

## Archdeaconry Synod Report 2022

Again this year Synod met over a 2 day Zoom call on 2 – 3 February, which left the Fuerteventura participants exhausted (Bob, Judie, Ruth and Merisa). There were 91 faces to scan through on the screen.

The theme of the conference was “A New Commandment” John 15:12, “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you”.

Contributions were made by Bishop Robert Innes, Bishop David Hamid, Archdeacon David Waller and Bishop John Pritchard (retired Bishop of Oxford).

Day 1 Morning Prayer saw Bob do the reading and Judie leading the intercessions.

### Business & Finance section

Reserves in the diocese are being used up to help struggling chaplaincies. There will be no charges to the General Archdeaconry Fund in 2022 but when they come back in 2023 the charge will be £200 per licenced clergy and reader so our charge will be £400 in 2023. All the chaplaincies pay towards the cost of the Area Dean, who is Canon Medhat Sabry. He provides support to all the clergy within his area through online and face-to-face meetings. Our contribution towards his costs in this role remain at £1.95 per electoral roll member. We also pay a contribution towards FEREDÉ – an organisation that helps churches registered with it who are not Catholic to gain the same rights as a church within Spain. It is an important organisation to us as a chaplaincy as we move into recruitment mode and will undoubtedly need their services. Again the fee, which is low, remains the same, based on electoral roll members and worship centres.

### Diocesan Common Fund

Thanks to the chaplaincies the Common Fund is currently at 95%. The years 2020-2025 will be at least £1m less than would have been the case under the financial plan. Hardship funding has been made available, with £200k already distributed. 55 grants ranging from £1,800 to £15,000 have been made to 27 chaplaincies. £70k has been donated by chaplaincies and £1.7m has been taken from reserves to make up for Covid losses.

### Bible study 1, led by Bishop John Pritchard

Was based on the parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10. I have separate notes if anyone wants them, but we were asked to consider 3 questions:

- 1) What’s been our most vivid experience of being helped by an outsider/someone else?
- 2) Who are the people we have the most difficulty in accepting & how might we include them in our circle?
- 3) Do we have personal experience of loving an enemy & what was it like?

### Bible study 2, led by Bishop John Pritchard

Was based on Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, John 13:1-20. Again I have separate notes if anyone wants them, but we were asked to consider these 3 questions:

- 1) How would it feel to let Jesus wash our feet?
- 2) Have we metaphorically washed someone else’s feet (served at that level with that humility) & how did it feel?

### 3) How do we feel about God almighty being humble?

#### Diocesan Office Europe update, led by Andrew Caspari

The strategy of the diocese remains the same. Our market which has mainly been the English migrant community is changing, with the growth of other migrants and asylum seekers bringing a demand for services in languages other than English. Challenges we have faced over the past years are Covid, Brexit and economics.

During the pandemic we:

- Found new ways to gather
- Discovered ourselves locally & across the diocese
- Appreciated the earth
- Helped us think about what we really value when it's taken away

New initiatives can bring fatigue, and progress might be slow, but it is still progress.

The Clergy Covenant now has some useful "Chaplaincy User Guides" on the diocesan website – [www.europe.anglican.org/resources](http://www.europe.anglican.org/resources), then click on "general information".

Again this year AGMs can be held online before 31 May 2022.

#### The Clergy Covenant

Was talked about in more detail by David Coulston, Diocesan Lay Chair. This looks at concerns regarding clergy care and the best way to engage all parties. The Clergy Covenant was made an Act of Synod in 2019 and it requires us to:

- Church agrees to take care of the clergy
- Clergy agree to take care of themselves
- Supporting clergy households

The Diocese of Europe have already done a confidential survey of clergy which showed "when we get it right we get it really right, but when we get it wrong....!!" So, the "Chaplaincy User Guides" were developed as simple, clear guidance to congregations to address problems encountered by chaplains. In parallel there is also a review of the Bullying Policy. The Archdeaconry Handbook still exists but much of it is now replaced by the "Chaplaincy User Guides".

#### Living in Love and Faith

Rev Beth Bendrey in Lisbon reported on how this course had been carried out in her chaplaincy. 2 main comments: the course is best done in person over 5 weeks; the course material didn't deal with some key Scriptural texts, which were obviously omitted.

#### Communications, Damian Thwaites

During 2021 39 stories from chaplaincies in our archdeaconry were shared with the wider Europe diocese. We are fast becoming a more digital diocese, with a new-look easier to navigate website planned. It will provide lay learning resources, communications for hybrid church life, more great stories. We can sign up to receive monthly e news bulletins – E: [communications@europe.anglican.org](mailto:communications@europe.anglican.org)

#### Safeguarding

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee (DSAC) oversee this area and there is now dashboard training as a tool for chaplaincies to check their progress in terms of getting all the required people trained to the appropriate level. There

will be 2 Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers (CSO) conferences to be held in May and October 2022. More dates will also be added and we can suggest topics by emailing the safeguarding service at the diocesan office.

The National Safeguarding Team (NST) has published guidance and advice for churches on how to respond well to victims and survivors of all forms of abuse, covering subjects such as therapeutic support provision, pastoral and spiritual support and how to apologise. They provide monthly communications and there will be a 3 year cycle of safeguarding checks for those holding responsibility for children and vulnerable adults (this will take 2 years to implement fully).

#### Our Archdeaconry link with Peru

Rev Deborah Chapman in Barcelona is our link with Peru. We had Bishop Jorge Aguila online as well as Rev Luis Vizcarra and watched 2 moving videos of the work in Peru. These videos will be made available to chaplaincies and we have been asked once again to consider supporting the Peru diocese this year as a chaplaincy and as individuals to help fund their very worthwhile work with the poor. Donations to be sent via the British diocesan account, entitled "Gibraltar Synod for Peru". Many communities and individuals have benefitted from our financial generosity.

#### Mother's Union, led by Deborah Chapman

Founded by Mary Sumner to help support women raising their children it quickly grew and in 1876 the Union of Mothers was founded. From 1900 it began advocating for the rights of children – such as raising the age of marriage. She acted "outside of the norm". It has 4m members today in 83 countries, seeking to nurture healthy relationships, families and communities. In our European Diocese MU only has 200 members, yet it is growing in our archdeaconry. The group in Barcelona has 13 members from 6 different nations. She urged us to consider opening a branch in our chaplaincy.

#### "Love in the time of Covid" was the title of a talk by Bishop David Hamid

Notes can be made available. Just ask.

#### Archdeacon's final report (David Waller)

The geographical size of our Archdeaconry is huge, covering 2,500km from Andorra to Tenerife. We cover 5 nations, 26 chaplaincies and 59 separate churches. He summarised his work then concluded with the verses in 1 Tim 6:18-19 about doing good, being generous and being willing to share.

*M MacInnes*

*7 February 2022*