



**Diocese
in Europe**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

*The Church of England worshipping in Word and Sacrament at Lago Jardín, Los Balcones and La Siesta and ministering through the southern Costa Blanca and eastern Murcia.
A truly Eucharistic community of faith and love.*

Chaplain (equivalent of Parish Priest):

Father Richard A. Seabrook SSC

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Chaplaincy Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja>

Chaplain's Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja/>

FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23rd July 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**WELCOME TO THE CHAPLAINCY OF SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN
THIS CHAPLAINCY.**

Please remember to turn off your mobile phone before our services begin. Please don't use a mobile phone in church.

Please remember to talk to God in prayer before our services begin. There is plenty of time to talk to each other afterwards. Your talking may distract someone else's praying. Please keep a devotional silence.

Father Richard's contact details are on the front of this newsletter.

Our Churchwardens are:

Peter Maude (churchwardenpeter@gmail.com)

Jennifer Saville (chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com)

They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:

Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)

The Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is:

Mary Western (honsectorrevieja@yahoo.com)

We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed at La Siesta and is available on our website:

<https://www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com/safeguarding-policy/>

Our Safeguarding Officer is Anna Horsnell who can be contacted at

safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com

The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:

Sue Maude (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com)

Our other two churches remain temporarily closed.

Home Communion

Father Richard will take Holy Communion to people at home according to their circumstances. This is a privilege and enables for prayer in the home at difficult times and for the communicant to receive Holy Communion at home. Please never hesitate to contact me if you would like Holy Communion at home if you are unable to come to church because of sickness or being housebound. Obviously Covid circumstances are taken into consideration.

Here are some guidelines to assist you:

1. If you can, please arrange a surface with a white cloth upon which I can place the Blessed Sacrament. If this is difficult please do not worry too much but it is appreciated.
2. The Priest will not enter into general conversation until after the celebration which lasts about ten minutes. Then he would appreciate a cup of tea and chat with you but if your circumstances don't allow, please do not worry.
3. Please consider giving a donation to the Church for the Priest's ministry. He will have had to drive to you and it also enables you to give your weekly collection to support the

priestly ministry in the parish / chaplaincy. This means there can be a Priest available for you and for others with a priestly presence in the parish / chaplaincy.

It is a long-established custom – if you can – to make an offering to the Church in thankfulness for the ministry of the Church.

4. You don't have to tidy up before the priest arrives! Just prepare spiritually for an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist by being prayerful before his arrival.

Father Richard writes:

Dear friends

It has been a busy June and July with Diocesan Synod in Cologne, The Readers Conference in Madrid and the Clergy Consultation at Windsor. It was an extraordinarily wonderful, challenging, and delightful experience to be at S. George's House at Windsor Castle. On *Saturday 29th July* I will say some words over refreshments at the end of the Eucharist. Please do come along if you would like to hear my reflections on the Consultation.

At the heart of the Priest's life is at the altar in the Parish / Chaplaincy and the ministry that extends from the altar in the sacramental life of the church, prayer, pastoral care, teaching, formation, the occasional offices and administration. On Tuesday 18th July I gave thanks to God for this, celebrating thirty years as a priest and sincerely thank all who shared in this joyous celebration with me. Thanks to Sue Maude for the lovely flowers in church and all her organisation – with Peter – of a memorable day. Thank you to all who came and shared in the day with me both around the Altar and at the lunch afterwards.

Thank you for a most generous gifts of 545 euros. I was not expecting a gift and when Peter and Jennifer announced the amount it was incredible. I thank them for their presentation and for the generosity of their words. It was reminder of just how far we have come *under the guidance, support, and strength of God and faithfulness at the Altar*. I give God thanks for how week by week he reveals himself to me through all of you. May the Lord bless you all.

At the end of this week's noticesheet is a report from Diocesan Synod held in June in Cologne. This gives you a flavour of where our Diocese is right now. It is long but I hope you can spend some time reading it and get to know more of the work of Diocesan Synod.

I send you warmest wishes and the assurance of my prayers, as always.

Your priest and friend,
Father Richard

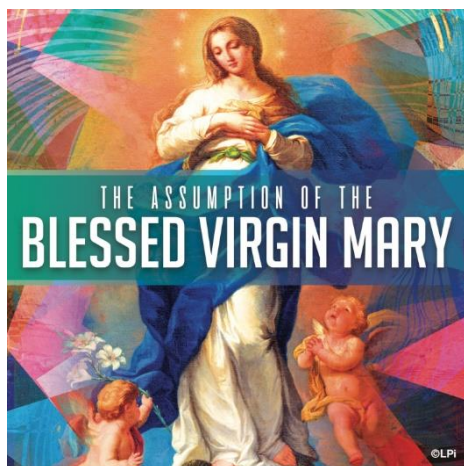
100 Club draw for June

1st prize of €30, number 17 Eugene McNab

2nd prize of €20, number 9 Anna Sage Donated to chaplaincy funds

3rd prize of €10, number 92 Anne Meek Donated to chaplaincy funds

Dates ahead:



On Tuesday 15th August the Church celebrates **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - the day when the sinless and Immaculate Virgin Mary was, at the end of her earthly life, taken body and soul in the glory of heaven. It is a day of high praise to God for the great things he has done and we celebrate with a special Mass at La Siesta at 1130 to which all are invited.

On this glad Assumption Day, honour to Our Lady pay, Holy Church salutes her guest, Maria assumpta est! Alleluya!

FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY

There are various ways of giving financially to the Chaplaincy for the work of the Church:

1. You can give in the plate each week.
2. You can join our envelope scheme to give a regular amount on a weekly basis - and set aside money for those weeks when you cannot be here.
3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy - this helps us budget more effectively.**

If you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your giving.

If you are a Spanish tax payer you can have a tax offset by notifying your accountant when arranging your yearly tax along with the Spanish bank account number who will then arrange a claim and the money will be donated back to the Chaplaincy.

One off donations would be gratefully received to assist us at this difficult time.
Thank you for your help.

For more information contact Father Richard, the Churchwardens, or your Congregational Warden.

The Chaplaincy relies on generous and sacrificial giving in response to a generous God who sacrificed his Son for us all on the cross.

Spanish Bank details. Banco Sabadell.

IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414

BSAB ESBB / Capellania Anglicana de Torrevieja

UK Bank details. Barclays Bank PLC Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13. Address : Tufton Street, London Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied. The IBAN number is: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 31 70 39.

God bless you all for your support.
Peter and Jennifer (Churchwardens)



We are always grateful for your giving to the Chaplaincy. It is the main way by which the Priestly Ministry and Chaplaincy life is sustained. Without your giving there would be no Chaplaincy. Thank you to all who give so generously.



If you don't already, please would you consider a monthly standing order to either our UK to Spanish bank accounts? This would help us enormously in our financial planning.

It means your giving happens on a regular basis and we would be so grateful for this. Think of what the Chaplaincy means not only to you but the wider church community and the Church of England presence in this area.

Please see Peter or Jennifer or send Father Richard an email if you could help. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND GENEROUSLY ABOUT THIS.



Sue's Homemade Lemon Curd and Jill's Homemade Marmalade

Sue Brassington is selling *made to order* homemade lemon curd after each service. Please see her if you would like order some. Thank you, Sue! Jill Dorsett is receiving orders for homemade marmalade. Thank you, Jill!





Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torrevieja

The Chalice containing the Precious Blood of Christ is offered for those who wish to receive it. Holy Communion is offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen** before consuming the Sacred Host. The words "The Blood of Christ" are said to which you say **Amen** before receiving from the Chalice. The Chalice is optional.

INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED.

ONGOING INFORMATION

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice.
There is a building project to renovate the church at Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. There is no indication when this will be completed.
2. La Siesta - these services will be for the whole Chaplaincy until our other churches are opened again so please make every effort to be there and support the liturgical life of the Chaplaincy.

Saturday 22 nd July	1700	
Saturday 29 th July	1700	
Sunday 6 th August	1130	
Saturday 12 th August	1700	
Tuesday 15 th August	1130	<i>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>
Sunday 20 th August	1130	
Saturday 26 th August	1700	
Sunday 3 rd September	1130	
Saturday 9 th September	1700	
Sunday 17 th September	1130	
Saturday 23 rd September	1700	
Saturday 30 th September	1700	

There is a liturgical Facebook group.

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja> and ask to join the group.
2. You will be asked three questions. Please complete them and agree to the rules of the group.

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

The Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely with Father Richard until the church re-opens.



Father Richard's Prayer List for July 2023:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Peter John, Martin Skillen, Bert Nelson, Garth Sutherland, Andrew Little, Philip Howse, Brian Smith, Jamie Hill, Carol and family, Raj Panchal, Peter Passey, Paul McNab, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, David, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Gerry Hopkins.

Please help Father Richard by letting him know when people can be taken off the prayer list.

Please pray for the recently departed:

Those killed as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.

Anne Blair RIP

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Please advise Father Richard if there are any corrections to the above list.

If you wish a name to be added to the list of the sick you need to email Father Richard or write to him giving permission for yourself or ensure permission has been granted by someone else for their name to appear on this list. (GDPR regulations).

Sunday 23rd July 2023

First reading

Wisdom 12:13,16-19

You will grant repentance after sin

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second reading

Romans 8:26-27

**The Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be
put into words**

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ep1:17,18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom

to mere children.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-43

Let them both grow till the harvest

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Homily

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven

can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Diocesan Synod, Kardinal Schulte Haus, Bergisch Gladbach, Cologne **5th- 8th June 2023**

The Bishop's Council held an extraordinary meeting in March 2023 to discuss the future pattern of synods. Virtual meetings would be more cost effective and greener but in-person meetings gave greater opportunity for building relationships and having more in-depth discussions and allowed us to come together as The Body of Christ.

It was voted by a strong majority to hold this synod in-person so that the matter could be debated fully.

It should be noted that the costs for Diocesan Synod comes out of the Common Fund contributions that each chaplaincy generously pays to the Diocese.

Worship each day was Morning Prayer at 0740, Holy Eucharist at 1200, Evening Prayer at 1800, concluding with (optional) Night Prayer at 21.30

After the Opening Eucharist Bishop Robert, the Synod President, chaired the 1st session where he gave a warm welcome to members and guests.

The following are a *summary* of the reports presented over the course of synod.

- **The Anti-Bullying Policy** was presented by Revd Bruce Bryant-Scott (Crete) He said that the working party had met a few times to 'iron out' the smaller points. It will be reviewed in 2 years but monitored in between times. They will continue to implement and train with Archdeacons administrating the policy. Thankfully, bullying is not too wide spread but five cases have been dealt with so far. Our Diocesan Policy gets a gold star of approval from General Synod!

A zoom link was set up for a report from Christine Laschenko, Churchwarden of Christchurch in Kiev followed by Revd Malcolm Rogers from Moscow.

Christina said they were very grateful for everyone's prayers as they help to keep people calm. They all long for a return to normal church life and they pray to be able to stay alive and to be able to come together to praise God. Some start has been made on the rehabilitation of the country, many small things can be done to help improve daily lives.

Fr Malcolm reported that on the whole life remains fairly normal. Russian society is being mobilised for a long war. Malcolm and his wife Alison will be leaving Russia at the end of June after six years. Both reports were very touching and humbling.

- **The Presidential Address** – can be found in full on the Diocesan web-site under the report on synod.
- **Introduction to the Constitutional changes and discussion of Synod scheduling** – an introduction was given by the Registrar and the Diocesan Secretary but a fuller discussion was due to take place later in the week. Please see fuller report further down.
- **The Racial Justice Conference** from Ven Leslie Nathaniel.
- There is to be a Conference in Freiburg, Germany from 8-11 November. The working group from the Diocese sees this as part of their *continuing movement and campaign to ensure greater belonging and healing*. Some funding has been secured from USPG and other ecumenical partners. They look forward with hope and anticipation that this event would be a milestone and benchmark in the continued efforts to be with the people in their struggles. Anyone may attend it at their own cost. (Contact the Diocesan Secretary for more details if you are interested)

Bible Study over the next three mornings was led by Bishop Jo Bailey Wells (recently appointed as Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion) on set passages from Isaiah. Isaiah 6 - *God*, Isaiah 40 - *Forgiveness*, Isaiah 56 - *Extended horizons*.

- **Living in Love and Faith** led by Dr Eeva John, the CofE's Enabling Officer for the LLF Project. Sessions were held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Eeva went through the aims of the sessions which were; the journey so far, a new way of engaging and, what now and what next? Discussions had taken place for decades but it came to a head in 2017 when General Synod rejected a motion from the House of Bishops. For the next two years resources were set up, followed by two years of forming courses from the resources. Responses were collated and put into a booklet *Listening with Love and Faith*. From October to December 2022 the College of Bishops met to discern the way forward and in January 2023 the Bishops response was made public with an apology to LGBT+ people. There is a commitment to the doctrine of marriage. Singles, celibates friendships and community – how do they come together in a church? As a church and for everyone, learning has no end to our understanding of who God is. Eeva suggested 3 habits for us to develop when dealing with difference. Be Curious. Be Present. Re-imagine. In dealing with obstacles she suggested acknowledging prejudice and addressing ignorance; acknowledging fear and speaking into silence; admitting hypocrisy and paying attention to power. We were challenged to consider the obstacles at work within ourselves and our communities and to make a personal commitment to look at how we deal with people so that within our communities people are not just welcomed but valued by listening to each other and being utterly attentive to one another. Connecting – facilitating and creating a space for real conversations. There is a huge diversity across our Diocese which, despite being a wonderful gift, can be difficult. There were interactive break out periods during both sessions.
- Bishop Robert invited Fr Louis Darrant to say a few words on his role as the Diocesan Bishop's Liaison Officer for LGBT+ .

- **Caring for Creation (C4C)**– Progress on the action plan - led by Zelig Peppiette, Member of the Caring for Creation working group.
- This Policy was adopted by Synod in 2022 and although there is widespread enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of it, progress has been slower than envisaged. The progress to celebrate so far are the awards to Silver Ecochurches, the development of networks of AEOs and LEOs, the improvement of better communication about C4C and funding has been secured for a part time Net Zero Officer. The priorities from June 2023 are:
 Appoint all the remaining AEOs and LEOs to develop the networks needed.
 Have all chaplaincies register for EcoChurch.
 Collect comprehensive data across the Diocese and quantify the carbon footprint in the places where emissions are greatest.
 Increase the resources available in support of this work.
 We need to stay focused on the imperative of climate action for our faith and the love that it represents for God, creation and humanity.
- **Ministry Experience Scheme (MES)**
- The Diocese has run this scheme for several years now whereby young people, with an interest in going forward for ordination, may apply to be sponsored by a chaplaincy for up to a year in order to get an idea of working within a chaplaincy. Three members of the scheme were at synod and they each gave a brief presentation of their experience over the past year. They also took part in leading some of the Evening Prayer services. It is always a joy to listen to their experiences and their plans for the future.
- **Fundraising in chaplaincies** led by Juliet Evans, Diocesan Fundraising Advisor
- Some of the points Juliet raised were -
 Where is the role of God in our fundraising?
 Sharing good practice – improving giving mechanisms, communications
 She praised chaplaincies for what they are already doing
 It's important to check (local) rules and regulations of setting up fundraising
 If people want to give, can they do so in the way they want to?
 It is most important to Thank people for their giving.
 Juliet is happy to attend any chaplaincy CC zoom meeting to give advice on fundraising.
- **Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) and safeguarding updates** led by Ms Grace Fagan-Stewart, Diocesan Head of Safeguarding, with input from Di Smith, Chair of Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Committee via zoom.
- **PCR2**- Di Smith spoke on the completed report which had been conducted by the CofE across all Diocese. The review took longer in the Diocese due to travel restrictions caused by covid. The independent reviewers delivered their completed report to Bishop Robert in May and a summary was presented to synod. They confirmed that all the objectives of PCR2 have been met in the Diocese. All safeguarding cases have been appropriately managed and reported to statutory agencies or the police where appropriate. That the needs of any known victims have been considered and that the sources of support have been identified and offered where this is appropriate. That all identified risks have been assessed and mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.
- **Safeguarding updates** – Grace reported that the DST continues to provide a consistent safeguarding service with the team now fully staffed.

Briefings are held with the Lead SG Bishop and compliance SG checks are dealt with. There is a new leadership training course with a quality of assurance of casework and training.

The Dashboard is a tool for developing an action plan for churches to ensure compliance with safeguarding. Our archdeaconry is leading the way in its use – with 73% of chaplaincies engaging with it.

Chaplaincy SG conferences are held at regular intervals which anyone can attend. Grace expressed her thanks to all chaplaincy SGOs.

- **Meeting of Houses**

- The House of Clergy and the House of Laity hold separate meetings to discuss any relevant business.

The Chair of the House of Clergy became vacant when Revd Canon Smitha Prasadam was appointed as the next Bishop of Huddersfield. The Revd Beth Bendrey was duly elected as the new Chair.

- Informal briefings and discussion groups were held on Tuesday and Wednesday evening after general business was ended. Members were free to attend one of the following groups if they wished to.

Communications, the Lay Learning Course, Fundraising, C4C or Safeguarding.

- **Constitutional changes regarding Online meetings, The Admission of Churchwardens and the date of Annual meetings** – the Registrar, Aiden Hargreaves-Smith.

- The proposals for changes were laid before the synod for approval. These will then be forwarded to the General Synod in the next stage of the process in the summer.

The proposals are: the latest date by which Annual Meetings may be held, the Admissions of Churchwardens and the ability to conduct governance meetings online where desired.

The Constitution of the Diocese to be amended are briefly summarised as follows:

- **Annual meetings** - the latest date for these will change from 30th April to 31st May.
- **Remote meetings** – A meeting refers to; a meeting which persons may attend, speak at, vote in or otherwise participate in without any, or without all, of the persons being together in the same place. The place may be referred to as being in more than one place, including electronic, digital or virtual locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers. A person is regarded as being present at any given time if they can hear and be heard by, and where practicable, to see or be seen by the other persons present. This may include a reference to being present by electronic means, telephone conference, video conference, live webcast or live interactive streaming.

Details of how to access the meeting shall be included when it is to be a remote meeting.

- **Admission of Churchwardens** – allows for the person to appear before the Bishop (or appointed substitute) to make their prescribed declaration. This may be done by electronic means such that the Bishop (or substitute) may hear and be heard, and where practicable see and be seen.

A copy of the signed declaration to be submitted as directed.

- Bishop Robert moved a motion as follows;

The Synod approves the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Diocese embodied in the draft Scheme laid before the Synod, and to support the Bishop laying the Scheme before the General Synod, in accordance with paragraph 48 of the Constitution.

These proposals were carried with one abstention.

- **Pattern of Synod meetings**

A resolution had been put forward as follows;

Diocesan Synod requests that a working party be formed to consider the discussion at Synod based on the topics and issues raised in paper 8.2. The Working Party as outlined in the paper should report to the Standing Committee in October 2023 with specific proposals to be brought to a meeting of Diocesan Synod.

Proposed Mary Talbot, Chair of the House of Laity

Seconded by Revd Canon Smitha Prasadam, Chair of the House of Clergy

A discussion then took place with members sharing their views for/against in-person synods versus on-line meetings.

It was then voted on and agreed by a majority that a working party be formed to look at this in more depth.

- **Diocesan Communications** led by Ruth Blanco. Head of Communications.
Ruth stated that she was delighted to be a part of the DinE, she enjoys the diversity, of taking risks, the strengths which make for challenges. We are rooted in shared faith. Who are our audiences? Internally - between departments, externally - non church members.
The new web-site is now live and is an important hub for communications. The new logo is now available to download.
Check that the information of your chaplaincy is correct on A Church Near You (ACNY) .
The web-site is live and will have constant updates – please subscribe to it!
Consider adding a ‘direct’ link to the Diocesan web-site on your chaplaincy web-site .
Ruth is happy to be contacted on any issue relating to communications.
- **Youth Work in the Diocese** led by Revd Canon Stephen Murray. Youth network co-ordinator
There is a Steering Group which meets every 6-8 weeks on zoom and is comprised of Stephen, (Belgium co-ordinator), Iain Bendrey, (Portugal,Chair), Richard Bromley (UK, ICS), Sarah Tahvanainen (Finland), Mary Talbot (Switzerland), Sam Van Leer ((The Netherlands, Archdeacon) Pamela Armstrong and Caireen Stewart (The Netherlands), Celia Patterson (Spain).

The Steering Group provides vision, direction and advice for the Chair and Coordinator around the needs of Youth Ministry Network, chaplaincies and those who minister with young people within the Diocese.
Stephen explained that the Archbishops Council has seven objectives.
A younger church, a more diverse church, revitalise parishes, new Christian communities, missionary disciples, sustainability, safety and dignity.
Young people are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church now!
Youth ministry in this Diocese is in a good place.

A short video followed from Revd Iain Bendrey promoting the World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon from 1-6 August entitled Rooted in Harmony. The Archbishop of York and the Pope will be paying a visit to it.
- **The Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) was held.**
Diocesan Synod members are Directors of the Board of Finance, those elected to the Standing Committee/Bishop’s Council are also Trustees.
Mr Mike Fagan, Chair of the DBF, assisted by Andrew Caspari, COO, went through the papers presented.
These were split into sections:
 - Minutes of meetings held in 2022
 - Management accounts and Budget Forecast

- Approval of Annual report and Financial Statements
- Appointment of auditors for coming year
- Management accounts and Budget forecast
- AOB

Susan Stelfox, Head of Finance, was thanked for her work.

Below is a brief resumé of the report.

A £499k deficit had been agreed in the last budget, £397k of that had been raised so there was £103k better than budget.

95% of the Common Fund had been paid from chaplaincies.

There was some loss on investments.

The Safeguarding PCR2 reports was £70k over budget.

The National Church gave some financial assistance.

The Hardship Fund paid out £360k to 28 chaplaincies. There is £280k remaining in the fund for 2023 and beyond.

All finances were effected by Brexit, Covid, the war in Ukraine and economic crisis in general.

Chaplaincy life is beginning to get back to normal.

Electoral Roll numbers are up 8.4% from 9,284 to 10,061.

There is an increase in Baptisms, Marriages and Confirmations.

The Diocesan web-site has been totally re-vamped and is now live.

There is still a big deficit but it is a going concern.

Dependent on generosity and financial management.

The reserve position is dependent on investment performance.

To conclude – we are a Diocese rich in life and potential but challenged for cash!

- There was a short session of questions to officers before Bishop Robert thanked those who had enabled the smooth running of Synod and formally closed our time together. We concluded Synod by celebrating the Eucharist.

The team from Gibraltar Archdeaconry consists of Archdeacon David (apologies for absence due to his Sabbatical), Father Richard Seabrook (Torre Vieja) Revd Louis Darrant (Malaga) Revd Beth Bendrey (Lisbon) David Coulston (Puerta Pollenca) Joan Berry (Torre Vieja) Judith Rigby (Tenerife North) Victor Ezekiel (Tangier).

Arriving on Monday after long journeys, members gather for tea and cakes before going straight into the Opening Eucharist service and the first of many sessions.

The days start at 07.40 and generally most business sessions end at 20.30 apart from when the optional informal meetings take place which go on until 21.30.

They are intense days of Bible Study and business sessions interspersed with meaningful worshipand meals! (If you are an Archdeaconry Synod rep you will understand exactly how it is)

A lot of recent discussions revolve around holding in-person meetings or virtual ones. There is a great deal to take into consideration but we think, on the whole, that team Gibraltar favour the in-person synod.

Many people gather in the bar for a glass of something at the end of the day and we all feel that that is when the 'real business' is dealt with as we discuss in more depth what we have dealt with that day or talk about our chaplaincy life or the church as a whole. We get the opportunity to get to know one another better by having full meaningful conversations. This truly cannot be achieved in a virtual meeting.

Judith Rigby and Joan Berry on behalf of team Gibraltar.



The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary, (as above)

And the Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, (as above)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of thy son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by His + cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**