

European Anglicans

www.europe.anglican.org

Diocese in Europe | October 2020

Prayer, Care & Compassion

**Seven ordinations
and an installation**

pages 8-10

Safeguarding

pages 20-21

Creationtide

page 24



Picture: Installation of the new Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar



Damian Thwaites

Welcome to this issue of *European Anglicans*, your online diocesan magazine.

As I write, the people of Nice and Vienna have suffered terrible atrocities, one of which was perpetrated in a place of Christian worship, a powerful earthquake has struck the Aegean region, and many parts of our diocese are once again going into lockdown as the impact of the pandemic again worsens.

Writing in early September, Bishop Robert discussed our church life in covid-19 times in his blog:

“St Paul on a number of occasions talks about how he is present with the churches he has founded in spirit though not in body. The Holy Spirit links us together in a spiritual sense, and through our prayers for one another, even when we can't be present to each other physically.”

I hope the articles featured in this issue of *EA* will remind us of our shared Diocesan life over the past four months, and will support us in our prayer, care and compassion in the period ahead where, as St Paul also relates, we may find ourselves “hard pressed on every side.”

Good wishes,
Damian

Contents

- 04** Reflections on la rentrée in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic
- 07** Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal
- 08** Michaelmas Ordination Services
- 10** Installation of the new Dean of Gibraltar Cathedral
- 12** Au revoir, Meurig!
- 14** St Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer
- 16** Anglicanism in Hungary
- 18** The Friends' Annual Service & Celebration 2020
- 19** Church of England Weekly Online Service
- 20** Safeguarding: IICSA & Interview
- 23** Interview with the Director of Communications
- 24** Creationtide
- 25** Chaplaincy celebrations
- 26** Diocese in Europe Residency Support Project
- 28** Going (more) digital!
- 29** Book Review: Easter – Virtual & Viral

European Anglicans (October 2020)

Editor:

Damian Thwaites, Director of Communications
damian.thwaites@europe.anglican.org

Pictures:

Images are reproduced courtesy of chaplaincies across the Diocese and unsplash.com

Design: Amber Jackson

Contact us:

communications@europe.anglican.org



@DioceseinEurope



Reflections on la rentrée in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic



In his 1 September blog, Bishop Robert looked ahead to what the 'new term' for Church could look like. We feature this as our opening piece in this issue of *EA*:

All of us have memories of returning to school at the start of a new academic year: wondering what our new class will be like; the mixture of excitement and apprehension at seeing old friends and discovering new ones. Seeing small children walking to school this morning in Brussels with packed satchels is for me a real sign of hope. And teachers will be wanting to give their pupils the best welcome and the best start to a new year.

This year, though, returning to school has a different feel. Children are physically distanced from one another and operate in social

bubbles. Older children are required to wear masks. In the school at which my son teaches the primary aged children have to wash their hands six times a day – that alone is a major logistical exercise! The social, educational and mental health of our children depends on them returning to school, yet covid-19 means this can only be done under strict conditions – for the wellbeing of parents, grandparents and teachers – and even the children themselves – although few of them are at serious risk from the virus.

The church in practice aligns itself to the school year, so September marks the 'rentrée' for us too. As adults, we know well that the restrictions of the past 6 months are by no means behind us. covid-19 is a highly infectious and dangerous disease that has spread

across the whole world. The church is a social institution that brings together large numbers of people in confined spaces, many of whom are in a vulnerable demographic. So we are continually having to balance our longing for corporate worship and close fellowship with our shared responsibility for controlling the covid-19 virus.

Today marks the beginning of 'creation-tide' in our church calendar. Theologically, I start from the premise that it is we human beings rather than God who are primarily responsible for the pandemic. A recent Grove Booklet by TearFund Director Ruth Valerio and others makes this point well. Whether the virus jumped across the species barrier from bats to humans at a live animal market in Wuhan, or whether it escaped from a Wuhan laboratory – it was human

At a personal level, the experience of lockdown has challenged and provoked me in some unexpected ways.

behaviour that triggered the release of the virus into the human population. It was willful negligence that frustrated initial attempts to control it. And it was globalised interaction and mass travel that enabled the virus to spread rapidly to every continent. Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes might fall under the category of 'natural disasters', but the pandemic is mainly a disaster of our own making.

So it is equally down to us humans to control it. 'Controlling the virus' means observing the detailed hygiene and physical distancing rules that are starting to become second nature for us. But as the crisis continues it becomes clear that more fundamental issues of social justice are at play too. Serious illness and death are more prevalent in certain disadvantaged sectors of our societies: those living in cramped housing, BAME communities, the poor and the obese (and obesity is often linked with poverty). In our developed countries, it is those in blue-collar employment who are suffering the most from the economic consequences of the disease. And people in poorer countries have faced economic disaster under the necessary conditions of lockdown. Far from being 'the great leveller', the virus has laid bare deep and nefarious social inequalities between people.

Healing the world means addressing social injustice.

At a personal level, the experience of lockdown has challenged and provoked me in some unexpected ways. Firstly, I found myself enjoying the stability of having to stay in one place. I was able to develop a daily pattern of prayer and physical exercise that is so much more difficult if one is continually on the move. Secondly, I found I was re-connecting with the natural environment in a deeper way. I became deeply aware of the birdsong in Spring, I noticed the stars in the night sky, I loved the deep peacefulness that descended on our neighbourhood and rejoiced in the improved air quality. And without air travel my own carbon footprint was vastly reduced. Thirdly, I discovered possibilities for using technology for communication. Suddenly meetings that used to be planned weeks or months ahead could take place almost immediately on Zoom. And linked to this, I've discovered a new and more nuanced approach to 'presence'.

St Paul on a number of occasions talks about how he is present with the churches he has found in spirit though not in body. The Holy Spirit links us together in a spiritual sense, and through our prayers for one another, even when we can't be present to

each other physically. I believe that tools such as Zoom and Teams have given added meaning to Paul's insights.

We can now be present to each other across a whole continent – both audibly and visibly – albeit that we can't reach out and touch each other. So during the spring and summer the Diocese in Europe has been able to stage Zoom-based worship that brought people together who had never previously seen each others' faces. I have had some of the deepest one-to-one pastoral conversations of my episcopal ministry because I have been at home, properly centred and focused, with all the relevant materials to hand, rather than trying to follow a delicate situation on email from a hotel bedroom or via a poor quality phone signal on a train. Like St. Paul, I have wondered:

'How can I best be present to our diocese spiritually, even though I can't be present in body?'

And, rather to my surprise, I have discovered that a high level of presence – and sometimes to many people at once – is far more possible than I had realised.

Looking to the term ahead, staff in my office have already spent many



Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal 2020

covid-19 Support to the
Anglican Communion

hours on the bewildering issues that bedevil international travel in the covid-19 era. Events that involve lots of people coming together in multiple destinations (notably for ordinations) with shifting quarantine rules are particularly complex to organise. My office is all too aware of the upset that is caused when episcopal plans change, and a visit has to be cancelled. Under the 'old normal' this almost never happened. But now, a change in quarantine rules can mean expensive cancellations and disappointment all round.

For many reasons, I am therefore planning to curtail travel – and especially air travel – in the term ahead. I want to set the best example in terms of controlling the virus, aware that travel is one of the most significant ways in which it spreads. And I'm aware of the sheer difficulty of making coherent and consistent travel plans at the moment.

To be specific: two of the countries for which I am lead bishop are France and Switzerland. The level of infections in both these countries, the reciprocal restrictions between them and Belgium, and the level of unpredictability and health risks involved mean, I think, that it will be better not to arrange visits to these two countries until after Christmas. I hope this decision on my part might help chaplaincies with their forward planning arrangements. And

I want actively to explore how I can be present to people in ways other than physical presence.

Yet it is 'la rentrée'. The children are returning to school, people are beginning new jobs in new countries, and some are seeking a place to worship. A sense of excitement is mixed with realism about the virus. And a key challenge at this moment for all clergy and lay leaders is: 'how do we provide a good level of welcome to new people in these covid-19 circumstances?' Without the post-service gathering for coffee, it is vital that welcomers are identified and signposted who can make contact with newcomers. We will need to be diligent in following up names, emails and phone numbers. And Zoom-based events need to be as friendly and inclusive as possible to those who might be lurking on the edges.

covid-19 has reminded us of our need for our togetherness; it has prompted many to ask deep questions about the ordering of our lives and societies; and in some it has generated a new openness to the life of the spirit. As we begin a new term, I hope our churches and chaplaincies can be places of fellowship and care, places where the hard questions of life are addressed, and communities where people are able to find answers to spiritual questions through encounter with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Bishop Robert issued his Advent Appeal 2020 on 12 October:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week, we witnessed a deeply sobering point in our global struggle against covid-19: over 1 million people worldwide have now died from the virus. We know and see the impacts of covid-19 in our own communities here in Europe, and the stresses and strains it brings for us all in our daily lives. We see too, numbers of infections and deaths increasing once more among us, across the Diocese in Europe.

In Morocco (within our own diocese) there have now been over 140,000 confirmed cases, and nearly 2,500 deaths. In South Africa, despite introducing one of the severest lockdowns in the world, over 685,000 cases have been recorded. In some areas of Africa, covid-19 is exacerbating both ongoing violence, conflict and bloodshed and existing health crises, like tuberculosis. Lack of testing and data issues mean the real numbers in Africa may actually be far higher than those recorded. John Nkengasong from the Africa Centres for Disease Control told the BBC yesterday: "I don't think we are over the first wave yet, we have not yet hit the bottom at all."

in response to emergency needs right across the Communion, you may have seen that the Archbishop of Canterbury launched a covid-19 "Together in Unity" Appeal. I am delighted that his Appeal has already raised over £100,000. My Advent Appeal this year is to urge your support for the work the Anglican Communion Fund is doing to alleviate the ravaging impact of covid-19 in the poorest parts of the world. The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) is making a difference on the ground to people who are suffering every day, the human cost of this pandemic.

Behind the statistics are human life stories

of deprivation from lack of food, access to basic hygiene and sanitation facilities, and worsening economic hardship in the poorest communities for those unable to work. Illustrated examples from ACF-supported projects in Sudan and Mexico [can be found here](#). Where you have relationships with churches across the Communion, you will know of their situations, with first-hand reasons to support an Appeal to help those who have already lost so much and have least.

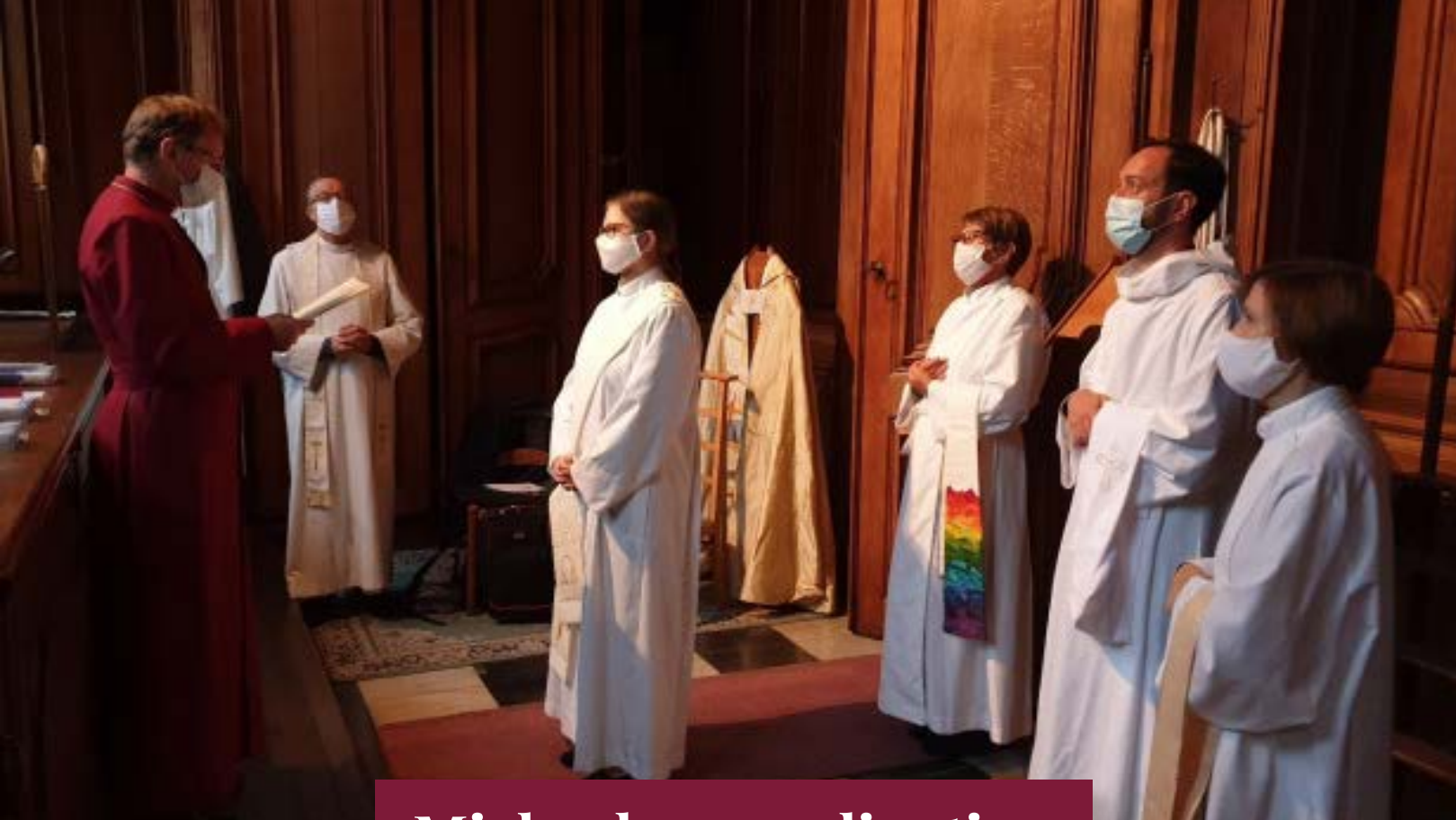
I am delighted that, with your help, the diocese raised nearly £15,500

for my Advent Appeal 2019 to promote the empowerment of women in the Anglican Communion. I should add that ACF also provides key support to our own work representing the Anglican Communion in the European Institutions, on issues such as migration and refugees, human rights, freedom of expression and belief, and domestic violence against women.

I attach some [resources](#) you may wish to draw on for your chaplaincy bulletins and newsletters on ACF's covid-19 projects. Among these you will see that Bishop Moses Zungu from Maridi diocese in South Sudan expresses his gratitude for ACF's support, saying, "You held our hand during our most trying moments." I hope we in our diocese can help with an outstretched hand to brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion who are suffering so deeply right now from the impact of covid-19, by supporting the work on the ground by the ACF.

Please give as generously as you can to this Advent Appeal. You can find details of how you can donate [here](#).

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe



Michaelmas ordination services in Ghent and Rome

Six deacons and a priest were ordained in the diocese by Bishops Robert and David in Michaelmas tide ordination services this year in St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Ghent and All Saints Anglican Church, Rome.

Annual ordination services for 2020 in the diocese were originally planned in a number of locations. However, due to covid-19 restrictions across continental Europe, it was decided that Bishop Robert would conduct ordinations in Ghent, while Bishop David would ordain candidates in Rome. Many of the close family and friends of the ordinands were unable to attend due to distance and travel limitations due to the pandemic. However, after a three-month delay, and securing both locations, both ordaining Bishops and the candidates were thankfully able to come together for the services.

As Bishop Robert reminds us in his [Ghent ordinations blog](#):

“being ordained deacon or into the priesthood ‘is a point at which candidates pledge their loyalty to the historic faith of the Church and their willingness to proclaim the gospel afresh to their generation.”

In his [Rome ordinations blog](#) Bishop David quoted the sermon by The Revd Robert Warren, Chaplain at All Saints', in which the curates were told:

“You’ve been told where you are going to start. The future is outside our reach and outside yours. You do not know where you’ll end and what a blessing you could become.”



Edoardo Fanfani, a member of the All Saints’ Rome congregation commented:

“After having endured one of the world’s harshest lockdowns, we Romans and parishioners of All Saints’ have been blessed with a celebration of joy after a long time of distress but that is the Christian story, isn’t it?”

Those ordained were:

Deacons

By the Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes on Saturday 26 September in St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Ghent:

Ann Elise Bolger, to serve as assistant curate (Stipendiary) in the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Brussels; Dorothee Joanne de Vries, to serve as assistant curate (NSM) in the Anglican Church in Arnhem and Nijmegen;

Matthias Jozua Thijs, to serve as assistant curate (Stipendiary) in the Anglican Church of St James, Voorschoten;

By the Rt Revd Dr David Hamid on Saturday 26 September in All Saints Anglican Church, Rome:

Professor Dr Gottlieb Leopold Martin George, to serve as assistant curate (NSM) in St George’s Anglican Church, Berlin

Robert Rushforth Morley, to serve as assistant curate (NSM) in All Saints Anglican Church, Milan;

Dr Valdis Teraudkalns, to serve as assistant curate (NSM) in St Saviour’s Anglican Church, Riga

Priest

By the Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes on Saturday 26 September in St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Ghent:

The Revd Evelyn Harriet Elisabeth Sweerts

With grateful thanks to friends in Rome and Ghent, we’re able to share these videos of the ordination services:

[Michaelmas 2020 - Rome Ordination Service](#)

[Michaelmas 2020 - Ghent Ordination Service](#)



Installation of the new Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar

The Revd Canon Ian Tarrant was installed as Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar on 13 October. We feature this report with grateful thanks to friends at the Cathedral:

Holy Trinity Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, and the seat of Bishop Robert Innes. The Dean of Gibraltar has responsibility for the cathedral, its congregation, and chairs of the chapter of Canons, the ruling body of the Cathedral.

The position of Dean dates back to 1905 when Dean Decimus Govett was appointed as the first of a long

succession. Robin Gill, Canon Theologian, has been acting Dean since 2012, and his leadership and care were much appreciated.

Originally scheduled to take place on 2 April the Installation was postponed due to covid-19. Canon Ian Tarrant arrived in Gibraltar on the 16 March 2020, a few days before Gibraltar went into total lockdown. Since then Ian had carried out his role of 'Dean Designate' as the Bishop's Commissary in Gibraltar, following his appointment to this senior role in the diocese last December.

The long-awaited licensing and installation took place on 13 October. Due to current travel restrictions in Belgium, Bishop Robert was not able to preside at the Service. He sent a [video](#) message of congratulations and warm welcome, which was played during the installation service. Thankfully, travel from the UK to Gibraltar remains possible, and Bishop David led the installation service. He was joined by Archdeacon David Waller and Diocesan Registrar, Aiden Hargreaves-Smith.

The service was well attended by distinguished guests, both clerical and civil. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar Carmel Zammit and his Vicar General Mgr John Pardo VG were met by a procession from Holy Trinity led by Bishop David, at the entrance of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Saint Mary the Crowned and escorted to the Service of Installation. Other Christian denominations present at the service included the Minister of the Church of Scotland in Gibraltar the Revd Ewen Maclean, the Minister of the Methodist Church the Revd. Fidelio Patron,

the Chaplain to the Forces Fr. Danny Hernandez, the Imam of the Islamic Mosque and representatives of the Hindu community.

The service was a truly all-embracing one, something for which Gibraltar feels proud of. The civil dignitaries were led by His Excellency The Governor, Vice Admiral Sir David Steel who kindly read the first lesson. Members of the Gibraltar Parliament were also in attendance from both sides of the House which included Sir Joe Bossano, a previous Chief Minister of Gibraltar, as well as the current Mayor of Gibraltar, John Gonçalves, and the Commissioner of Police, Richard Ullger.

Current covid-19 restrictions included a limit to the number of people that could be present – a limit which was easily reached, and attendance would have been far greater under normal circumstances. The choir was able to record all the hymns sung during the Service in advance as no live singing is currently allowed in Gibraltar.

These were played over the Cathedral's sound system. An attempt was made to stream the service live but alas Murphy's Law kicked in.

However, the service was recorded and currently available via the [Cathedral's website](#). Since arriving in Gibraltar Dean Ian has been particularly busy in getting to know members of Holy Trinity Electoral Roll as well as being

responsible for setting up live streaming of services. In his sermon, Bishop David reminded the congregation that every member has a contribution to make to the life of the church.

Interesting and happy times lie ahead and the congregation, Wardens and PCC members of Holy Trinity Cathedral wish our new Dean and his wife Sally the very best for the future.





**Au revoir,
Meurig!**

The Ven. Meurig Williams, Archdeacon of France, Commissary and Chaplain to the Bishop in Europe, will be leaving the diocese in December after a decade of service among us. He will be moving to a new clergy appointment in the Diocese of Cork.

Bishop Robert said:

“Meurig has served the diocese with distinction over these last 10 years, as Bishop’s Chaplain for two Diocesan Bishops, and as Archdeacon for two contrasting archdeaconries, first North West Europe, followed by France and Monaco.

He has gained the affection and respect of clergy and lay people alike, been responsible for the appointment and care of clergy, and looked after numerous parishes in interregna. As a member of the Senior Staff Team, Bishop’s Council and Diocesan Synod, Meurig has contributed to the developing

and shaping of the diocese’s vision for its ministry and mission. He will be much missed, both in the Bishop’s Office and in the Chaplaincies of the French Archdeaconry, and Meurig’s new parish in Ireland will be fortunate indeed to have a priest and pastor of such rich and deep experience.”

Meurig has kindly given us an interview about his time in the diocese ...

You’ll be leaving the Diocese in Europe at the end of this year after a decade of service. What are your abiding reflections on your ministry among us?

MW: It has been an immense privilege to serve in the Diocese in Europe, where I have been able to utilise some language skills and love of European culture to the full in the double-sided aspect of my ministry as



Archdeacon of France and Bishop Robert’s Commissary and Chaplain. It has been energising, enlarging – and sometimes, I admit, a little exhausting. After 15 years serving on the senior staff of two very different dioceses (I was previously Archdeacon of Bangor in Wales), I feel that now is a good time to return to the rootedness of parish ministry and in a country that is positive about its membership of the European Union. In that sense, some of us would say (though not all!) that I will be moving from one progressive, democratic republic to another.

You’ve worked in a dual role as senior clergy in the diocese as both Bishop’s Commissary and Chaplain, and as an Archdeacon in two Archdeaconries. How have you managed these differing responsibilities?

MW: I shall take with me happy memories of working closely first with Bishop Geoffrey Rowell and then, for the past 6 years, with Bishop Robert as he has taken forward the mission of the Diocese in new and creative ways. With them, I will always be grateful to senior colleagues whose sense of loyalty, discretion and professionalism will long remain an inspiration. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the clergy and lay officers of the French Archdeaconry, particularly the three area deans, Tony Lomas, Giles Williams and Debbie Flach, who have done much to shoulder the responsibilities of oversight with me. It has been a delight to work with such a diverse range of church communities across France and Monaco, where

people of different races, nations and languages have found a home to celebrate the Gospel and live by it.

Travel has been such an important feature of your ministry in the diocese – what memorable visits and experiences do you have?

MW: As far as memorable moments are concerned, I will always have happy memories of travels with Bishop Geoffrey, notably celebrating Orthodox Christmas in Moscow and visiting the Catholicos of all Armenians in Holy Etchmiadzin.

What do you think gives the diocese its sense of European identity and presence?

MW: The opportunity to work strategically with Bishop Robert in giving the Diocese a clearer European focus and identity by setting-up a brand new office in Brussels has been significant, as has building new partnerships to reach into new areas of the diocese.

And your new ministry is calling you to serve next in one of the most westerly tips of the European Union, we understand ... ?

MW: I am very excited about moving to Ireland, to a completely different – but entirely familiar – pattern of ministry. I look forward to supporting and encouraging three church communities, centred on a growing and diverse market town in County Cork, and discovering what God has in store for us.

With grateful thanks



St Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer

Click here to view
the story on French
national TV news!



Fiona Ingham, Chaplaincy Council Secretary, St Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer, has kindly sent us this wonderful story, which appeared on French national TV news!

"Drove to Beaulieu. Alas! my last charming drive in this paradise of nature, which I grieve to leave, as I get more attached to it every year."

Queen Victoria's diary entry for May 1st, 1899 expresses what anyone who ever visits Beaulieu sur Mer feels! For those of us lucky enough to live in Beaulieu all year round, St Michael's is at the heart of our spiritual life here. We welcome Christians of all denominations and nationalities who wish to worship in English. Our congregation comprises residents of Beaulieu and the towns along the coast from as far as Bordighera in Italy and Monaco to the east and Nice and Cannes to the west, and it is not just those of us who are resident here that benefit from the presence of a worshipping Christian community, we also have many regular seasonal visitors and holidaymakers from all around the world.

The church building, grounds and the chaplaincy are entirely funded by members of the church, which is in

keeping with the spirit of its original founders and benefactors. Donations and the work of volunteers ensure that the church is well maintained and fit for its purpose of public worship.

Last year we recognised 125 years since St Michael's Church was founded by launching an appeal for funds to restore and renovate the interior of the church building. Such was the generosity of our congregation, that we have been able to restore and repair the parquet flooring and redecorating the side aisles and sanctuary. Just as this work was completed, we received a message from a representative of the Ministry of Culture, who was conducting a project looking at the churches on the Riviera; he visited several times along with some of his colleagues to inspect the building and they were impressed at what they saw, also becoming rather excited about some of the artifacts within the church. Protected status was granted, and St Michael's Church was declared an Historic Monument in the summer this year.



The church really is incredibly beautiful and clearly of some architectural significance. It was built using funds raised from a group of its founding members and building work commenced in April 1893. Despite being designed by the then rising English architect, Temple Moore, the church was built in the Baroque style.

Whilst St Michael's is of historic merit through its architecture and association with the English settlement of the Riviera, it also contains several fine examples of church furnishings dating from the 15th to 17th centuries.

For many though, the greater value derives from its regular liturgy of the Word and Sacrament and that

St Michael's provides a tranquil spiritual space and a welcoming place for Christian prayer and fellowship.

The award of Monument Historique status is a credit to those, past and present, who make the constant effort to keep the church in good repair, presentation and preservation for the sake of future generations.



Anglicanism in Hungary

The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus was relicensed in early August as Chaplain at Saint Margaret's, Budapest. In this article, he tells us about Anglicanism in Hungary, which celebrates Saint Stephen's Day on 20 August.

I was relicensed as Chaplain at Saint Margaret's, Budapest, on Sunday, 2 August. I am of Hungarian ancestry, came to the diocese as Chaplain in 2011 from the US Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and currently also serve as Area Dean in Central Europe. British Ambassador to

Hungary, H.E. Mr Iain Lindsay (pictured), a friend of Saint Margaret's, attended the ceremony along with his wife Bridget and administered the oath of office. The Saint Margaret's community, like so many of our Diocese's congregations, is international in make-up, with members coming from the UK, Hungary, Africa, North America, and elsewhere.

The service was held outdoors on the beautiful grounds of the Protestáns Szakkollégium, a residence hall for Lutheran and Reformed Church university students located in the hills above Budapest.

I have been invited to write about Christian faith in Hungary and the place of Anglicanism within it. Hungary is predominantly Roman Catholic but with significant minorities of Reformed/Presbyterian, Lutheran, Orthodox, and Baptist, among others. Perhaps uniquely in the European Union, the Hungarian State recognises some thirty official, or established, churches, of which Saint Margaret's and the Anglican Communion is one. This gives the Church stature in Hungarian society as well as access to the Hungarian Church Tax Scheme, through which taxpayers, at their discretion, may give 1% of their tax duty to the Church at no additional cost to themselves. This has been immensely beneficial to Saint Margaret's

Anglicans are attested in Hungary as far back as the late nineteenth century, mostly business-people and, interestingly, English equestrians engaged by the nobility at the time. Worship remained a bit sporadic during Communist rule with a cleric coming to Budapest periodically from Vienna. Our current Saint Margaret's community was founded in 1992 by the Rev. Canon Denis Moss. He and his wife, Maria, continue to live in Hungary in retirement near Lake Balaton. About one-third of our current community is British, and another third, Hungarian. We have a number of members from the nations of Africa and from North America as well.

Saint Stephen and Hungary

There is an annual ecumenical service held on the eve, or vigil, of Saint Stephen's Day, which in Hungary is celebrated on 20 August. This is typically well attended by leaders of the Churches, often including Cardinal Péter Erdo who is Cardinal of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, and Primate of Hungary. Government ministers also usually attend. Bishop David represented the Anglican Communion at this event some years ago. Sadly, in current circumstances, I was not present this year.

The origin of the Hungarian peoples is still debated among scholars. During the great migrations of peoples following the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Hungarian tribes eventually made their way from Central Asia to the Carpathian Basin, settling there over the course of the tenth century. To this day, they retain their unique Magyar language, only distantly related to Finnish, Estonian, and Sami. However, Hungarian is not mutually intelligible with any other language.

Saint Stephen, an early tribal leader and king, established the Hungarian State at the end of the tenth century, having been made king in the year 1000, according to legend with a crown provided by the pope. The crown is still on display in the iconic Hungarian Parliament building along the Danube. Saint Margaret of Scotland, of the pre-Norman English royal family, our patronal saint, is reputed to have been born in exile in an ancient castle at Mecsekánadasd in southern Hungary. Stephen is universally considered to have

been a good king, and Hungary flourished at various times during the Middle Ages. Over the centuries, however, it has been invaded, and sometimes devastated, by Mongols, Turks, Austrians, Germans, and Russians. Some see this somewhat tortured history as an explanation of a perceived wariness of outsiders among some Hungarians. Personally, I am not so sure. Hungarians are a pretty friendly bunch.

Saint Stephen's Day in Hungary is celebrated on 20 August.

Hungary Today

Today, Hungary is an integral part of the European Union with a population of just under ten million. In many ways, it is still emerging from the decades under Communism following World War II. Roughly a third of the populace lives in or near Budapest, a vibrant commercial and logistics hub for Central Europe. The countryside is renowned for its unique central flatlands and farms, called in Hungarian the Alföld or Puszta. As is common in much of Central Europe, society here is considerably more conservative in customs and politics than in most of Western Europe. In the popular mind, Hungary remains perhaps best known for Budapest, its beautiful capital and an architectural gem; its notoriously difficult language; and its spicy cuisine and fruity wines.

In terms of the current challenges of covid-19, Hungary reacted early and quickly to the pandemic and, after weeks of strict quarantine, now has emerged with relatively few cases.

Find out more about the life of Saint Margaret's Anglican & Episcopal Church on their website.

I feel very blessed to be Chaplain in this wonderful city and to be a part of the Diocese in Europe.

Given that I am well into my seventies, I can honestly say that in my case God has certainly saved the best for last.

Köszönöm szépen (thank you very much!) to Fr. Frank for this article.

[Subscribe to see their latest chaplaincy newsletter here.](#)



The Friends' Annual Service & Celebration 2020



The day for the Friends' Virtual Service and Event (20 October) with the theme Vocation and Service had finally arrived. It was a first for the Friends and there were more than a few butterflies (mostly mine) dancing around as the active participants gathered pre-service to check presence (fast messages to missing persons) connectivity, sound, visuals (too close/not close enough to the screen) and be given last minute instructions by the very able Technical Co-ordinator aka the Diocesan Secretary, Andrew Caspari. There is no way of knowing but something similar must go on in any church vestry before a service. Pre-service beautiful music was provided by the new organist of St Matthew's, Westminster, who generously allowed use of some of his recordings. As the start time approached, more and more people were seen to be joining: a relief to know that there would be a congregation after all. Fifty-five people attended.

Welcomes were extended by Bishop Robert before he handed over to Bishop David to introduce the Liturgy, which was led by the Chaplain of St George's, Malaga, Fr. Louis Darrant, who had written it for this special occasion.

The Friends had supported the Ministry Experience Scheme with grants so to have Dr Clare Amos, the Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship give the background and current status of the scheme was enlightening. Two of the participants in the scheme, now interns in the diocese, Rebecca Mathen from Brussels and Chaja Verkerk in Rome, spoke with enthusiasm and obvious excitement about their journey thus far and their placements. Every good wish goes to them as they continue to explore their sense of vocation. They answered questions put to them by the congregation with candor and confidence. There are four more interns placed in the diocese of equal talent.

Along with other funding partners, the Friends are to support the long-awaited initiative for stipendiary title

posts (curacies) in the diocese from 2021 for three years. Andrew Caspari, the Diocesan Secretary and Bishop Robert were able to give an upbeat progress report.

Damian Thwaites, Bishop's Attaché to the European Institutions and Director of Communications gave an update on Brexit. Noting that future residency rights in the EU has been the most commonly raised concern among people in the diocese, he outlined the launch on 12 October a £250,000 diocesan Residency Support Project to help UK Nationals in France, fully funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. This Project is offering services free of charge to support people who may need additional help applying for residency, notably the elderly and vulnerable. The Project website at www.frenchresidency.org has further information, including contact details, and links to official Government guidance as well as other resources.

As is normal in church-type events, there were announcements and updates from the Chairman of the Friends, Mark Pellew before moving on to the closing prayers and the Blessing.

By technical wizardry, the gathered congregation were split into groups for chats and refreshments (only if you had remembered to bring a thermos flask or glass of wine).

At this time when everyone's life has been very much restricted it was amazing that this remarkable diocese was able to gather people from the UK, mainland Europe and perhaps even beyond helping to expand horizons, bring a sense of much needed joy and togetherness as well as optimism for the future of the Church.

Jeanne French - Honorary Secretary

Diocese leads Church of England weekly online service

Christians in the UK joined in worship with their brothers and sisters across Europe and beyond as the [Church of England's weekly online service](#) was led by the diocese in Europe on 26 July.

The service for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity was broadcast on YouTube, Facebook, and the Church of England's website. It centred around a message that separation and isolation - even after months of lockdown and distancing measures - can be overcome through God. Here is the YouTube link to the Diocese in Europe service.

Bishop Robert introduced the service, talking about the historical and contemporary life and work of the Diocese in Europe, and how we serve over 300 congregations across 150 chaplaincies in continental Europe, Russia, Turkey and Morocco.

Filmed at the The Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Brussels service worship was led by The Revd Fiona Simon, Associate Chaplain.

The Ven. Dr Paul Vrolijk, Archdeacon of North West Europe and Senior Chaplain at Holy Trinity Brussels preached. In his sermon, Archdeacon Paul spoke about the experience of people separated from family and friends for months during the current pandemic.

Preaching from the final section of Romans 8, which says that nothing can separate us from the love of God, he said:



"I hope that at this moment you may feel connected to the God who loves you as we together listen to God's word, as we pray and worship together, as we hear the Eucharistic prayer and join spiritual communion."

"That the Holy Spirit may give you that encouragement and assurance; whether we face illness, or lock-down or isolation or job loss or uncertainty we may know that suffering will not conquer hope; that death will not conquer life; separation is never final."

Prayers were led by Ozichi Baron, a licensed lay reader, and the readings were given by the churchwarden Nicholas Deliyanakis and Jaddua Solomon Abraham.

Gayl Russell, who runs Holy Trinity's community kitchen, spoke about the work of the project which now feeds up to 500 people a week including refugees and homeless people in Brussels.

National Church Digital Communications team have told us this week that, across Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, there have been 19,000 views of our service so far of some length, and that the service trailer has been seen 85,000 times across social media platforms.

Bishop Robert said:

"I am delighted our diocese was given this opportunity to record a Church of England weekly online service, which has enabled us communicate the diversity of who we are, and what do, reaching a truly global audience online. I am very grateful to friends at Holy Trinity for all their hard work and contributions to making this project a great success."

Safeguarding: IICSA

On 7 October, Bishops Robert and David wrote to the diocese:

We address this letter first and foremost to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, and share it, as an open letter with everyone in the diocese.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) yesterday published its Investigation Report on the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

Our words today cannot express deeply enough our sorrow and sadness that you have suffered abuse. We are truly sorry that the publication of this Report may itself cause renewed pain for you. We do not claim to understand the depth of your hurt, pain and suffering. We do not doubt the sense of injustice you are wholly entitled to feel at the failure of the Church to listen, respond or act. Child sexual abuse is a disfiguring violation of human dignity. Wherever abuse concerns Church Officers, you have been betrayed by their actions as perpetrators of this abuse. The IICSA Report states emphatically that, as an organisation, the Church has failed to care for you.

We offer you today our unqualified apologies.

Some victims and survivors have disclosed the abuse they have suffered. Others continue to suffer in silence and find their life situations a burden that must be unimaginably hard to bear. It has been possible for some to be able to rebuild shattered lives. But we recognise that for all who have suffered abuse, the memory of lived experience is lifelong, and that survivors may feel a need to access support at any point.

We assure you of this, as we lead and pastor in the Diocese in Europe:

We will listen. We will respond. We will act.

We cannot truly be Church in the Spirit of Christ if we are not Safe Church. We will listen. If you wish to report abuse in the past by Church Officers in the Diocese in Europe, or if you wish to report any concern regarding abuse in our diocese that may be happening now, we urge you to be in touch with us. The length of time since reported abuse is no barrier – we want to hear from you.

Please be assured also that we are ready to receive any reports of child abuse, wherever they may have been committed.

We will respond. We will offer you the support you need in the diocese. [Our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and her team](#) are ready to help you, providing advice in the strictest confidence. [Safe Spaces](#) is a free, national support service independently run by Victim Support and was launched last week. It provides a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with the Church of England. The national Church has also approved a proposed plan for an interim pilot support scheme for survivors and is preparing to put in place a reparations fund for victims and survivors of abuse perpetrated by Church Officers.

In the diocese, we are engaged [currently in recruiting more senior independent members](#) on our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee. We are working to ensure everyone will know how and where to access appropriate local support and services available, as well as from our Safeguarding team. We will be working with chaplaincies on gathering this information. We will also assess future safeguarding training needs in the diocese, specifically to support better the needs of victims and survivors. We will work as swiftly as we possibly can in the diocese to provide consolidated guidance on these areas.

We will act. The diocese has taken decisive action in previous cases of abuse against children by Church Officers, following Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, and including fullest co-operation with police and law enforcement authorities in and beyond this diocese. There have been cases of criminal conviction. We will continue to pursue all investigations regarding cases in the diocese, ensuring due process in the diocese is followed to its conclusion.

In the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 12:2 Jesus says, “there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.”

We pray and hope fervently that all who are suffering from the impact of abuse will feel able and guided to walk into Christ’s light, by disclosing what has happened to you.

IICSA’s Investigation Report on the Church of England reveals a situation that requires not just that we respond well, but that we respond in the best possible way to you, in an effort to bring some measure of support and comfort to you who have endured the worst early life experiences.

“

We are all working together across the diocese to make the Church a safer place.

Safeguarding: Interview with Di Smith

In an interview published on 20 July, Di Smith talks about her roles as Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee, and the Past Cases Review 2 Reference Group.

What is the Independent Chair’s role?

The role of the Independent Chair is important in ensuring that the safeguarding provision within the diocese is secure and subject to robust and independent scrutiny. As Independent Chair I am a critical friend, supporting and encouraging as appropriate, but also providing challenge when necessary.

Tell us about your safeguarding experience.

I have worked within Education and Children’s Services for over forty years. In the early part of my career I taught in schools and was Deputy Head of a special school and Headteacher of an inner city primary. Throughout my career I have worked to improve the life chances of vulnerable children and young people. I have held the statutory role of Director of Children’s Services in four local authorities

with responsibility for ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people.

For the past 10 years I have worked as consultant in different parts of England supporting local areas to improve safeguarding and services to children and young people. In recent years I have taken on a number of chairing roles including Independent Chair of a Safeguarding Children Board and Independent Chair of a Children’s Services Improvement Board. I am also the Safeguarding Trustee for the Children’s Society.

What does the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee (DSAC) do?

The purpose of the DSAC is to provide advice, strategic support and guidance to the Diocesan Bishop and his staff in respect of safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

It also provides advice to the Bishop and Diocesan staff about action to be taken in difficult cases. This is likely to include provisions for setting up a Core Group when needed. It is also responsible for reviewing cases retrospectively in order to identify any lessons that need to be learned.

Why is the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) so important?

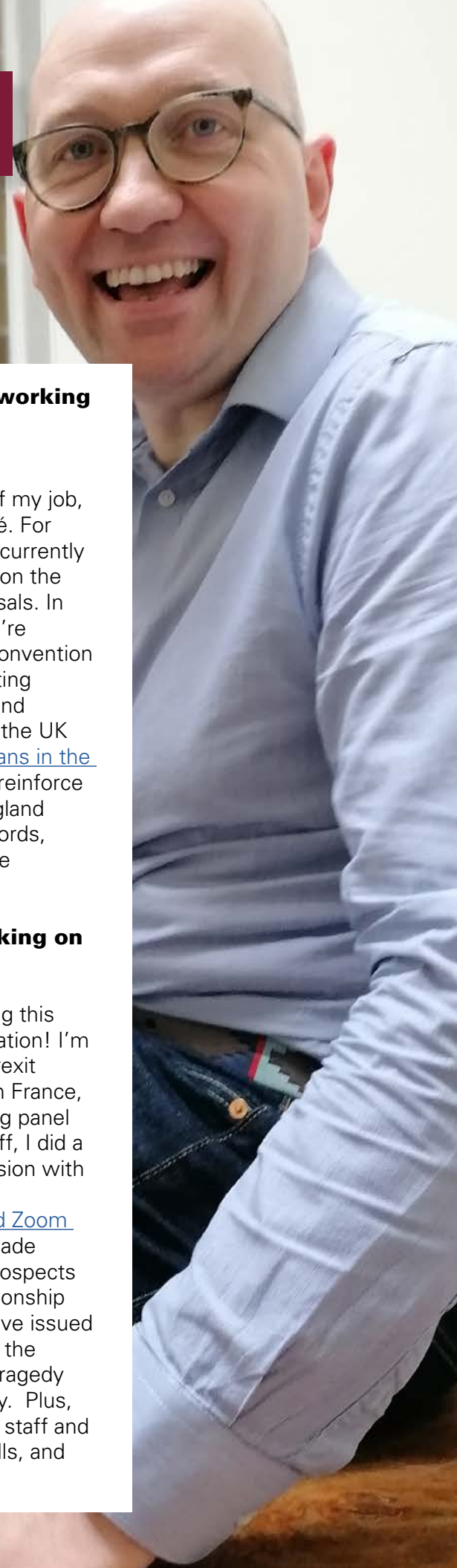
PCR2 is an important part of the Church’s overall commitment to improving the way we respond to allegations and concerns. It is an essential step in making the Church a safer place for all and demonstrates a commitment to responding well to all survivors of abuse.

The overall purpose of PCR2 is to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled, and to provide recommendations to the Church of England that will lead to improvements in its response to allegations of abuse and in its overall safeguarding working practices.

What is the most rewarding thing about the work you do for the diocese?

The most rewarding thing is working with a knowledgeable and experienced team who are committed to ensuring that the Diocese in Europe continues to develop and improve its safeguarding arrangements. We are all working together with the support of chaplaincies across the diocese to make the Church a safer place for all.

From the Director's Chair



EA zooms in for a chat with EA Editor and Diocesan Director of Communications, Damian Thwaites. Damian joined the Diocese in October 2018.

EA: How does working for the Foreign Office compare with working for the Diocese in Europe?

DT: They are both similar and different. I worked on EU/wider Europe, Russia and Turkey relations before trading places after 17 years to join the diocese, so the coverage mirrors the geographical area of the diocese. The key difference is that, whilst governments may change parties, priorities (and their comms lines ...), as Church we have an ongoing, unchanging mission to tell and share the same good news every day.

EA: What does a Director of Communications do...?

DT: My first Director in Whitehall was asked this question and replied, "Well, I er, direct ...!". I cover three main areas. I'm the Bishops' media spokesman, briefing journalists and arranging media for them, to get across our diocesan public messages. I determine our digital content and output published on the diocesan website and social media. I also look after diocesan comms on safeguarding. I'm part of a network of 42 Comms Directors linking Church of England Dioceses and the National Church Institutions.

EA: What is your role working with the European Institutions ...?

DT: That's the other half of my job, as Bishop Robert's attaché. For example, we're engaging currently with ecumenical partners on the latest EU migration proposals. In the Council of Europe, we're working on the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, which the UK has not ratified. [As Anglicans in the European Institutions](#) we reinforce the work of Church of England bishops in the House of Lords, including as they scrutinise legislation.

EA: What are you working on this week?

DT: I start by saying getting this magazine ready for publication! I'm liaising closely with the [Brexit Residency Project Team](#) in France, I've sat on the interviewing panel for a post on diocesan staff, I did a social media planning session with a chaplaincy, and finalised [Diocesan social media and Zoom training plans](#). I've also made headway on a paper on prospects for the UK/EU future relationship talks – to be continued! I've issued two press statements, on the English Channel refugee tragedy and the Nice atrocity today. Plus, there have been diocesan staff and other Zoom and phone calls, and the daily inbox challenge.

EA: How has covid-19 impacted diocesan comms?

DT: Massively. We were planning to become a more digital diocese. But covid-19 lockdown created demands on us instantly, in terms of guidance needs, and the ability to communicate digitally.

EA: What's going well?

DT: Deciding swiftly on a large-scale teleconferencing solution on Zoom has enabled our highly successful pan-diocesan services and events to bring us together. We've been able to flex our [covid website coverage](#), and developed both our EA magazine and [e-News](#). It's great to have made our ['Diocese in Lockdown' video](#). Finally, the agility, determination and responsiveness of chaplaincies across media at their disposal are amazing. It's a real privilege.

It's a real privilege to contribute to chaplaincy online services.

EA: If diocesan comms were a set of traffic lights, where would we be?

That's easy, at least in one sense... We're on Amber! Amber Jackson (pictured) is a qualified graphic designer and film editor, and has been supporting our comms since early June. You're seeing the calibre of her work in this magazine design, watching our YouTube videos, and our developing Facebook and Instagram profiles. However, as Bishop Robert said in our last EA, we do need more support. Most dioceses have 3 full time comms staff. We currently total 1, with supporting volunteers. I very much hope our current external funding bids for an uplift will be successful. In the meantime, if there is anyone across the diocese volunteering professional skills in preparing and/or editing copy for our great stories for the website, please contact me – call, email, Whatsapp, message by carrier pigeon, any means possible!



EA: Where do you think we need to go next on our diocesan comms?

DT: Last weekend, I joined some sessions at the [national Church Digital Labs conference](#). The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell underlined we're working in transformational space and time. We're not just "pointing a camera at a Church service", we're engaging with a range of audiences online. Some people are adapting to online worship having known physical services. Other people we're reaching have never joined us at a church event before. We need the right comms to welcome everyone. I'm sure how we deliver our diocesan comms will continue to change into 2021.

I'm sure how we deliver our diocesan comms will continue to change into 2021.

EA: Which one passage of Scripture gives you comfort and joy as we begin to look towards Advent and Christmas?

DT: For Christmas joy, I will always say John 1:1-14 on the great mystery of the incarnation and the light of Christ in our lives.

EA: What is your 'elevator pitch' as lockdown returns across Europe?

DT: I think we should work on building up, in all senses; caring for self and others; striving to be resilient, while remaining disciplined in the ways we choose to communicate with each other; and understanding in what we expect from each other, through such challenging times. Our work patterns and home situations may differ, but I'm sure we need to resist the on-screen traps of "Zoom all day, and email into the night". The Belgian PM is surely right when he said "our fate is in each others' hands. Look after yourselves, and each other."

EA: How are you surviving lockdown living and working at home?

DT: This trio seems to be working so far... Taking daily afternoon tea for civilised refreshment, very occasionally enhanced physical distancing of our two small boys when there's a little too much "excitement", and family walks whenever we can to get some outdoor deconfinement!



Jubilee for the Earth

The Diocese in Europe service Celebrating God's Creation.

Archdeacon David Waller writes:

For some years now the Church of England has celebrated the Gift of God's creation in the season from the beginning of September up until the beginning of October. It begins around the time of year when Church of England parishes and chaplaincies have traditionally given thanks to God for the annual round of creation's beauty in harvest festival services. It ends on the 4 October when we recall the life of St. Francis of Assisi a saint so often associated with a love of creation.

This year the Diocese in Europe took this season to heart as we joined in with the rest of the Church of England looking at the theme for 2020 – 'Jubilee for the Earth'. In particular, as a diocese, we offered an act of worship online back in late September and people from many different parts of our geographically diverse Christian family took part via the now familiar medium of Zoom.

Bishop Nick Holtam (of Salisbury) is the lead bishop for environmental issues for the Church of England and he preached at the service. He reminded us of the Pope's encyclical entitled 'Laudato Si' (meaning, 'Praise be to you') and subtitled 'On care for our common home' which encouraged us to think together about care for "this blue planet where we all live."

Bishop Nick told us; "Like the Coronavirus, the care of God's creation is global and requires us to act together. In these strange times we have felt the earth breathe and the air clear, a bit like a Jubilee for the earth, a sabbath rest, slowing the pace of life and limiting our consumption." The service included two short presentations by The Revd Stephen Murray (Chaplain at St John the Evangelist, Ghent) and Richard King (Chaplaincy at Bern) offering a view of their individual journeys towards a greater care for the Earth and these were both very moving.

We heard readings from Genesis and St. John, a confession based on part of Leviticus, and intercessions led by our Diocesan Environment Officer, The Revd Elizabeth Bussmann. About 135 people took part, on Zoom from Moscow to Madeira, Helsinki to Casablanca and stops in between! and the service was livestreamed on Diocesan Youtube.

This Creationtide service was a part of the wider response of our Diocesan family to God's calling to better care for the home that we all share. There is a growing network of archdeaconry representatives being nurtured in order to act as a route to disseminate information and to survey what is already happening locally.

We have voted to work towards becoming an 'eco-diocese'.

Through the good offices of the charity ARocha, and via their [website](#), individual chaplaincies can sign up to take an '[eco-audit](#)' of what we are already doing and where we can improve. Chaplaincies can be awarded a bronze, silver or gold award depending on what part of the journey we are on.

The Church of England has also agreed to become net zero carbon neutral by the year 2030, and a small group are gathering in order to help suggest a way forward for us as we respond to this great challenge. We have a unique carbon footprint given our oft need for travel and the many differing national requirements we need to adhere to as a diocese.

For more information, visit the updated section of the [diocesan Website](#) or by getting in touch with Elizabeth Bussmann at mebussmann-morton@bluewin.ch

Watch our 18 September service here



Fr. Russ Ruffino shares this ordination anniversary story from Sicily:

On 16 July, Padre Giovanni La Rosa the Chaplain of the Church of Saint Albert, Randazzo, Sicily, celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

This may not be a very significant milestone, but his personal spiritual journey and his ministry here in Sicily are a historic adventure in our Diocese.

Padre Giovanni was ordained in the Roman Catholic Church and in Holy Week, 2017 he was received by Bishop David as a priest of the Church of England. When Padre Giovanni left the ministry in the Roman Catholic Church and found his home among us, people followed him, and together they formed an Anglican community in Randazzo.

In November 2016, Father Russ Ruffino, locum at Holy Cross Church, Palermo authorized by Bishop David, received the congregation of 40 faithful into the Church of England. You can read about this service in this Diocese in Europe web story with a picture below. At the foot of Mount Etna they are the first and only Church of England Italian-Anglican community in Italy.

In addition to his challenging pastoral ministry Padre Giovanni is very active and most welcome in the ecumenical events and activities in the area; he also works with families with disabled children; he also occasionally provides assistance to Holy Cross, filling in for the locum on Sunday's and performing weddings.

Congratulations and Molte Grazie, Padre Giovanni. [Pictures can be found here >>](#)



Padre Giovanni La Rosa the Chaplain of the Church of Saint Albert, Randazzo, Sicily (story left)



The Revd Paula Clifford, St Luke's, Fontainebleau as she was licensed Interim Ministry Chaplain by Archdeacon Meurig on 4 October.



Congratulations to The Revd Stephen Murray who became Canon Stephen on 25 September, at a service led by Bishop Robert.

Click here to view the Residency Support Project website

Diocese launches Residency Support Project to help UK Nationals in France

On 12 October, the diocese launched a £250,000 project to support UK nationals living in France with residency permit applications. The award has been made under the UK Nationals Support Fund Programme (UKNSF) for projects across EU and EFTA member states, administered by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Under the EU exit Withdrawal Agreement agreed by the EU and the UK last year, UK Nationals wishing to remain legally resident in the EU will require "settled status" by June 2021. It is estimated over 1.3M UK Nationals currently live in the EU, including over 400,000 in France.

Damian Thwaites, Bishop Robert's Attaché to the European Institutions and Diocesan Director of Communications, has been leading the development of this Diocesan project. He said:

"Our launch marks a key implementing step for work that began last September to plan and prepare a project bid, particularly around the constraints of covid-19, and negotiate a delivery contract.

From the start, we wanted to focus effort on the people whose needs would be greatest, supported by our network of Anglican chaplaincies and congregations that could have the biggest impact in helping UK Nationals to apply for residency.

The huge amount of work that has gone into digital project design, delivery and operational set up by our initial project team, in such a short space of time, has been fantastic."

The French authorities launched an online portal on 19 October, and a French Government decree with more detail on the process and its requirements

is also expected to issue in November. This additional information which will enable our full range of project services to be rolled out, including a Helpline. The [Project website](#) provides with official Government guidance, an online contact form is already helping enquirers to get advice they need, and there is also residency needs survey for UK Nationals seeking assistance from the Project.

The diocese is one of eight voluntary organisations that have received grant awards under the UK Nationals Support Fund Programme (UKNSF). In France, we shall be working closely alongside SSAFA France, who support Armed Forces veterans and their families, the International Office for Migration (IOM), and the Franco-British Network. Our project is also reaching out to existing citizens' groups working in France.

[The British Embassy](#) and Consulates in France are working closely alongside UKNSF projects. They will continue to deliver their normal consular services for UK Nationals.

Bishop Robert said:

"I am delighted to launch our Diocese in Europe Residency Support project to help UK Nationals in France.

The ability to remain legally resident has been the biggest post-Brexit concern among people who have contacted our diocese over the past year.

I recognise the prospect of applying for residency is a truly daunting one for people right across the diocese, particularly when deadlines are tight. And it can be particularly tough for older and isolated people, for whom our service is especially intended.

So we hope our new service with its friendly helplines and web facilities will help. Let me emphasise, too, that the diocese in Europe is offering a service to all.

We're not just here for those who might join us at a Church service.

And we look forward to you being in touch."

In a [video message](#) to the [Aquitaine Chaplaincy](#), The Revd Tony Lomas said:

"For all of us who are resident in France, [Brexit] is going to mean something of an administrative upheaval and we will all, without exception, be required to obtain a new residency permit it's really encouraging that our Church is taking such a pro-active approach to helping the British community in Nouvelle-Aquitaine."

Spain

The diocese is also supporting the work of another project under the UKNSF helping UK Nationals in Spain. It is being run by Age in Spain a voluntary organisation focused on meeting the needs of the 65+ age bracket. Their operations are underway in mainland Spain, Balearic and the Canary Islands. "Given our shared focus on helping elderly people, we're encouraging friends in our chaplaincies across Spain to offer support to Age in Spain's effort," said Damian.

The full list of eight organisations across EU/EFTA who are providing support under the UKNSF Programme [can be found here](#).

We will keep you updated on our UKNSF project. In the meantime, if you're in France **please spread the word** in your chaplaincies about [this project](#), especially among those who may need the services it offers. Please do also sign-post people in your chaplaincies to the work UKNSF organisations above are doing across the EU and EFTA.



Going (more) digital!

We know many of you like to use Facebook in chaplaincies across the diocese and we want to use our social media as effectively as possible to reach people in our diocese, the wider Church, and beyond.

That's why we've started posting again on Diocesan Facebook. We've shared our diocese in lockdown video for the Facebook audience. Look out for more posts on other stories this week. **Follow us by clicking the links highlighted above.**

Guidance on use

We want to re-establish Facebook as a social media forum that is a positive and attractive space for us to share our vibrant diocesan life together. Please help us to keep it this way.

Here is a link to guidance published by Facebook on its ["Community Standards"](#).

The diocese also uses other social media platforms including Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Here are hyperlinks to guidance on the use of their platforms:

- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Instagram](#)

We also encourage sign up to the Church of England's [digital charter](#), which is a voluntary pledge encouraging individual Christians as well as churches to sign to help make social media and the web more widely positive places for conversations to happen.

We monitor our Diocesan social media platforms, and have taken action against inappropriate or offensive comment or imagery posted, including their removal.

Please follow us, by clicking the links highlighted above.

We have also re-launched an online bulletin. This is a new look online bulletin that gives you bite size updates on what's going on across the Diocese, sharing website coverage, social media, blogs and other comms. We plan to issue it monthly.

You can [subscribe to e-News](#) via this website link, which will notify you once a month when we publish an issue.

Social Media Training

In this series of free lunchtime webinars running from 18 Nov-2 Dec, we look at different ways your church can use digital communications to keep connected with those who attend your services and events, as well as reach.

[Course content and information can be found here.](#)

As in 2019, Amber Jackson will be the trainer for these sessions. This year we'll cover Zoom, too! Amber has a previously led social media training for the diocese and supports us with our digital communications.

On 2 December, Damian and Amber will offer a session on chaplaincy social media planning.

You can book to attend our training sessions on [Eventbrite](#).

Click here to subscribe to our e-news

Sermons for Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2020:

Written by The Revd Canon Leonard Doolan & Reviewed By The Revd James Buxton

Those who have the privilege of preaching have had a very unusual year so far. Like this reviewer we have probably had to learn new technological skills, and a different manner in order to lead worship and preach online. During this crisis preachers have had to choose words which speak into a situation none of us have ever faced before, as we have striven to give encouragement and inspiration to our congregations.

Fr Leonard Doolan, Anglican Chaplain in Athens has shared this experience with us in his volume of sermons for Lent Holy Week and Easter 2020: 'Easter-Virtual and Viral'. Leonard was quick to notice how grave the crisis was, predicting in his sermon for Lent 1, that churches around the world might have to be closed down in the very near future, as indeed they mostly were, by a couple of weeks later.

Leonard takes us through Sunday by Sunday from Lent 1 to Pentecost. This year (Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary) we had long readings from St John's gospel in Lent, including the account of Jesus's meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well, and the raising of Lazarus. These wonderful accounts gave Leonard the opportunity to prepare his on-line congregation for the experience of celebrating Holy Week and Easter in the virtual context of 2020.

I greatly appreciated reading these sermons and wished I had had them by my side during the crisis to aid my own reflections. Leonard is a classical Anglican preacher. In 'Easter – Virtual and Viral', he brings to bear the gospel texts on the issues of the day. He helps his readers to interpret their experience of the pandemic, and through those experience to relate to Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Leonard's love of the Greek Orthodox church also shines through, so that we benefit from insights from that tradition.

I found this bringing together of different strands in these sermons profoundly helpful.

In his sermon for Easter Day, for example, Leonard preached powerfully of how the risen Christ lifts us out of our isolation and brings into the presence of God:

'If anything the infliction of this current social isolation is helping us to understand what it is that Christ is doing for us on the cross – he is defeating human isolation from God; he is restoring us to new life, to health renewed, to community healed, to confidence in God regained. In faith Christ bursts forth from the lockdown. In faith the cross reconciles us to God, and God to us. We have a new identity, and a new dignity'.

'Easter – Virtual and Viral' is a great resource for Christian reflection on the seasons of Lent and Easter, and in years to come it will stand as a reminder of the particular insights and encouragement which this preacher gave in this unique season. However, these sermons do not only address the individual Christian. This series also amounts to a call to the Church to recognize that covid-19 has changed the world for ever, and demands a response. As Leonard writes in his epilogue,

'The ecological and environmental conscience has been making an impact for some decades now. My own prayer, and I hope that of many others, is that we will not merely think of this as a transactional challenge 'to be better managed in the future' but rather as a clear direction towards the 'sacred' – towards a sacred Creation in which sacred humanity has sacred obligations of love and tending'.

I commend this distinctively Anglican response to the pandemic. It is humane, and passionate. It is rooted in gospel insights. It gives encouragement and challenge to the believer, and marks a unique and tragic moment in human history.

[More information on this book can be found here](#)