



CHRIST CHURCH LILLE

## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

AGM  
2017

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Our online presence

Our website now has secure authentication making it safe to pay online. You can **donate** via Paypal directly to the church account, and we also have an Eventbrite account (used for ticketing for the benefit concert).

Google translate means you can read in any language, and the bible readings are available in a fully clickable version online too.

#### Social media

We continue to post on Twitter and Facebook and we make sure our news gets on to the Diocesan news page too.

#### Information for the congregation

Accessing the bible readings during the service is one innovation, but we also now provide a summary slide of the latest PCC meeting and also one showing the state of the church finances in a more visual and easier to understand format.

#### Video

Our first video Christmas card was a great success. We'd like to do more!

*Suggestions welcome.*

### BIBLE STUDY (TUESDAY NIGHT)

The Tuesday night Bible study group has been studying the book of Genesis, which is so fascinating that we're taking longer than we had originally thought! We have now got up to the life of Joseph. Mei (from Taiwan), a new member in 2016, has helped bring many interesting insights into the text. After Easter we should be starting on a book from the New Testament.

### CHURCH CAFÉ

Since 19 October 2016, the church has been open every Wednesday morning from 10 – 12 for visits, coffee, chats or a moment of quiet.

We have seen a wide range of visitors: tourists, neighbours, the curious and people in need. Some have since become regular members of the CCL congregation. It's fun and very worthwhile, and even when it's quiet we fit in some cleaning.

You are very welcome to be on the rota of helpers, or just to drop in to say hello.

### WOMEN'S GROUP

There are normally 6-12 women who meet around the Christ Church kitchen table in the basement on a Thursday morning from 9:30-11:30 to talk, read God's word, discuss and pray.

This year we have gone through J. John's Just 10 (the 10 commandments in reverse order), an advent study through the eyes of Matthew, and we are currently finishing a study on Philippians.

For many of us it is a real life-line where we are embraced by God's love from our Christian sisters, where we are free to ask questions, express our doubts and be reassured by the presence of others that God is there when we seek him out. It might seem strange that a group (still) exists that is in its title destined for women (although we have never sent away a man who wanted to join us), but perhaps because of this space, we women can talk freely and strengthen our voices. It is with the aim of being all that God has called us to be in this world, without holding back.

## PRAYER GROUP

In 2016 we met on a regular basis every Friday evening either in church or at Didier's home. We've been worshipping, praising, interceding for every group in our church community, and some other topics, mainly focusing on UNITY.

We also had an "open evening" when we invited some people and we had the opportunity to pray with non believers and some Muslim friends. It was a great moment and we intend to do it again as soon as possible.

We also decided to pray once in a while with other prayer groups from other churches, and we started with the group "LA SOURCE" in Moulins. We'll try to do that every 2 months in the future.

We trust the Spirit to lead and show us what is to be done in the next months.

## OTHER GROUPS

The SUNDAY CLUB continues, with some new helpers too, on Sundays during termtime.

The PLAYGROUP mothers and toddlers meet on Wednesday mornings, again during termtime.

## ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD FRANCE – MAY 2016

The synod was held at St Jacut in Brittany

**Migration and refugees** was the theme of the synod, and continued firstly in the two excellent Bible study sessions led by the Reverend Dr Richard Briggs, and then in the presentations by speakers directly involved in working with refugees and with partner organisations.

Max McClellan who has been working with the Greater Athens church under a partnership project with the mission agency US, reported on his experiences on the ground in Greece, where the lack of funding can mean no food, no sanitation, no water, nowhere to wash – and nobody to help.

The church response has not been lacking, and different churches and charities are now working together with the UNHCR. What's needed is not just funds, but humanity and as Max said so clearly, to call a person an illegal is to will away their humanity.

The Diocese in Europe is working through the charity US, and you can see more on the website

<http://www.weareus.org.uk/europe/>

Doris Peschke, the General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (<http://www.ccme.be>) explained more of the logistical and legal difficulties standing in the way of help for migrants and refugees, and what churches are doing by working together with aid agencies and humanitarian organisations. A huge amount of work goes on in the background, of which we are hardly aware.

### **Safeguarding**

Refugees are vulnerable – hunger, fear, discrimination, denial of human rights, violence. Vulnerability however is not restricted to refugees and the Diocese has put in place a comprehensive policy and training programmes to protect the vulnerable in our chaplaincies. We heard from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Ian Carter, of the importance and of the difficulties inherent in applying a policy across many national boundaries.

### **Working with others**

It was clear from the various sessions that we can achieve more by working together. The Synod welcomed speakers from the French Protestant Churches in the Lutheran and Reformed traditions about the Reuilly Agreement, and then from the French ARC. The former brings together Protestants and Anglicans and the latter Anglicans and Roman Catholics in France.

There was a lot of food for thought, and the opportunity to share and exchange with those from chaplaincies all over France is not the least important part of the synod. The necessary business sessions were fitted in, and there was time, too, for quiet contemplation in the beautiful gardens of the Abbey.

For a full report, see the Archdeaconry website <http://anglicanfrance.fr>