

An e-bulletin of news, information and notes for clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese.



Welcome to this edition of our occasional newsletter from the Communications Committee, with input from Brussels and London offices, keeping everybody updated about news and developments in our diocese.

As usual it includes some items which may have appeared on our website news pages as well as matters of more domestic interest to our churches and chaplaincies.

This e-newsletter can be read on screen and need not be printed out. Any material may be copied and included in church newsletters or magazines. Feel free to forward it to anyone in your congregation who would benefit from it.

If you have information about courses, events or useful links for materials which could usefully be shared please contact paul.needle@churchofengland.org so we can include it in our next edition. p.s. Many thanks for your kind comments appreciating the value of this bulletin.

LENT APPEAL – A VERY PRACTICAL AND ACHIEVABLE TARGET

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 1 March and all too soon our churches will be marking the solemn days of LENT. As usual our Bishop has chosen a project and is looking for support from churches and individuals across the diocese. You can find his appeal letter via the diocesan website news link

<http://europe.anglican.org/news/news/post/1205-lent-lurks--be-ready-for-the-challenge>

Feel free to download it for use in church bulletins and newsletter to inform people as widely as possible.

If you organise some innovative way of raising funds for the appeal please make sure to send information and pictures to paul.needle@churchofengland.org for inclusion on our website and in the diocesan magazine.

- Last year's Lent appeal raised £20, 462

DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY



Many thanks to Anthony Cummings for editing the new look Diocesan Prayer Diary which is now published quarterly with each edition of The European Anglican.

It means that prayer requests can be more topical and also ensures that everyone who receives a copy of the magazine also gets the Prayer Diary. Don't forget too that the diocesan Twitter Team send us a reminder of each day's topic – with any belated update information on the Twitter feed @DioceseinEurope



Anthony can be contacted with Prayer information on prayer.diary@europe.anglican.org
See more in our communications notes below.

ARCHDEACONRY/DEANERY SYNOD ELECTIONS

(Information from Diocesan Secretary, Adrian Mumford)

2017 is election year for Archdeaconry / Deanery Synods: all existing representatives will cease to hold office. Chaplaincies and congregations must elect their lay representatives at annual meetings this year to serve for a term of three years. Those elected take office with effect from 1st June 2017.

The number to be elected is related to the number on your electoral roll (with a minimum of two representatives for each electoral roll). There are two for the first 100 on the electoral roll, then one extra person for every additional 50 names, or part thereof, to a maximum of five representatives in total. If, for any reason, you are uncertain about the number you should elect, please contact the Diocesan Secretary.

It is important to note that those elected to represent their chaplaincies and congregations are also diocesan electors for both the General Synod elections and Diocesan Synod elections.

The names and full contact details of representatives elected at the AGM need to be recorded on the annual return of Chaplaincy Officers, being sent under separate cover (and also to be available as a website download). It is important that this is received to ensure that newly elected Representatives are not disenfranchised.

The best resource for questions on elections, the conduct of AGMs, PCCs etc. is the Church Representation Rules. An electronic copy is available on the website under 'Resources'.

BREXIT – WE NEED TO KEEP TALKING AND IN TOUCH

As the British government continues progress towards leaving the European Union, after last year's referendum, a number of initiatives within the Diocese in Europe are looking at the effects of Brexit on churches and their members across the continent.

Major concerns centre on future health provision abroad and in the UK, pensions affected by the lower rate of exchange for sterling, clergy recruitment and the problems of families with dual nationality.

Seventeen volunteer delegates joined Bishop Robert in late January at a meeting facilitated by the UK Ambassador to Belgium, Alison Rose, using a video-conference link to the embassy in Brussels for Lord George Bridges, a Minister in the UK government's Brexit Department, who was able to hear and respond to concerns.

This event is fully reported in the March edition of The European Anglican which also refers to the helpful suggestion that church groups within individual countries should make contact with their UK Ambassadors to keep our special concerns on the agenda in a fast moving situation.

There may also be a future consultation for the diocese as Article 50 is invoked and begins to take effect. The Bishop is always eager to learn about individual Brexit concerns from churches.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The next meeting of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee is on 28th February in London. Membership of that group reflects changes in recent months to include more external safeguarding professionals to ensure we have the best and wisest advice.

Members are currently:- Charles Clark Chair of DSAC
Bishop Robert Innes
Bishop David Hamid
Ian Carter, Diocesan Safeguarding Manager
Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary
David Simpson, External Adviser
David Coulston , Diocesan General Synod member
Ann Tyndall, Diocesan Lay Representative
The Ven. Vickie Sims Archdeacon Representative
Martin Woodroffe, External Adviser
Trevor Worsfold, External Adviser
Tola Akinde-Hummel, Assistant Safeguarding Manager
Rev. Paul Needle, Communications Officer

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The number of people that have registered and completed the online basic training in recent months has increased significantly, encouraging news. At the end of December 993 people had completed the child protection e-learning course and 485 people have done the safeguarding adults e-learning course, with more registered to complete the process early this year.

Our recently trained team of trainers across the diocese is busy leading advanced (Level 2) courses at local and regional level.

Germany and Northern Europe trainers have delivered at least one training session to 21 delegates covering 3 countries. Gibraltar Trainers have delivered 10 training sessions to approximately 172 delegates and courses have been held in the Eastern Archdeaconry and Italy and Malta. Feedback from delegates has been encouraging.

The safeguarding team has also helped to complete routine checks and renewal certificates for over 600 lay volunteers and more than 300 clergy.

WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

The new database, recently installed in the diocesan office, allows a much improved method of keeping notes of who is, or is not, checked and trained so that we can have a clearer picture of what still needs to be done.

This is important because the Diocese in Europe, with the other 41 dioceses of the Church of England, is to be given a safeguarding inspection by an independent organisation, The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). Late this year inspectors will examine all written records of our safeguarding work and speak to people involved with this at all levels of diocesan life. They will also examine some individual chaplaincies to see how policies and practices are working at local level. At the end of this, a report will be prepared for the Church of England to note our performance and offer help and support for the future.

This is why local clergy and lay safeguarding co-ordinators are being asked to complete a chaplaincy audit so that a full picture of activity can be completed in good time before the inspection in November.

Against this background there are plans for a further “Training the Trainers” course at the end of this year to increase the number of volunteer safeguarding trainers and deal with the demand for further sessions in every Archdeaconry.

ORDINATION IS FOR LIFE – MINISTRY IN RETIREMENT IS DIFFERENT



A welcome addition to our diocesan resources is a new leaflet, prepared by Rev Dr John Marvell, our Retirement Officer, which outlines many practical and psychological steps which clergy need to take as they contemplate a life in retirement. John says; “Retirement means making readjustments in your life. Clergy have to deal with greater adjustments than most people. It means leaving their chaplaincy, moving house and living in another locality, becoming part of the new community without a formal role, financial adjustment and deciding whether they wish to have a continuing ministry and, if so, what might be possible. It is wise to start thinking and planning well before retirement.” Read or download a copy of the guide on the Resources section of our website or via this link.

<http://europe.anglican.org/downloads/resources/clergy-retirement-brochure-2016-draft.pdf>

THY KINGDOM COME – TIME TO PLAN FOR 2017

If your church is thinking of taking up the Archbishop of Canterbury’s initiative of raising our profile during the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost, under the heading of “The Kingdom Come” it is time to check out the resources and make your plans.

In the December issue of European Anglican we highlighted this and commended it to all chaplaincies in the diocese. Here is an extract from that report.

In 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited parishes across England to join a great wave of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. Many churches discovered it proved a blessing to them.

For 2017 the Thy Kingdom Come vision is even bigger with a much more deliberate ecumenical dimension. The three aims are:

- To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father;
- To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit;
- That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ

A large selection of prayer resources and ideas for events, prayer rooms, liturgy for groups and individuals at www.thykingdom.co.uk

DIOCESAN STRATEGY SHOWS OUR GROWING VISION

WALKING – AND TALKING – TOGETHER IN FAITH

Across our diocese church members are developing the diocesan strategy – the vision plan for our future, “Building up the body of Christ”. Since the plan was launched two years ago it has been emphasised that it is not a “top-down” toolkit for our development. It is not presented by bishops or archdeacons as a do-it-yourself mission kit but a series of aims which local churches can adopt and adapt to their own situations.

One of the methods of focussing on what is being done is the encouragement from the Bishop to create mini video reports to give a (literally) moving example of the range of activities and initiatives. Some chaplaincies in the Gibraltar Archdeaconry used this as an opportunity to avoid the familiar printed reports on their church life and produced video presentations which were well received.

As this challenge spreads across the diocese and with the launch of our newly updated diocesan website, there will be an on-line library of videos from churches proving that we are working together, yet in a multitude of expressions, to show our faith and determination for the future.

The topic will be on the agenda for June's Diocesan Synod when local ideas can be shared with other churches across Europe.

CLERGY ON THE MOVE

WELCOME TO

Rev Robert James (BOB) Horrocks Team Rector of the Seven Saints Team, Bolton (Diocese of Manchester) Chaplain The Anglican Church of St James, Fuerteventura

The Reverend Robert John Kean, currently Team Vicar of Witham and Villages Team Ministry (Chelmsford) to be a Chaplain in the Anglican Church of St Vincent, the Algarve, Portugal (Europe) with effect from 30th April 2017.

The Reverend Canon Rodney Middleton, currently Vicar of the Anglican Church of St James, Haydock, Liverpool (Liverpool) to be Assistant Chaplain (House-for-Duty) in the Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit, Costa Blanca, Spain (Europe) with effect from 1st May 2017.

LEAVING US

The Very Reverend Walter Harvey Raymond currently Chaplain of the Anglican Church of St Paul, Monte Carlo, Monaco (Europe) to resign with effect from 3rd July 2017.

The Reverend Warwick 'Ricky' John Yates, currently Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Church of St Clement, Prague, Czech Republic (Europe) to retire with effect from 30 April 2017.

CHANGE OF LOCATION/TITLE

Rev Dana English Assistant Curate, The Anglican Church of All Saints, Rome to be Assistant Chaplain with particular responsibility for Christian Education, All Saints, Rome

The Reverend Peter Ford, currently Assistant Chaplain (Port Chaplain) in the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar (Europe) to be Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Church of St Laurence, Lanzarote, Spain (Europe) with effect from 1st February 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Although the newly redesigned website has been in preparation for its launch for some time it is being delayed because of technical interface difficulties with the database.

The diocese, along with a score of other Church of England dioceses has taken on an improved database system which can greatly assist our administration. The existing website has information links with the old database and there are delays in getting the new site linked to the new database. This means that, in the interim, some information on the website will be outdated but cannot be amended until the problem is resolved and the new website goes live.

(If the above is too technical and of no interest, we apologise but we wanted to explain the difficulties which are hampering this area of our communications!)

Elsewhere our Twitter Feed continues to offer a reminder of the topics for the daily Prayer Diary and “up to the minute” retweets of the latest news. Our account on Twitter is

@DioceseinEurope.

WE NEED TWEETERS. Our small team of tweeters each keeps the service up to date for a week at a time every couple of months. It is a rewarding and worthwhile task. We need one or two new Tweeters to join the team. If you regularly use social media and would enjoy sharing in this aspect of diocesan communications please contact paul.needle@churchofengland.org for more information .

Our Bishops also have their own “Blog” – (Web Log) – reporting their visits, news and experiences

Bishop Robert’s blog <https://bishopineurope.wordpress.com/>

Bishop David’s blog <http://eurobishop.blogspot.co.uk/>

Members of the Gibraltar Archdiocesan Synod ended their four day meeting at Torrevieja in Spain with a Eucharist to mark Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Instead of worship in the hotel, where the Synod was held, delegates walked to a church nearby for the service, where Bishop David presided and preached.

At the end of the service, everyone was handed a lighted candle with a protective clear plastic cover and the procession carried the light of Christ down the deserted streets.

The event was captured on video and you can see the start of the procession as it was leaving the church.



We hope you have discovered the increasing number of videos in news stories on the diocesan website and the easy way these can be accessed. When you are sending news information and pictures for further coverage you could also send videos and interviews. All you need to do is to upload the video to Youtube and send us the weblink at the top of the Youtube page and we can include your “movies” on our diocesan site.

THE EUROPEAN ANGLICAN

The March (Spring) edition is at the printers and should be with churches and online at the start of March. We always welcome ideas for features or items of interest and are also always looking for new contributors. The following edition is dated 1st June 2017 and copy deadline is mid-April.

Please send ideas, pictures and copy to paul.needle@churchofengland.org

NEXT EDITION OF DIET – is scheduled for April 2017

If you have any diary dates, information you would like to share or other material please contact paul.needle@churchofengland.org

USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

WALK TO JERUSALEM COMES THROUGH OUR DIOCESE



The Amos Trust is planning a pilgrimage/walk in November which passes through our diocese. Just Walk to Jerusalem is a bold initiative to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration and 50 years of military occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

Churches and individuals within the diocese may wish to offer support, hospitality etc. See their website for more details and to make contact

<http://www.amostrust.org/diary/just-walk-to-jerusalem-2017/>

OLD CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL

Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit from Amsterdam has sent this information

In 2017 a summer school in Old Catholic theology in its Ecumenical Context will be offered again, from 2-7 July. The course offers a concise introduction to the theology, history, and spirituality of the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht. Taught in the beautiful medieval city of Utrecht, students will study with the faculty of the Old Catholic Seminary based there. The course includes excursions to an Old Catholic parish, to the Catharijneconvent, the main Dutch museum of religious art, and through the city of Utrecht itself. For more information, see <https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/courses/culture/old-catholic-theology-in-its-ecumenical-context>, or contact the course director, prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit (p.b.a.smit@uu.nl). University and permanent education credits can be earned through this course.

CHURCH SUPPORT HUB

As the 42nd diocese of the Church of England we sometimes feel that we are the Church's best "hidden secret". We may also forget that the central church Communications and Ministry divisions have resources which can be used for many practical pastoral and occasional situations.

A new resource – Church Support Hub – has been launched with a wealth of useful information on Baptisms, weddings and funerals. Not all of this may be wholly apt for our unique geographical situation but some of the material could save us "re-inventing the wheel"

Check it out at www.churchsupporthub.org

AND FINALLY – NOT ONE’S IDEAL CHOICE OF ADDRESS!

