

THE ANGLICAN ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE AND MONACO
ANNUAL SYNOD 2021
"Looking Back and Looking Forward"

HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE 15 – 17 April 2021

PRESENT

Bishop Robert, Archdeacon Peter Hooper, 21 Licensed Chaplains and 47 chaplaincy representatives. The synod also welcomed 7 non-voting clergy holding PTO, and 7 visitors.

SPEAKERS

Keynote speaker: The Archbishop of York, The Most Revd. Stephen Cottrell
Zoe Webster (French Residency Support Project)
Jack McDonald (Living in Love and Faith)
Smitha Prasad (Breathing Life)
David Coulston (Clergy Well-being)
Christopher Walley (Eco Diocese)
Andrew Caspari, Chief Operating Officer (Diocesan Secretary)
Grace Fagan, Safeguarding Advisor

BIBLE STUDIES

The Archdeacon led Bible Study which took place before each day's sessions; this was focused on the book of Ruth.

WORSHIP

Thursday and Friday evening sessions closed with a service of Compline.
Saturday's closing worship was led by Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Peter.

THURSDAY 15 APRIL

Session 1, Looking back and looking forward, a strategic view

The **Archdeacon** introduced the synod and said that so many things are changing we feel caught but instead of lamenting the things we used to do, we need to face the unknown, in the reliance that it is all part of God's plans for us and that He is with us.

Bishop Robert gave thanks for the mutual care and support from the chaplaincies, and also that "we have survived". He mentioned in particular the spiritual values of solitude, simplicity and the Sabbath.

Keynote speech

The synod then welcomed the **Archbishop of York**. His talk included the following points:

- Rediscovering **pastoral care** as central to the church's mission
- A **digital coming of age** and planning for a **hybrid future**; this brought challenges but also opportunities.
- **Becoming spiritually stronger** through the challenging but refining time of doing without buildings, sacraments, fellowship
- The narration of **hope** that we share in the world and a vision of a new creation

Finally, he said that the original parish system in England needed to be rethought. The Diocese in Europe, which is self-funding and which does not have parish boundaries, has a lot of experience to offer to the Church of England.

FRIDAY 16 APRIL

Session 2, Looking back and looking forward, a Diocesan view

The session introduced five of the major initiatives of the Diocese in Europe; these were intended as introductory sessions and fuller discussions of each subject are planned for a later date. Links on the Diocesan or other websites are given below.

- French Residency Support: <https://www.frenchresidency-support.org/copy-of-home>
 - Living in Love and Faith:
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7A3wt0jqZM>
CofE Website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/about-living-love-and-faith>
 - Breathing Life BAME:
<https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1634-bame-interview>
 - Clergy Covenant:
Diocese: <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1665-caring-for-our-clergy>
CofE Website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/national-clergy-hr/supporting-clergy-health-and-wellbeing/covenant>
 - Eco Diocese:
Diocese: <https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/post/1618-our-journey-to-becoming-an-eco-diocese>
Arocha : <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/denominational-awards/eco-diocese/>
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SATURDAY 17 APRIL

Session 3: The practicalities of looking forward

The Diocesan Secretary outlined the changes in the office team, who are still working from home. He also said that there was a big, exciting agenda for the future, but that the Church Representation Rules were there to help us be a peaceful church. He confirmed that contested elections need to be held by email or by post but that all church meetings can be online.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser said that the information on the Diocesan website had been revamped and updated to make referral easier. The IICSA report showed that we needed to do better and that information sharing and support were areas for improvement.

The Archdeaconry Treasurer then presented the accounts and explained that the sums which each chaplaincy was asked to pay to the Archdeaconry had again been halved this year. This money was needed in a normal year for (a) reimbursement of travel to synod (allowing an equitable sharing of costs) and (b) the cost of functioning. If there is a synod in-person meeting, then the Archdeaconry quota will need to be raised back to its previous level. The CME fund is for training.

All those present received a copy of the accounts by mail and were asked to agree them. There were no dissenters so the **accounts for 2019-20 and the budget for 2021 were accepted.**

The Archdeaconry Secretary underlined that all Elected Representatives should ensure that the Diocesan return of Officers is sent to the Diocesan Office after each year's AGM so that the database is up to date.

She confirmed that elections to the Standing Committee were held over until 2022; new members would therefore have time to get to know those who might stand.

Chaplaincy reports could still be sent in for the website, and presentations would be posted there too. A **summary** of the proceedings would also be posted.

The **minutes of the 2019 Synod** had been circulated for information but had been agreed by the members by email in 2020.

Finally, the secretary confirmed that the Standing Committee were looking at all the **possibilities for a synod in 2022** but that until more was known about the pandemic and the regulations in force, no definite decisions could be made.

Session 4: Looking back and looking forward, an Archdeaconry view

Members split into breakout groups and discussed the following:

- a) Looking Back: what are we missing and what are we not missing in the life of our Chaplaincies as a result of the Covid pandemic
- b) Looking Forward: What are we doing today that we want to keep
- c) Looking Forward: What do we want to do in the coming months and years

A summary of the comments reported back to the synod is available.

The Archdeacon in his closing remarks said that we need to look closely at what we want to do and how we want to do it. This would include worship, technology, stewardship and financial resources. He asked everyone to think and pray about what to do next.

26 April 2021