

THE ANGLICAN ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE AND MONACO ANNUAL SYNOD 2022



HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
Saturday 14 May 2022 (9:00 – 12:30)
Wednesdays 18 and 25 May 2022 (19:00 – 21:30)

PRESENT

Bishop Robert, Archdeacon Peter Hooper, 19 Licensed Chaplains and 52 chaplaincy representatives. The synod also welcomed 4 non-voting clergy holding PTO, and 1 churchwarden. A list of attendees is attached.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Not all members were able to be present for every session.

SPEAKERS

Saturday 14 May

Presidential Address: Bishop Robert
Andrew Caspari, Chief Operating Officer (Diocesan Secretary)
Grace Fagan, Safeguarding Advisor

Wednesday 18 May

Père Miguel Desjardins, Directeur Conférence des Evêques de France, Co-Secretary CECEF
The Reverend John Murray, Co-Chair of French ARC

Wednesday 25 May

The Reverend Christian Krieger, Co-Chair of the Reully Working Group
Peter Hanson, Associate Missioner Trinity Church Lyon and Pasteur Eglise Protestante Unie de Lyon Rive Gauche

BIBLE STUDIES

The Archdeacon led Bible Study which took place before each day's session.

Saturday 14 May: 1 Corinthians 12:12-25 *Unity and Diversity*

Wednesday 18 May: John 17:20-23 / Philippians 2:1-5 / Ephesians 4:1-6 *United in spirit and purpose, not just within our chaplaincies but with other Christians*

Wednesday 25 May: Revelation 7:9-11/Revelation 21:22-26/John 14:1-6/Hebrews 12:1-3 *God's kingdom here on earth*

WORSHIP

Saturday's closing prayer was led by Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Peter.

Wednesday evening sessions closed with a service of Compline.

SATURDAY 14 MAY

The **Archdeacon** introduced the synod and its focus on our ecumenical relationships, particularly with the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches.

I Diocese in Europe

Bishop Robert spoke of Eastertide and the powerful message of hope, bringing life after death. We are living in difficult times on many levels but there is good news in the life of the Archdeaconry and in the Diocese.

Although currently fewer children are attending church throughout the Church of England, the plan is to grow younger and more diverse congregations.

Andrew Caspari spoke of the need to proceed in small steps towards Net Zero. The huge savings from not meeting in person (travel, expenses) as well as the much-reduced carbon footprint over the past two years had proved positive, even if the pandemic had brought many problems.

Funds have been made available from the Church Commissioners but there is a need for someone skilled at applying for funds, and fulfilling all the requirements for this.

The new formula for Common Fund calculations is not yet in place but will be in 2023. While there is currently no increase in spending, it is necessary to get the finances back into balance.

He thanked everyone for contributions to the Ukraine appeal (which had now reached £350 000) and finished by speaking of the Bronze award for Eco church, and reasons to believe in the future. The Mission Opportunities Fund is intended to support projects for growth.

Grace Fagan updated the meeting on the forthcoming review of Safeguarding, and the Safer Recruitment Policy changes which will be coming into force soon. These will simplify some of the requirements while maintaining the level of checking.

She promised to take forward a request for training materials in French for those congregations who needed training but had little or no English.

II Business Meeting

Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for 2021.

Income last year represented refunds for cancelled synod bookings as both the Quota and CME requests were €0. For expenditure we now pay a small amount towards the cost of admin help for the Archdeacon (cost shared between Archdeaconry, Diocese and Switzerland).

The Archdeaconry is now set up officially as an Association and has a new bank account; Bishop Robert thanked David for seeing this process through.

The accounts were accepted following a proposal from Debbie Flach, seconded by Ben Harding. There was 1 abstention and 3 votes against.

Minutes of the Synod in 2021

The minutes of the last synod were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

Governance

The meeting was reminded that elections for Lay Representatives and also to the Standing Committee were due in 2023. For this reason, the Standing Committee had agreed that there was no useful benefit of conducting elections this year and the simplest solution was to carry on the status quo until the new representatives had been appointed at next year's chaplaincy AGMs.

Archdeacon's Report

- **1905 Association rule changes:** updates in French law in August 2021 will affect both financial reporting and statutes.

There will be additional **financial information** to report but the website to do this is not yet available; reporting will be more onerous in 2023.

How we are registered and our statutes will need to be changed by June 2023. We are working with our ecumenical partners on this and generic statutes are in preparation.

The Archdeacon asked representatives to ensure that their Treasurers are aware of these changes, but stressed that as more information became available, it would be circulated to all and in good time.

- New measures and tools for **Congregational Worship Leaders** are becoming available and this information will be circulated.

- It is hoped to organise **regional groups** (one for each Deanery) to meet together in the autumn via Zoom: regional working groups can support each other. Zoom meetings mean not only a much lower financial burden on chaplaincies, but a lower carbon footprint.

- Following up on feedback from last year's meeting, care had been taken to integrate time for socialising in small groups into the programme.

III Breakout groups

The better to understand and approach the meetings on 18 and 25 May, those present were asked to discuss how they saw our identity in France and Monaco: Anglican identity - Anglophone identity - Ecumenical identity.

After the discussions, comments were reported back to the meeting.

There were 6 randomly generated groups and comments were often similar. To summarise:

- Identity is often different between different chaplaincies and congregations
- There is a notable difference between cities and rural chaplaincies. In rural areas, ecumenical activities are more difficult because of language and/or distance to travel
- Anglicans are seen as a bridge between Roman Catholic and Protestants
- Language (anglophone) is important and valuable, but French Anglican communities exist and most chaplaincies welcome French speakers and help them to follow the services
- We are Christians above all and there is a chaplaincy-level willingness to meet together

Concluding remarks

Archdeacon Peter Hooper closed the day's meeting and looked forward to the next two sessions.

Prayer at mid-day

The meeting closed with prayers led by Bishop Robert.

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

The focus of this second session was on our relationship with the Roman Catholic church in France.

I Speakers

Père Miguel Desjardins, Directeur Conférence des Evêques de France (CEF) and Co-Secretary of the Conseil d'Eglises chrétiennes en France (CECEF)

A full report on this talk is available on the website giving links and further information.

- He explained the **structure of the Roman Catholic church in France**, and where to find information and contact details, in particular mentioning the person responsible for ecumenical relations; there is one to be found in most dioceses.
<https://eglise.catholique.fr>
- He then spoke of **the CECEF** and its role in bringing together all Christian churches to work together and to focus on Human Rights and Ecology in particular.
“L’Eglise Verte” is the equivalent of the Anglican Eco-Church movement and they offer a useful carbon footprint calculator.
- **Ecumenical relationships:** they hold conversations with Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Evangelical and Orthodox churches. Ecumenical activities include Alpha, La Nuit des Eglises, Christian radio, Christian music festivals.
He concluded by saying that we can respond to challenges and learn from each other to see where the spirit is leading, not just hold contradictory debates.

The Reverend John Murray, Co-Chair of French Anglican Roman Catholic Committee (ARC)

A full copy of his report can be found on our website

Also on the website, the text of the Reuilly Agreement

- The international **ARCIC** (Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission) was set up following a meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsay, and Pope Paul VI in 1966..
- There are 17 **ARC** (local joint committees) around the world and French ARC not only watches over the good relations between Anglicans and Roman Catholics but encourages and develops them.
- Recent focus has been on the daily offices of **Morning and Evening Prayer**, which enable Anglicans and Roman Catholics to pray together.
- In order to be used in ecumenical settings in France, it was necessary to **translate** these into French and French ARC completed this work in 2021. They are available on the Diocesan website and have been authorized for experimental use in 2023; they will then be submitted to the House of Bishops of the church of England for approval.
- **New forms and approaches to Lay ministry** have been evolving to meet the needs of the Church. The other area of interest is that of **Synodality**.

II Breakout groups and Feedback

Members split into groups to discuss firstly what local activities we have running or would like to run in collaboration with the Roman Catholic church and then how we can help facilitate the local activities at an Archdeaconry level

These ranged from joint services to shared meals and meetings.

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

The focus of this second session was on our relationship with the Protestant churches in France.

I Speakers

Pastor Christian Krieger Co-Chair of Reuilly Working Group, President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and future President of the Protestant Federation of France

- He explained that for the Protestant church, the two essential factors in ecumenical relations are the reading of the Gospel and the two sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.
- If two churches agree on these essentials, then there is no need to agree on everything. Protestants have a strong relationship to the Anglican church, even though they do not agree on the episcopacy; it is on this basis that the Reuilly Agreement of 2001 came into being.
- Following a meeting in Edinburgh in 2020, it was decided that ecumenism was not specific to Reuilly, and that they would try to have shared ministries.
- The first such project is the shared ministry in Lyon, which aims to evangelise but not for a specific church. A second project is being set up in Strasbourg.
- The possibility of financial help for very small communities who could share a priest has been evoked.

Bishop Robert said he supported this practical approach and is full of hope for the progress of the Reuilly agreement.

Peter Hanson, Associate Missioner Trinity Church Lyon and Pasteur Eglise Protestante Unie de Lyon Rive Gauche

This shared post is an example of the Reuilly agreement in action; it is aimed particularly at people on the edges of faith, rather than trying to recruit to a particular denomination.

It is very much a “passerelle” (footbridge) between Protestant and Anglican, between people of faith and people on the edge of faith, between new and old members.

The team is working on three themes: ideas; events and actions; prayer, but as this is a new initiative, they are learning as they go.

They want to be present where people are, whether this is in a café, in co-working or meet-up groups. It includes work with Ukrainian refugees.

One project is a bilingual Alpha course but he believes there are many opportunities for service.

II Breakout groups and Feedback

Members split into groups to discuss firstly what local activities we have running or would like to run in collaboration with the Protestant church and then how we can help facilitate the local activities at an Archdeaconry level

Once again, there was a range of activities, from shared services to meetings. It is noted however that the Protestant church is less well represented in some areas of France.

The Archdeacon Peter Hooper closed the meeting.

Rosemary Ulyett
Secretary to the Standing Committee
4 June 2022