



Santa Margarita

REPORT FROM THE ARCHDEACONRY OF GIBRALTAR SYNOD 2016



The Archdeaconry of Gibraltar Synod of 2016 was again held at the Hotel La Zenia in Torrevieja from Monday 1st – Friday 5th February 2016. Santa Margarita again sent us, her two representatives, together with Revd. Paul plus Kate as a visitor. Unfortunately, best laid plans do not always succeed as sadly, learning of the sudden death of a long-standing church member, Peter Riley, Revd. Paul remained ‘on-island’ and did not make the first day of Synod, but joined Kate and everyone on the second day. Getting to La Zenia involved a car to Mahon airport, a flight to Barcelona, a wait at Barcelona, a flight to Alicante, and over one hour’s car drive to La Zenia, where we arrived just in time for evening dinner.

The Standing Committee who had organised the whole event, consisted of the Archdeacon, the Venerable Geoff Johnston, Revd. David Waller (Area Dean), David Coulston (Archdeaconry treasurer), Terry Weineck (Lay Vice-Chair), and Joan Berry (Archdeaconry secretary). The theme of this year was ‘Uncomfortably Anglican – called by God to serve’ which ran through the sessions over the days of Synod. What a good attendance this year – all 29 Chaplaincies within this Archdeaconry attended; 19 Chaplains plus 6 other Priests; plus 132 other attendees, either reps, visitors or other readers who wished to attend the Reader training sessions.

As a break in tradition, the first Morning Prayer of the Synod was celebrated following rather than before breakfast! This service was led by Revd. Paul Ormrod (Chaplain of St. George’s, Madrid), with lesson readers also from Madrid, the theme being ‘Presentation of Christ in the Temple’.

Following this, the clergy all gathered for a meeting with the theme ‘Uncomfortably called: trends and themes in vocations work in Europe and What Next?’ This was led by Revd. Canon William Gulliford, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, who is based in Diocesan office in London. Concurrently there was a Readers conference led by Bishop David (Warden of Readers).

More representatives arrived and the afternoon continued with a session of the clergy chapter led by Revd. Canon Peter Moger, (Precentor at York Minster), with the theme 'Common worship: toolbox and treasure trove'. Much to Revd. Paul's sadness he could not be present for this, being en route from Menorca. Trevor and Kate made a return trip to Alicante airport to collect him. Concurrent with the clergy session the Readers conference continued, led by Revd. Deacon Frances Hiller (Bishop David's Chaplain and Personal Assistant).



The opening evening Eucharist 'For the guidance of the Holy Spirit', was presided over by the Right Revd. Dr. David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop, supported by Revd. Deacon Frances Hiller, Reader Judith Murray from Porto, and lesson readers from Costa Blanca. Bishop David based his sermon on Luke 14:26 "*If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, even their own life--such a person cannot be my disciple.*"(NIV) Jesus making use of this shocking statement to stress just what is entailed in being a true disciple. Hundreds followed him initially, witnessing his miracles and enjoying his charisma but how few were there at his crucifixion. 'Fair weather fans' as Bishop David described them and maybe even ourselves. His sermon certainly reflected the title of this year's Synod and left a lot of room for thought.

The evening session of Synod was opened by the Archdeacon, the Venerable Geoff Johnston, where he welcomed everyone. He informed new attendees that this was the largest Synod in the Archdeaconry and described how its reputation was one of welcome, so much so that visitors were eager to attend too. He also took the opportunity to remember the late Jennifer Hamp (rep from Nerja) who had sadly died at the end of 2015, saying how her presence would be missed as she had acted as rep for 15 years. The formal meeting, using a standard meeting agenda format, was chaired by Fr Geoff also taking into account his Archdeacon's report and the reports from both Diocesan and General Synod. There were three matters of note arising from David's (the treasurer's) report i.e. firstly re the General Archdeacon's Fund, that the 2016 quota charge be set at ~£0.46 per Electoral Roll member and secondly re the Archdeacon's Support Fund that the 2016 charge be set at ~£2.07 per Electoral Roll member, (an increase of ~1penny from last year), the precise figures being dependent on the overall Electoral Roll numbers to be supplied with the annual returns to Diocesan Office. The third recommendation was in connection with the mileage rate which is 0.36€/km. It was noted that the cost of petrol / diesel had reduced over the past year. A vote was taken, results being 41 to maintain the rate and 21 to reduce the rate. The rate will therefore continue at 0.36€/km to help cover the increase in car insurance rates. Regarding the Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) fund, in 2015 expenditure equalled income, which is taken as a positive sign that Chaplains are taking better advantage of this support money. David predicted that 2016 would show overspend. Clergy cluster meetings are at present only funded for one meeting per year. All cluster groups are encouraged to speak with the Archdeacon who has the prerogative to amend this. A separate and important issue was the cost of future Level 2 Safeguarding training which is compulsory for clergy, wardens and others in key positions. It was suggested that the recovery of the training costs, other than those which can be drawn down from

CMD funds, should be shared across all Chaplaincies in a manner proportionate to their Electoral Roll numbers and that the time period over which the recovery should be made should be either 3 or 4 years. Synod agreed to the cost being shared pro-rata with Electoral Roll numbers, but no agreement was reached on the time spread. Potentially this would mean an increase from £0.5 per Electoral Roll member for 2015 to either £1.05 over 3 years or £0.53 per member for 4 years. David gave his sincere thanks, for their hard work, to Chaplaincy treasurers, Diocesan staff and the external audit team.

Revd. Peter Ford, Port of Gibraltar Chaplain, made a request for 'bobble hats for sailors', explaining what a busy, hectic port Gibraltar is and how many sailors are so often ill prepared for the cold. He asked if everyone could bring at least one knitted hat next year to help them. A pattern was available. To much laughter he agreed to model 'one he'd made earlier!' The day's business work concluded in time for 20.30hr dinner.

Wednesday began with Morning Prayer, dedicated to Anskar, one-time Bishop of Hamburg who had seen his life's work ultimately apparently fail but whose legacy was in fact revived in later years. The service was led by Revd. Stephen Foster from Costa Blanca, supported by lesson readers from Costa Blanca. Running on from this service was the offer of Healing Ministry led by Revd. Stephen Foster & Revd. Raymond Andrews. 12 people chose to take advantage of this ministry.

After breakfast, the first session of the morning was a bible study led by Revd. Deborah Chapman. Deborah is married to Revd. John Chapman, who is the Chaplain at St. George's, Barcelona. Deborah's study sessions were entitled 'Prayerful People'. Naturally, she opened with prayer. In the first of her two sessions we studied Abraham and his pleas to God on behalf of Sodom (Genesis 18:16 to the end). Before our arrival at Synod, we had been given 'homework' to do! Deborah tried to encourage everyone to develop a 'rhythm of life' and set specific times each day to stop whatever we are doing and to focus on God. She suggested that these times could be spent in prayer or reading a set number of bible verses. She felt it was useful that we had our daily routines interrupted to allow God's presence into our lives and spend time with Him. She closed this session effusively with prayer leaving us with a lovely feeling of 'oneness'.

The second of the morning's sessions was 'The myth of Anglican Common Prayer? Text, shape and values'. This was led by Revd. Canon Peter Moger. He opened his session with prayer and led us through a history of the development of the Christian church from which the Anglican Church evolved. He recognised how diverse the ministry across this huge Diocese is, there being differences in theology and traditions but all firmly rooted in the 39 Articles and Book of Common Prayer. He discussed the various translations of the bible, referring to many phrases used in language today taken from the King James Version e.g. turn the other cheek; go the extra mile. The diversity of styles is the strength of the Anglican Communion where all are welcome. He felt that the 'shape' model of worship works in the use of common prayer, as worship needs to convey people from one place to another, to come to meet God and to be transformed. He used as his

example for this the travellers on the road to Emmaus, who began a sad journey, heard Jesus 'unpacking' the scriptures, shared Eucharist with him, were transformed and renewed their journey as changed people. (Luke 24:13-35). Our Anglican services are on this same model. He gave a number of suggested books and workshops which might be of use to Chaplaincies, before closing with prayer.

During this presentation, Kate, along with other clergy wives, who were also attending the Synod, were invited by Carol Johnston, the Archdeacon's wife, to meet together to enjoy some peer support and social time and to share with each other the life's work of being a clergy wife.

The final morning session was taken by Adrian Mumford, Diocesan Secretary who explained briefly what goes on in the Diocesan office and who the staff are who deal with different tasks. He explained about the Diocesan Synod which meets annually in Cologne and just what a pivotal role the Archdeaconry reps play. He explained briefly about the Diocesan budget which is around £11million and about the Common Fund. Nearly two-thirds of a million pounds sterling are collected annually into this fund and it is shared across 140 churches. The domestic expenditure, including covering Diocesan office, is around £469,830 and expenditure on mission and ministry support, including clergy training, grants and selection, is around £482,250. Safeguarding takes up to 12% of the annual budget, which highlights just how serious the Bishops feel the importance of Safeguarding is.

Following a break for lunch, the first afternoon session was led by Revd. Canon William Gulliford, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, (DDO) on the theme 'Uncomfortably called – an outline of the process of discernment, training and deployment in the Diocese of Europe'. Revd. William gave a most detailed presentation of how our clergy come to be! Potential candidates take many steps before reaching ordination. Revd. William himself described it as a 'harsh' process. Firstly there needs to be clear discernment of the 'calling' to ministry by the individual and the church from where the individual worships and also the ministry team. This team includes: The Suffragan Bishop (Chair); the Administrator (Diocesan Secretary); the Diocesan Bishop; the DDO; the Director of Training; the Suffragan Bishop's Chaplain and the Tutor in Reader Training. The selection criteria are broken down into vocational, pastoral and educational. It takes a long time and the process may conclude at this point. If the process continues, the postulant undertakes further theological courses. At the present time in Europe there are 11 candidates in training. There were 5 Deacons ordained in 2015, and there are 20 postulants at 2016 vocations seminar. Interestingly, there are no British candidates at this time, so the question is raised as to how to remain attentive to cross-cultural issues. A much greater appreciation was gained of just what it takes to answer a vocational calling and there were a lot of 'arrow' prayers thanking God that many here were the fortunate Chaplaincies who had a Chaplain in post.



The next session involved a question and answer time with members of the Diocesan Office Staff. These were Catherine Jackson, (Appointments Secretary), Adrian Mumford, (Diocesan Secretary), Revd. Paul Needle,

(Communications Officer) and Ian Carter, (Diocesan Safeguarding Manager). Adrian opened by describing just what work is carried out in the office, but stressed that the Diocese technically is not the office but is all the Chaplaincies and that the office serves the Chaplaincies. He told us that his role is Diocesan secretary, secretary to the Board of Finance and also to Diocesan Synod. A question was raised to him about the recent Diocesan and General Synod representatives' elections and the problem with bank holidays falling within the limited response time. Adrian answered that there could be no relaxation of the rules. He went on to explain that Diocesan Synod and General Synod elections take place every 3years and 5years respectively meaning that once every 15years they coincide as happened in 2015. Catherine introduced herself and agreed to hold 'one-to-one' sessions with representatives from Chaplaincies in interregnum, but would answer general questions in her allotted presentation time later. Revd. Paul Needle, told that he was employed for 2 days per week but could always be contacted via his mobile 'phone with any important news items. He spoke about the planned improvements of the Diocese in Europe website and the new Diocese in Europe Times (DIET) which is available on-line as is the European Anglican magazine. He did stress that although he is always pleased to receive news items, they do need to be sent at the earliest possible opportunity. Ian Carter took this opportunity to introduce himself and although deferring most questions until his presentation time, Trevor did manage to ask him how best to impress upon congregations the importance and necessity of safeguarding.



David Coulston, who as well as acting as our Archdeaconry treasurer and serving the Archdeaconry on Diocesan Synod is also now one of our newly elected lay representatives at General Synod. David is the first representative to be elected to General Synod from the Balearics and we are all extremely thrilled and grateful to him for his dedication to serve. If that isn't enough, he has also been heavily involved in the amendment and updating of the Diocesan Safeguarding Protocol and the Diocesan Strategy Policy on which he spoke at length. The Strategy Policy is entitled 'Walking together in Faith.' We mentioned this in our report for 2015 when Bishop Robert first advised the Archdeaconry Synod about its conception. To date it is as yet not available on the Diocesan website, but soon! It will include an introduction by Bishop Robert, a Strategy Statement, broad details of activities and the detailed task to be faced by us all. In brief, it says 'what, how, who and when!' David described it as a 'living document' and said that much work had gone into its development before it was presented to the Diocesan Synod in June 2015.

The final session this day was led by Catherine Jackson. Catherine explained and outlined the appointments process to be followed from a Priest leaving a Chaplaincy to a new Priest arriving. She covered five areas: Our Priest is leaving; Interregnum issues; the Vacancy Pack; the Arrival of the new Priest; and the Remuneration package. She made the telling statement that we should consider 'what value do we place on the ministry of the Priest' rather than 'what is it going to cost us'. Although aimed primarily at Chaplaincies in interregnum, her statements also resonated with us representatives from Chaplaincies with a Priest in post. It was pleasing to hear that we in Menorca had done things right.....

The final event of this day was the Evening Eucharist held in a local Catholic Church. Revd. David Waller presided and Bishop William (Bill) Godfrey preached. The readers and intercessor came from Mallorca. The theme of the service was 'Called to serve God'. Before the Gospel reading, the Precentor of York Minster acted as Cantor and led the whole congregation in the singing of the 'Peruvian Gloria' – this was an amazing, up lifting moving experience. Bishop Bill's preaching centred on the parable of the sower and the seed. He pointed out that in the parable all the seeds sprout, everyone hears the word. The important matter is absorbing the message, rooting it deeply in our lives. The Gospel is like a plough making furrows where the word can take root in our lives. We must then decide what we do with it. We can be obedient in serving. It mattering not what our individual 'gifts' may be as long as we have a serving heart, we become a light to the world. He encouraged us to go on being converted as we live our lives through the Gospel. Bishop Bill was surely filled with the Spirit which enabled him to speak so elequently, openly and spontaneously about his own Christian journey as an illustration. The church was packed, the atmosphere was something very special, the hymns prayerfully chosen, being 'Let all the world in every corner sing,' 'Thou whose almighty word', 'Lord Jesus Christ', and the closing 'I, The Lord'. The singing was confident and bold complimented by the wonderful accoustics and the keyboard playing by Revd. Paul Needle, in this lovely church.



Thursday morning was extra special for us, because Revd. Paul had been invited to lead Morning Prayer and had asked us two to read the lessons. (how nervewracking, but what a privilege). Menorca / Santa Margarita was glad to be recognised yet again within the Archdeaconry. Revd. Paul opened the service talking about Gilbert of Sempringham, whose day it was that day. He was the founder of the Gilbertine Order, the only English religious order originating in the medieval period. It eventually had twenty-six monasteries which continued in existence until King Henry VIII suppressed the monasteries.



The first morning session was the continuation of the bible study, again led by Revd. Deborah Chapman. Although we believed we would be continuing with our homework which was based on 2 Samuel 7 – David's prayer, in fact she linked it with Jeremiah 49. Again she reminded us that interruptions in our daily lives are essential to remind us to speak with God. She started by sharing her own interesting, Christian journey and reflected on the title of this Synod 'Uncomfortably Anglican' and confessed that she had never felt uncomfortable about being an Anglican! She felt that Anglicans offer a welcome to everyone....is this true? She said that belonging is connected to hospitality. Do we feel this when we walk into church? She used an interesting observation that 'Jesus is God's body language' (John 1) – how many times have we read that Gospel chapter and never made this connection? She talked about bridge building, particularly about the bridge between heaven and earth at Communion and the building of bridges between Christians and non-Christians. This brought us back to King David's prayer, the bridge between God and the people of Israel. The time went so rapidly in this session and we were all so filled with her enthusiasm and love and knowledge of the scriptures.

The morning's keynote speaker was the Right Revd. William (Bill) Godfrey, Bishop of Peru. The room was full and we sat in eager anticipation as to what Bishop Bill would share with us. We were not disappointed. This Godly, lovely man spoke from the heart, recognising that he was in the last quadrant of his life, a point which resonated with almost everyone there. However, he turned this into a positive, saying that an older person carries the spirit of community life and that in older people, with longer life experience, the grace of God should be shining more brightly. He used a design of the cross as a symbol of our individuality, interwoven with our spirituality, belief, behaviour, personal relationships, the word and sacraments and the church community. Together we form the Anglican church with its emphases on relationships with God, holy scripture, prayer and discipleship. It should be recognised not as an institution but by its spirituality. It holds a balance of what Christianity is really about, concisely based on the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments. Bishop Bill went on to consider Christian behaviour, stressing three important aspects, namely prayer & spirituality, what we believe and thus how we are to behave. Jesus emphasised that the summary of all the Law was contained in the first two Commandments. This takes us into teaching and preaching, the difference being that the first involves giving facts and explaining and the second, encouraging people to go forward (Romans 12 covers both). This is how Jesus lived out His faith. Bishop Bill encourages clergy to look to their 'weak areas'. He read out from Ephesians 5 (RSV) but removing the parts relating to marriage. He challenged us to look at ourselves to find what we need. The cross symbol that he opened with is a useful tool. He then turned from the individual to 'the church' and emphasised no less than 8 things to consider when looking at a church: Everything to do with Prayer - liturgy, worship and intercession; Teaching – baptism, confirmation, preparation for marriage, discipleship groups, home groups, cells; Pastoring – looking after 'the flock' and encouraging; Building community; Mission – evangelism, service (e.g. soup kitchens etc.); Money – stewardship; Administration; and Looking for leaders in the church. The community, the Parish is the school of Christ. The beginning of this is to learn penitence and to help in the Church.



Bishop Bill spoke so movingly, elegantly and tellingly. The following are the notes that we were moved to make as his talk unfolded. In these we hope you will find many challenges and encouragement.

What do I hope to learn in church? - How to get to know God deeper - How to be responsive to his Grace (Gift). How to re-shape my life so that God is glorified? This learning must be empowered by God's Grace. Pray before everything. How to respond to the stirring of the Holy Spirit. Be organised and rely on God's guidance. The clergy will have to answer doubly at the 'great judgement'. They should not preach their words, but rather Christ's word and what the church says. The clergy pray at the beginning and end of each day around the world so someone is praying when we can't. He referred to the hymn 'the day thou gavest'. The church Canons are important. It is important to have structures. Don't go to church just to please 'me'. Go to praise God and learn.

He referred to his own work in Peru, thanking this Archdeaconry for its support and asking for this to continue. Although he will be retiring at the end of April his 'Parish of Peru' will become recognised as a province, the smallest in the Anglican communion. It will be split into 4 regions and 3 Peruvian Bishops have been appointed in place of him alone. The Church is growing strongly.

This picture is a montage of life in Peru and accompanies Bishop Bill on his travels. We were privileged that he shared it as an altar front for this Synod.



He is looking forward to his new 'life' as a parish Priest in the Yorkshire Dales where he hopes to practice what he'd spent years preaching, teaching and encouraging his growing number of clergy colleagues in Peru to do. It doesn't appear that his task will be any lighter, although the distances may be smaller,

so slowing down won't be likely. He quipped that 'death is nature's way telling you to slow down!' Bishop Bill concluded his key-note presentation by sharing his philosophy on a Christian Life as a disciple of Jesus Christ and Christian of the Anglican Communion (attached). He closed by reading 'The Prayer of Abandonment' by Brother Charles of Jesus – Charles de Foucauld. (attached.)

After lunch there were three concurrent mini-meetings. Being a democratic chaplaincy (!) the three of us attended one each.....Revd. Paul, and Kate joined him, attended 'the uncomfortable call and work of Jeremiah' led by Canon Dr. Medhat Sabry from Casablanca. Margaret attended a meditation session on part of St. John's Gospel – John 20: 19-23 (the upper room – how you'd feel if you had been there), led by Revd. David Waller, our Area Dean. Trevor attended the treasurers' meeting, led by John Pinnel from Andorra. Trevor's notes have been passed to Sandhy, our treasurer. A statement forthcoming from this meeting struck another chord. Regarding 'fundraising' a Priest said 'stewardship is a theological concept concerning thanksgiving and gratitude. This needs long term education. If it is primarily about money it will not work'.

Two more meetings followed, one for the Spanish section and the other for the Portugese. The Spanish section meeting was opened with prayer and chaired by Revd. Paul Ormrod from Madrid, with panelists Celia Paterson as secretary, Revd. Matt Phipps, Deacon at St. George's as legal rep, and John Pinnell as financial and legal advisor. Revd. Ormrod explained that the British Benevolent Society, which was open to help all British passport holders in severe difficulties, was now accessible to all areas of Spain, including the islands. The contact details are available on line. All Chaplaincies were encouraged to review their public liability insurance level. Celia advised that there had been instances of 'fraudsters' claiming to be Anglican priests and even Anglican Bishops. She asked to be advised of any suspicions. She also stressed the importance of telling her about any new worship centres established within chaplaincies to ensure that the chaplains were covered within FERED. She also reminded everyone to make sure the chaplaincy legal signatories were named, identified and recorded at each APCM. Safeguarding has now been recognised within FERED. The legal team there is very aware of the potential

money laundering issues that are affecting many countries and it is working on guidance for Chaplaincies. The meeting closed with prayer.

The mid-afternoon session was led by Ian Carter, the new Diocesan Safeguarding Manager. He told the meeting a little about his background serving in the police force for 30 years and building up a knowledge on safeguarding and that he was on a 2 year project contract with our Diocese. He said there will be a new safeguarding administrator in post from the end of February, as Katherine Harrison, who had been on a six month contract was sadly leaving. He told the meeting about the new Safeguarding Protocol which had become active from December 2015. He spoke about the Level 1 on-line Basic Child Protection training stating that 9 chaplaincies had still not undertaken any training. Only 6 clergy and 49 other people across the archdeaconry had completed the training. (Revd. Paul and 4 others at Santa Margarita have). He had the meeting work through a 'SWOT' (strengths, weakness, opportunity and threats) analysis which highlighted the extent of all these aspects surrounding safeguarding. He told the meeting that Level 2 training for 'People who may be Vulnerable' must be undertaken by safeguarding officers, clergy, wardens, and voluntary workers. He said he'd been alarmed at the increase in the number of referrals for investigation he had received – 10 since September 2015 and 6 in the week of Synod. He informed the meeting that each chaplaincy must undertake an annual safeguarding audit and that the whole of the Diocese in Europe will be audited in 2017.

The next session of the day was led by Bishop David. He expressed his delight and humility about himself and Canon Medhat being invited by King Mohammed VI of Morocco (who carries the title 'Leader of the faithful') to attend a meeting in Marrakech at a Conference for the Protection of Religious Minorities in Predominantly Muslim Countries. It is said to be the first time in



1400 years that such an international group had gathered. There is a full executive summary published on marrakechdeclaration.com. He moved on to reflect on this current Synod stating how pleased he was at the variety of the issues discussed. He said it is always a joy to attend this Synod because of its unique flavour, lightheartedly commenting that the German Synod allows no free time, the Italian Synod allows lots of free time and Gibraltar has a unified feel and warm, great spirit. He personally thanked Bishop Bill for his teaching and his presence. He expressed thanks to speakers, leaders, clergy and all who had helped towards the success of this Synod.

The closing session was led by Fr. Geoff Johnston. There were votes of thanks and farewells to Revd. Steven Foster on his retirement. He mentioned again Jenny Hamp and asked all to pray for Ray Kirkam, Tenerrife North, currently undergoing chemotherapy. He made a donation presentation to a representative of the Hotel for all the staff who had looked after everyone so well and he thanked all the chaplaincies for their full participation. He reminded all present of the importance of Safeguarding and the relevant training; the Green Review; and other various administrative matters including the maintaining of an up to date and complete Service Register.

Finally he announced that next year's Synod will be at this same venue from 30th January – 3rd February 2017.



The closing Eucharist of this Synod was entitled 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. Revd. Jennifer (Jenny) Elliot de Riverol presided and the Venerable Geoff Johnston preached. The lesson readers and intercessor were from La Palma (Jenny's parish). Our opening hymn was 'Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You'. Fr. Geoff summed up the ethos of the Synod 'Uncomfortably Anglican –

called by God to Serve' in one of the most inspiring sermons we have heard him preach. He spoke of his own level of comfort being an Anglican and the uncomfortable places currently being addressed within the Anglican communion. Yet he said that difficulties can be overcome following the example of the teaching and life of Jesus. We are called to serve. He spoke of his three 'hums' - humility, humour and humanity equipping us to go out to serve God by serving the world, whether we journey comfortably or uncomfortably as Anglicans. Our closing, rousing hymn was 'Christ Triumphant'. As is regular practice in our Archdeaconry, at the end of this service, a 'silent' collection was taken to be donated to Bishop Bill's work in Peru. We donated 50euros on behalf of Santa Margarita and wonderfully over 2000euros was collected. Bishop Bill expressed his deep gratitude for this gift.

After dinner there was some relaxation, more fellowship and fun time. Revd. David Waller arranged a challenging quizz (sadly team 'Island Hoppers' did not win!!), and there was entertainment by Revd. Peter Foster with his banjo and Revd. Alaric Lewis who played keyboard and sang....the high point of the evening was a satirical, hilariously funny sketch based on 'I know my place' but in relation to how we see our church.



Friday morning saw the final Said Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Richard Seabrook from Torrevieja, before breakfast and fond, sad farewells and departures. The four of us eventually arrived back in Menorca in the late evening. We, your reps were exhausted yet much exhilarated by the whole week and felt deeply humble and privileged to be part of this huge, yet friendly Archdeaconry. Menorca is a valued member of the Archdeaconry and the wider Diocese. We have many Christian brothers and sisters to whom we can give and from whom we can receive much loving friendship and support.

We accept that this is a very long, involved report, and we have worked very hard to complete it, but we really felt we wanted to try to share our whole week's experience. Thank you for taking the trouble to read it!

J Trevor Jones

Margaret D Jones

Santa Margarita Archdeaconry Synod reps – February 2016