

The Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Diocese in Europe - Archdeaconry of North West Europe Archdeaconry Synod held in B-Drongen 8-10 October 2015 AGM Report

Note: The Archdeaconry is made up of chaplaincies in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Members attending (estimate): Clergy 28 (including the Rev'd Chris Lyon, Rev'd Andy Markey and Bishop Robert Innes)
Laity 48 (including Moira Hogg and John Overstall)
Guests 5

Proceedings:

8 October. Synod was addressed by the Revd Dr Guy Lingre, General Secretary of the Council of European Churches, on **"Forging our future, European Churches on a pilgrimage of justice and peace"**.

9 October. The Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Reverend Dr Robert Innes, spoke on working together in faith, a strategy for the Diocese. Our common purpose involved knowing ourselves to be the children of God and our calling to love God and our neighbour and our sharing in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our tasks included:

The building up of the body of Christ and fostering growth

- By responding to the vocation of all baptised
- By deepening our faith especially in prayer and worship
- By teaching the faith
- By nurturing new disciples.

Sharing with other churches in the evangelisation of Europe

- By proclaiming the good news
- By valuing and promoting a culture which welcomed, through invitation and hospitality
- By seeking opportunities for growth.

Striving for the creation of a just society and a sustainable environment

- By defending the poor, the disadvantaged and those in need
- By promoting the discipline and culture of safeguarding
- By combating slavery and human trafficking
- By challenging the comfortable
- By encouraging care for creation.

Working for reconciliation

- Within the church
- Among nations, ethnicities and religions
- Through engagement with European and international institutions.

Resourcing

- Stewardship of gifts and talents
- Increasing the number of full time clergy and candidates for the ordained ministry
- Focus on recruitment, retention and resources.

Members split into groups to continue discussion and reflection and to make comments.

Vocations:

The Ministerial team was chaired by the Suffragan Bishop, the Rt Reverend Dr David Hamid. It included an administrator and the area vocations adviser. Matters taken into account included the personality and character of candidates, especially whether they were realistic, informed and obedient.

An annual vocational seminar took place in Woking. The candidate paid for a proportion of the costs. Generally there were 16 candidates divided into two groups all of whom had been proposed by the Diocesan Bishop. If selected, and if the candidate was under 35 years, he/she would be asked to attend a residential theological course but if over 35 would attend the Eastern Region Ministry Course. Those under 35 would be released by the Diocese in Europe to an English Diocese. Stipendary posts in the Diocese in Europe were not on offer as a general rule.

John Overstall