**THE REUILLY COMMON STATEMENT**

**AND DECLARATION**

**Document prepared for the**

**French Archdeaconry Synod in 2022**

**Why the Reuilly Agreement?**

Th**e** end of the twentieth century saw major upheavals in political, social and economic life. As old orders fell away, the situation seemed fragile and of uncertain duration, while at the same time people were in greater contact and meeting more frequently. Christians in Europe shared this new awareness and were encouraged afresh to seek for a visible unity.

When Archbishop Robert Runcie visited Strasbourg in 1989, the French Reformed and Lutheran Churches, expressed their desire to have closer fellowship with Anglican churches along the lines of the Meissen Agreement (Church of England and the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). To this end the Anglican churches of Britain and Ireland began a dialogue (conversations) with the French Reformed and Lutheran Churches in 1992, which took place in the Reuilly Community of Protestant deaconesses in Versailles.

**The Reuilly Common Statement**

The above-mentioned conversations resulted in the Reuilly Common Statement. This Statement has nine chapters setting out the participating churches’ fundamental agreement on faith, their common understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church, and their convergence on the apostolicity of the Church and the ministry. The next steps were identified as common efforts in witness and service, continuing theological work, and practical consequences in the light of the Statement such as sharing worship, partnership and working together in a range of areas.

The Common Statement was an important stage in the process of building the unity of Christ’s church. It makes a major contribution to perception of the stages of mutual ‘recognition’ and ‘reconciliation’ of ministries where there are differences in Anglicanism and the Reformed and Lutheran traditions.

**The Reuilly Declaration**

This Declaration was the next step. Based on the Common Statement, it acknowledges those positive elements which link the Churches and outlines their commitment to share a common life and mission and wider ecumenical commitment. It was signed in July 2001 in both Canterbury and Paris.

Since then a Reuilly Contact Group has met about every two years in order to further the development of relationships between the signatory churches. One of the current Co-Chairs is the Revd Christian Krieger (Communion Protestante Luthéro-Réformée) who will be a speaker at Synod..