



THE FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

Autumn 2018

On a gentle and warm early autumn day, the Feast of Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258, the Friends of the Diocese gathered for its annual Festival Eucharist at St Mark's Church, Regent's Park on the side of Camden Canal, close to the bustling area of Camden Lock and London Zoo in north London. This was a step into the unknown holding the service in September and at a weekend so quite naturally the Friends' Committee were a little anxious about how it would all work out. However, about sixty people attended, and all anxiousness quickly evaporated as the service got under way - clergy resplendent in red chasubles against the background of the magnificent gold triptych - with the hymn 'All hail the power of Jesus' Name'. Canon William Gulliford, parish priest of St Mark's and Diocesan Director of Ordinands preached on St Cyprian making the connection between his ministry, in terms of a costly vocation, and that of those exploring their vocations through CEMES (Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme), which the Friends have supported through grants. In the Intercessions, Friends who had died recently were remembered including: Canon John de Wit, former Archdeacon, Chaplain and Committee member; Canon Chad Coussmaker, whose ministry in the Diocese began in 1967 and continued well into his retirement; and, the Revd Gareth Randall, Chaplain in Dinard, who recently died suddenly in post. A small group of volunteer singers enhanced the service and the Motet by William Byrd was particularly beautiful. All too soon the service concluded with the congregation singing with great vigour the hymn by the late Bishop Geoffrey Rowell 'Lord, we give you praise and glory' to the tune 'Ode to Joy' (Beethoven). The service felt as if it had drawn everyone together in a huge embrace of common purpose and love.

Over a buffet lunch, Bishop Robert Innes, who had been the Celebrant, gave a short address on Brexit from a Brussels' perspective. He was cautiously optimistic that an agreement would be reached though in responding the Chairman of the Friends, Mark Pellew, thought there was still a chance that extra time for negotiation would need to be invoked. Time will tell but there is no doubt that for UK nationals living in mainland Europe it is a time of great uncertainty.

As was the day warm and gentle so was the occasion with time to talk in more depth to some of the Friends who had travelled from near and far to celebrate the work and witness of the Friends.

The witness of the Friends is as you will know is to pray for the Diocese, its Bishops, Clergy, Readers and Chaplaincies and to this end I am enclosing the Prayer Diary for the next three months. In addition, you should be aware that grants for language tuition are regularly approved, sometimes between meetings as the need arises, and this continues to be another very important aspect of the Friends' work. Another way in which Friends can help is to encourage others to join as a larger membership will allow much needed support to continue to be given.

14 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3QZ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 1155; Fax: +44 (0)20 7898 1166; E-Mail: dioceseineuropefriends@gmail.com

Diocesan web site: www.europe.anglican.org/

Charity Commission registration number: 250186

Thank you to those of you who have taken the trouble to write to me expressing your opinions about the recent changes. Change has the capacity to be difficult and, indeed, tiring, but it also offers opportunities for something different and occasionally better.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Jeanne