.

All five areas of the strategy have seen activity and fruitful initiatives, including:

- Appointment of a Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship;
- The drawing up of a Diocesan Rule of Life;
- Work on migration/refugees;
- Improvements in the safeguarding process;
- Support for Archiepiscopal links with the Patriarchs of Russia, Constantinople, and Serbia.

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#### **Session 4 Training for Lay Ministry (*renamed Training for Lay Discipleship*)**

Dr Amos explained that she had recently become the honorary Director for Lay Discipleship in this Diocese. Her talk at Synod can now be found on the website.

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#### **Thursday evening Eucharist**

The Reverend Giles Williams was installed as Area Dean for South Eastern France (including Lyon and Grenoble) at the Eucharist on Thursday evening.

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#### **Sessions 6 and 7 Professor Michel Mounir Bondurand Mouawad**

Professor Durand from the University of Paris 3 La Sorbonne gave an interesting and instructive talk on French Islam. His **presentation** is available on the Archdeaconry website.

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#### **Business meetings**

##### **Elections in the House of Laity**

The new lay representatives for the Standing Committee for three years, June 2017 – May 2020 are:

- David Bean, Treasurer
- Kate Giry-Deloison, Lay Chair
- Diane Murray
- Rosemary Ulyett, Secretary

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#### **Closing Session 8**

##### **Address from Archbishop Le Gall of Toulouse**

The Archbishop spoke briefly of developments in French ARC, the organisation which promotes follows Anglican-Catholic co-operation in France and gave an update on the recent events in and current challenges facing the Roman Catholic Church.

##### **General Synod**

There was a brief report on General Synod, which augmented the report found in the Synod brochure.

##### **Date of next Meeting**

The Synod in 2018 would be held at St Jacut from 18-21 April 2018.

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#### **Thanks and farewell**

The Archdeacon thanked all those who had been involved in organising and running the Synod - the speakers, those who had led worship and the Standing Committee. On behalf of the Archdeaconry he made a presentation to Sarah Hardenberg, who had served as Archdeaconry Secretary for seventeen years.