



The Chaplaincy of Aquitaine

La Paroisse Anglicane d'Aquitaine

www.churchinaquitaine.org

 English Anglican Church Aquitaine

Synod Report – April 2018

Having now been in Aquitaine for around eighteen months, this last year has, to some extent, been a time of familiarisation and readjustment but I am pleased to say that it has also been a year in which I feel we have developed as a Christian community. That is not to underestimate some very real and painful issues that have had to be addressed and which, in themselves, have played a part in reshaping us as a church, but it is a mark of the resilience that has been built up over the years that these challenges have been faced with stoicism and a prayerful determination to continue moving forward together; exploring God's plan for this part of SW France.

One of the key points of discussion during the year has been the future ministry of our church in Bordeaux. Over recent years, Bordeaux has been served by a sequence of locum priests. We have been immensely blessed by the calibre of the priests who have come and I like to think that Bordeaux has had a positive impact on them as well. The evidence certainly points that way - Andrew and Alexandra Bullock came for a couple of months and ended up staying for about a year and a half, Andy and Annie Horlock came for a short stay and then bought a house near Ribérac, Peter and Barbara Jordan came back for a second period. We were even visited by a serving bishop – Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich – who with his wife Rev'd Jutta spent a couple of weeks with us in the summer.

However, we have been sharply aware of the need to provide a more stable leadership for our presence in France's fastest growing city. We are particularly grateful to our Patron, ICS, for making a significant grant available to us to help to fund a new stipendary post in Bordeaux. This will allow us to strengthen our current ministry and also to reach out to the many parts of the city in which we currently have little involvement.

It was therefore, an amazing opportunity when our Deacon, Charlotte Sullivan felt that she was being



Charlotte Sullivan is ordained by Bishop Robert in Bordeaux



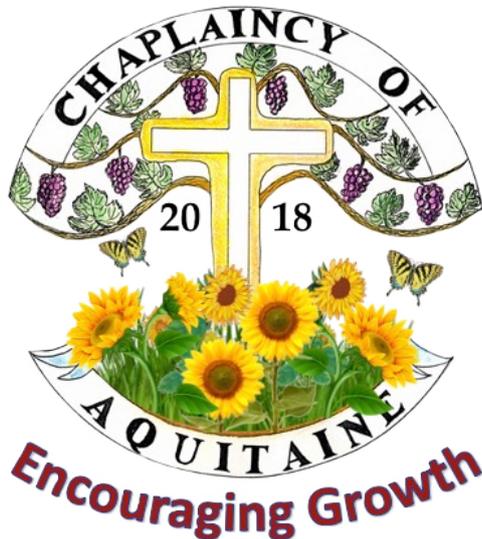
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called to be ordained as a Priest. In November she went for interviews in the UK and Bishop Robert subsequently agreed to ordain her. This allowed the Chaplaincy Council to offer her the opportunity to move to Bordeaux and take a lead role in our church's ministry there; an offer that Charlotte willingly accepted. On St Patrick's Day (March 17th) this year, Bishop Robert came to Bordeaux to ordain Charlotte in a wonderfully uplifting service attended by people from across the Chaplaincy and the wider Deanery.



As we now go into a year where our principal focus will be on *Encouraging Growth*, it is exciting to have this new venture in our most populous area where there is certainly the greatest opportunity for structural growth. But growth takes many forms and whilst we certainly need to address the financial and physical aspects, we must never lose sight of the fact that, as a church and part of Christ's body here in Aquitaine, our spiritual growth, both as individuals and as a church family, is even more important. We have various events planned for the coming year that will help us all to engage with this exciting challenge.



Tony Lomas
Chaplain