

ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD REPORT 2017

The Synod was held from May 17th (evening) to 20th (morning) 2017 at the Abbaye de St Jacut de la Mer in Brittany. Delegates and clergy from most of the 39 chaplaincies that make up the Anglican communion in France attended. The Theme of the Synod was "Walking together in Faith" and the Synod was held just after the French Presidential election, where the place of faith in the public life of France was a focus of debate.

The daily programme was a mixture of worship, bible study, group discussions and business meetings covering many aspects of Anglican life in France. The ecumenical relationships which exist with the other denominations in France were reinforced by the presence of Dom Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse who is deeply involved in Anglican/Roman Catholic relations and cooperation and Mgr Denis Moutel Bishop of St Brieuc along with our own Bishop in Europe The Ven. Robert Innes.

The daily Bible studies were led by Dr Meg Warner of Kings College, London and were built around the twin themes of Exile and the Sabbath. She highlighted the experiences of our Jewish forebears as described in the Hebrew Bible (displacement/exile) and how these may help us to respond to recent world events.

Prof Michel Bondurand, who is an Islamic scholar, gave an excellent lecture on the nature of Islam, its historic evolution and the dynamics of being a muslim in France today. He clarified many erroneous assumptions about his faith and also gave us another view on being part of a religious minority.

The Diocese's Discipleship Officer, Dr Clare Amos, explored the importance of a 'rule of life' in our prayer and witness and that ...'To be a disciple is to be called to a life of learning and following Christ'. In addition she reminded us that discipline and discipleship come, after all, from the same latin root.

Bishop Robert outlined his ideas on a strategy for the Diocese, stating that one of our aims is to pass the message that the Anglican church is internationally involved in cooperation with other churches.

An important aspect of this meeting, is that the Synod provides an opportunity for chaplaincy reps. to share ideas and problems with each other and the mixture of worship and prayer along with the presentations and study groups is always a refreshing experience.

All the presentations and lectures are available on the Archdeaconry Website.... anglicanfrance.fr

Marge Pavogau

Peter Milner