



BUZZING IN BRITTANY

Last week, there was an enthusiastic buzz in the air as the **French Archdeaconry Synod** held its annual meeting at L'Abbaye de Saint Jacut de la Mer, near Dinard, in Brittany. The Synod met in the wake of the recent Presidential election, in which the place of faith in the public life of France was a focus of debate.

In a packed programme of **worship, business, reflection** and **discussion**, the Synod welcomed the Archbishop of Toulouse, Dom Robert Le Gall OSB, who leads on Anglican-Roman Catholic relations for the French Conference of Bishops. Also present, was Mgr Denis Moutel, the Bishop of St Brieuc, in whose Diocese we were meeting.

The **Archdeacon of France, the Ven Meurig Williams**, said 'I was especially pleased that our own **Bishop, Robert**, was able to be with us, too. He has committed to being with us for all future Synods, which is very good news.' He added 'I know that Synod members were both reassured and encouraged by the Bishop's presentation on future Diocesan strategy.'



The daily Bible studies, given by **Dr Meg Warner of King's College, London**, focused on the twin themes of Exile and Sabbath. She explored how the experience of our Jewish forebears in the Hebrew Bible might inform our response to recent world events, notably Brexit and the election of Donald Trump as President of the USA.

Other keynote addresses were given by **Professor Michel Bondurand**, an Islamic scholar, who addressed the Synod on the dynamics of being Muslim in France today. His insights were especially helpful to us as Anglicans; not only in undoing unhelpful assumptions, but also in understanding what it means to be a religious minority. The Diocese's **Lay Discipleship Officer, Dr Clare Amos**, explored the importance of a 'rule of life' in our prayer and witness. She reminded us that **discipline** and **discipleship** come, after all, from the same Latin root!

'This was a good time of mutual support, encouragement and focusing on priorities' said the Archdeacon.

'Many people remarked on the lightness of touch which characterised the Synod this year, and I hope that is a good sign for our future mutual flourishing under God.'

