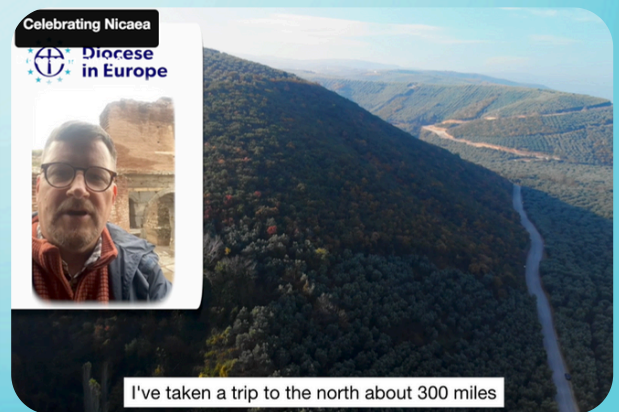


European Anglicans

News and stories from the Diocese in Europe

July 2025



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European Anglicans July 2025 edition

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Welcome to the Summer edition of European Anglicans, which paints a vivid picture of what is going on across the continent of Europe and beyond. At the heart of what we report lies what we believe, and this year has been a unique opportunity to celebrate our core beliefs with the Nicaea 1700 celebrations described here by the former Bishop of London and long-time friend of the diocese, Lord Chartres following the pilgrimage to Nicaea he helped to lead.

I often marvel at how the Diocese in Europe is both unique in the Church of England whilst it is also very much like the rest of the CofE. This magazine focusses on some of the things that we share – Ordinations of which there have been many this summer and church music which is at the heart of our worship and which is described here in all its glorious diversity.

Then there are the things that are truly unique. It has been wonderful to welcome Bishop Andrew as Suffragan Bishop – Nowhere else would a Bishop enjoy an induction across so many cultures, borders and settings. In this edition Bishop Andrew tells of what he has experienced thus far and the true value of 'Welcome' in our dioceses and in all our chaplaincies where we are 'both guests and hosts'.

Do enjoy the magazine, share it with others and feel free to get in touch with the Comms team or with me with your suggestions of things you would like to read about in the future.

Stay cool and warm wishes to everyone who is taking some kind of break in the coming weeks.

Andrew

Andrew Caspari

Diocesan Secretary and Chief Operating Officer



Children and Youth Ministry

Our Voice Matters: A special youth gathering in Prague

Sonia Achieng of Saint Margaret's Community, Budapest, attended the gathering and wrote a report originally printed in Marginalia, their chaplaincy newsletter:



A Light in Prague

The Church of England took a bold step this year, one that our very own Saint Margaret's also took, with quiet courage and conviction. For the first time in a long time, the Eastern Archdeaconry of the Diocese in Europe brought together Anglican youth from across the region. Though Germany is not part of Eastern Europe, it was still warmly represented, reminding us that sometimes geography matters less than shared spirit.

And what a spirit it was. From the 6th to the 8th of June, about twenty young people gathered at St. Clement's Church in the heart of Prague, with one clear purpose: to raise their voices, to talk honestly about their place in the Church, to name their challenges and hopes, and to begin imagining, together, what the future might look like for Anglican youth.

It wasn't a conference with easy answers or pre-written agendas. Instead, the guiding question was deceptively simple: Why? Why now? Why gather? Why youth? Why should the Church listen? We asked these questions out loud, and in return, the answers came, sometimes softly, sometimes firmly, and almost always with shared understanding. The concerns were familiar: a dwindling number of young people in church pews, little to no representation in leadership structures, and the deep longing to feel seen, heard, and supported. There was a hunger for connection, not just across borders, but across generations, across experiences, across the Church itself.

And yet, it was the less obvious truths that struck me most. Beyond the usual talk of "youth engagement," there was a more urgent reality at play. Without a recognised youth body to coordinate efforts or amplify voices, young Anglicans, especially those in conflict-affected or isolated areas, are left without the support systems they so desperately need. From the war in Ukraine to unrest in Pakistan, many Christian youth feel cut off, and unable to hear each other, let alone see signs of solidarity from fellow believers abroad. That's where gatherings like this matter most: to remind one another that we are not alone. That someone, somewhere, is praying with us. That the light has not gone out.

The conversations were honest. Sometimes painfully so. We spoke of the Church's silence in a noisy world, where injustice, climate anxiety, migration struggles, and the complexities of modern life all press heavily on young people. In those spaces where we long to hear the Church's voice, too often we are met with quiet, or worse, confusion. And when we don't hear from the Church, we end up seeking answers from elsewhere, places not always aligned with Christian hope or Anglican.

Children and Youth Ministry

Our Voice Matters: A special youth gathering in Prague

What we want is clarity. Direction. A theological grounding for the world we are inheriting. We want to talk about divorce, gender, care for the earth, mental health, migration, not as outsiders to our own Church, but as active, thinking members of it.

But this isn't a lament. It's a beginning. There was light by the end of the gathering, a sense of possibility, of breath, of gentle hope. One clear takeaway was this: change doesn't only come from the top. It begins wherever we are, with what we have. And for us youth, that means participating actively in our churches, not waiting for an invitation, but offering ourselves with purpose. Even this reflection, written for Marginalia, is part of that offering.

Does it count? I don't know. Maybe it depends on what you, dear reader, choose to do with it. Because in the end, the Church is not just clergy, or buildings, or history. It's us, old and young, gathered and scattered, wondering and believing. And if we keep showing up for each other, listening to one another, and stepping out together... then maybe, just maybe, that's how the light keeps shining.

Here is Revd Iain Bendrey with some of those who attended:




Click image to
watch video in
a new tab

Meet Bishop Andrew

The Diocese in Europe officially welcomed Bishop Andrew as our Suffragan Bishop on Sunday 2 March earlier this year, at a wonderfully celebratory service at Holy Trinity, Gibraltar.

Since then, Bishop Andrew has been meeting many across our diocese, attended ecumenical and chaplaincy events as well as conducting special services such as confirmations and our recent ordinations. Here he recounts something of his experience in our diocese during these first few months:



 Bishop Robert and Bishop Andrew at the installation service

What words would you use to describe who we aspire to be, as the Diocese in Europe? That was a question asked of the newly-elected members of our Diocesan Synod, when they recently gathered in Cologne. As a newly-appointed bishop, getting to know the diocese, I was intrigued to see which words would be most popular. After discussion round each of the tables where Synod members sat, words were entered into mobile phones using 'Mentimeter' and results were projected onto the main screen. And which word ended up having the most votes? It was this: 'Welcoming'.

'Welcoming' is certainly what I've experienced as I've travelled round the diocese in my first four months in post. I'm really grateful for the welcome I've received personally. But I'm even more encouraged by the ways chaplaincies offer a warm and sincere welcome to others who arrive as newcomers. I've visited fourteen chaplaincies in eleven countries so far. Whenever possible I ask members of the congregations how they've ended up being there. I've heard some fascinating stories, but newcomers to the chaplaincy have said more often than not that it was the welcome that made them want to stay.



 Costa Blanca Chaplaincy


When it comes to being welcoming, friendliness goes a long way, especially given the great diversity of people who turn up at our chaplaincies. But I've been struck by the variety of ways in which chaplaincies haven't stopped there. They've been intentional. Let me give two examples. One comes from my visit to the Costa Blanca chaplaincy in Southern Spain. A newcomer to the chaplaincy had been walking for three hours to get to Sunday services. Coincidentally, while I was there, a presentation was made to him while we were having coffee after the service: a bike.

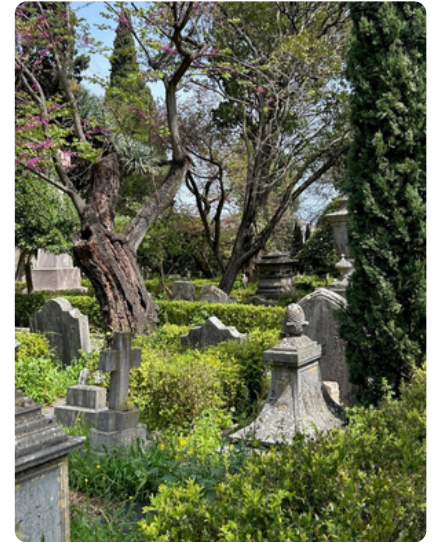


Another example comes from our chaplaincy in Lisbon. St George's Lisbon is in the centre of the city, along with its historic cemetery, dating back to the seventeenth century. With a high wall around them, they have both been hidden from view. This is no accident – in bygone centuries, the Inquisition insisted that cemeteries and churches of non-Catholics were kept out of sight.

The cemetery, however, is a lush and verdant oasis. And it includes graves of some notable people with interesting stories. So I was delighted to learn that the chaplaincy is taking steps to attract more visitors to the cemetery, including setting up a visitor centre in the former mortuary and advertising more widely. While I was there, the boarding over the metal gate was removed, so passers-by can now see inside, even when it's closed.



 *I-r: St George's chaplaincy, Lisbon:
Rev Iain Bendrey,
Rev Beth Bendrey,
Rev Daleen Bakker
at the Lisbon Gate*



 *British Cemetery, Lisbon*




 *Oslo confirmation candidates*

In addition to these examples, I've been encouraged to see how efforts are being made diocesan-wide to welcome young people. I much enjoyed joining the diocesan youth gathering in Prague, where young people shared their hopes and views on this question. And in Oslo, where I conducted my first confirmation service, I was heartened to hear the stories of the young people being confirmed.




'Welcoming', of course, was not the only word selected by Diocesan Synod members to describe what we aspire to be as a diocese. Another was 'ecumenical'. Things have moved on a long way since the high wall was built round the cemetery in Lisbon. With members of local chaplaincies, I've attended events in Paris and Milan to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, both led by the local Roman Catholic Archbishop. In Milan, we processed through the streets with representatives of a wide range of churches, to the Basilica of Saint Ambrose, where the bones of the fourth century Bishop renowned for upholding the (anti-Arian) orthodoxy of the Nicene creed were available for us all to see, after our ecumenical service.



 The procession in Milan



 Milan chaplaincy members at St Ambrose Basilica



 The congregation at Milan

I'm looking forward to visiting more chaplaincies over the next four months. Whatever else I encounter, I'm pretty confident that 'welcoming' and 'ecumenical' will continue to feature as key characteristics of our well-placed and locally-connected congregations.



Please continue in your prayers for Bishop Andrew.



Canons

This year, the following new Canons were announced to join our joint Cathedral's chapter.

The Revd Ben Harding,
appointed to the stall of
St Augustine of
Canterbury in the Pro-
Cathedral of the Holy
Trinity Brussels, in
recognition of his
ministry as Chaplain and
work as Area Dean.

The Revd Tuomas Mäkipää,
appointed to the stall of St.
Titus in the Pro-Cathedral of
St. Paul, Malta, in recognition
of his ministry as Chaplain,
Area Dean, General Synod
member, and Chair of the
House of Clergy for our
Diocese.

The Revd Charlotte Sullivan,
appointed to the stall of Our
Lady of Europe in the
Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
Gibraltar, in recognition of her
ministry as Chaplain and work
as Area Dean.

The Revd James Buxton,
appointed to the stall of
St Silas in the Pro-
Cathedral of St. Paul,
Malta, in recognition of
his ministry in Izmir and
work as Area Dean.

The Revd Geoff Read,
appointed to the stall of St
Willibrord in the Pro-
Cathedral of the Holy
Trinity Brussels, in
recognition of his long and
fruitful ministry in the
diocese and his work in
Continuing Ministerial
Development.

The Revd Jean-Bosco Turahirwa,
appointed to the stall of St Paul in
the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity,
Gibraltar in recognition of his
ministry in peacebuilding and
conflict resolution and the many
people he has trained in this
ministry.

The Revd Canon Ulla Monberg
has been made a Canon
Emeritus in recognition of her
pioneering work for the ministry
of women and her distinguished
contribution to ministerial
training through her long and
remarkable service as Diocesan
Director of Ministerial
Development.

New Net Zero Officer

Chris Lynch has joined us as the new Net Zero Officer. He has been doing a similar role in the Diocese of Lincoln and will now split his time between the two Dioceses. The role is funded by the National Church Net Zero Programme, working towards the Church of England's 2030 Net Zero Carbon objective. A range of projects are underway, and Chris will be working with Chaplaincies, the DBF and the Bishop's Office.



Chris replaces Barbara Alger, who has sadly had to leave the post due to ill health. We continue to hold Barbara in our prayers.



Musical Diocese

Music in all its expression plays a crucial role in the life of our chaplaincies. It's an integral part of our worship. Whether a single voice in a simple setting or an anthem in a Cathedral - music can profoundly move the soul and open hearts to God. It offers a pathway into prayer and contemplation that spoken words alone cannot always provide.

Music is a great way to include the whole church community in the active life of a chaplaincy - whether by singing in a choir, playing an instrument or leading worship.

For communities that are transient, music helps create stability and identity.

Music also serves as a powerful form of outreach. Carol services, concerts, hymn festivals, and joint ecumenical events draw people from beyond the regular congregation and serve as opportunities for welcome, mission, and connection with the wider community.

Professor John Pymm, Assistant Director of Music at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gibraltar

I'm Assistant Director of Music at Holy Trinity, Gibraltar and have been since 2023. I job share the work on the Cathedral's music with Eileen Gay, Director of Music, and an extremely committed choir of around a dozen people who have made me feel extremely welcome at the Cathedral.

It started one Sunday in June 2019 when we were on holiday and the person doing prayers that day prayed that a new organist would quickly be found as the longstanding Director of Music had recently passed away. At coffee, I thanked her for her prayers and mentioned I'm a musician.

Music is all about getting things in the right key. At one level, that's the essentials of being in tune, singingly clearly and leading the congregation sensitively. But at a deeper level, how we make music is about setting the key: creating an appropriate ambience, mood and ethos where we seek to lead the congregation into the presence of God. Obviously, we want to do the very best we can, but it's not the same as giving a concert. In Genesis 28:16, Jacob says, 'truly the LORD is in this place and I was not aware of it'. Our role is to do music to draw people into the presence of God.

There are many musical practicalities that need to be taken care of in a service and these have limitless potential for unintended comic moments! There are the usual organist's moments of not being able to hear which verse of the hymn you're on and losing count, playing too long after the gospel reading so that the preacher is left forlornly trying to look spiritual while you play for another minute. However, this is nothing by comparison with the time when I played the previous week's chant for the psalm while the choir resolutely continued with the real one ...

I feel an immense privilege in having the opportunity to use the musical gifts God has given me to lead others. I also delight in the experience of being immersed in music. My mind wanders easily and so I love it when I'm playing when I'm totally in the moment and worshipping through what my fingers are doing on the keyboard. That's what worship's all about: being in the moment with God.



Musical Diocese

The Anglican Church San Pedro and Sotogrande

Shared this wonderful video with us:

Jonathanth (who is also in training for ministry) and Angel are part of the Spanish Evangelical church and are normally based in Malaga but made this special journey to visit us. We have a partnership with the Methodist church who lead our service in Sotogrande once per month. Although we are rooted in Anglican tradition, we are open to all and it was a lovely surprise that on this visit Jon brought his guitar and his colleague Angel to accompany our worship and in this case sing this beautiful song for us.



Click image to
watch video in
a new tab



Charlotte Lomax, Music Co-Ordinator at Trinity Church Lyon



We want our music to accommodate our diverse church. We try to be careful not to exclude anyone inadvertently by what or how we sing, and we aim to draw on a mixture of traditions and adapt to the time of year and the service needs. On a Sunday morning we tend to use songs

from the past 20 years or so, as well as classic hymns and other songs that hold a special place in people's hearts. On a Sunday evening our music tends to be more acoustic and reflective. Our group style is an informal amalgamation of what we each bring, so our well-loved Wesleyan hymns are usually accompanied by African drums plus a pianist and singers, but then on some weeks depending on availabilities, also by violins, a banjo, a guitar, a flute, semi-operatic vocals and/or impromptu harmonies. We love to raise the roof with our music!

I think that music is important in worship because it opens us up. By this I mean that it helps us live out those feelings and expressions of faith we'd perhaps find it hard to otherwise express, and so it magnifies how we might otherwise worship. This is why I feel it's also important to think about the way we select music. There is so much power in a song and the place a song occupies in people's hearts and minds. We are mindful of this responsibility.

The power of what God can achieve using music was

especially clear in the pandemic. Our pastor shared a video of the song 'Greater Things', set to a backdrop of images of Lyon in lockdown, and God used this art powerfully to help us to pray for Lyon from our homes. Post-pandemic we still revisit the song occasionally, and I feel that it has become a part of our shared memory of how God carried us.

We also love music from the ecumenical community of Taizé during Holy Communion – it has the symbolic meaning of unity between different traditions in the church, which is especially poignant for us.

We work as a team at Trinity Church Lyon, and as music coordinator I'm honoured to work alongside my team members to help support everyone in their worship together. If I had to pick one piece of music which means the most to me I'd choose '10,000 Reasons' by Matt Redman. My Nan had dementia and in hospital in her final months we played music to her that she would have known from her childhood to her later years, including this song. However, '10,000 Reasons' was the only song she recognised, despite the fact that she had only seemed to want to come to church for the social side of it. Later, at a family member's suggestion as it was a Sunday, I read her a Bible passage, and chose John 3.16-18. When asked by the family member as to whether she believed it, Nan said yes, and talked to me later about how she prayed. This was so moving in that time of her illness. I sang this song in tribute to her at her funeral at the church she had attended with me, and it was a beautiful and important moment for me.



Musical Diocese

The Choristers of St Andrew's



"I am so happy to welcome the Choristers and Hannah to our music offering at St Andrew's. They will enhance the life and work of the church and I look forward to working with them and Hannah in developing the music of our Chaplaincy."

Jackie, Chaplain



The Choristers of St Andrew's is an exciting new choral programme for young treble voices, launched in 2025 at St Andrew's Church in Zurich. Created for children aged 6 to 16, the programme immerses them in the Anglican Cathedral Choir tradition and provides a unique opportunity to develop their vocal and performance skills, build their confidence, and foster a lifelong love of music within a supportive, faith-based community.

"I like being in choir with people, especially the friends. I'm sitting next to and my teacher. I like that I'm learning how to sing."

Bram, Chorister

"I think Choristers is really fun because all of my friends are making music with me."

Philip, Chorister



"Choir is fun. I really enjoy it because we learn how to sing, which is a great talent...."

Alastair, Chorister

The programme places strong emphasis on fostering a sense of community and teamwork. The *Choristers of St Andrew's* are a team, building relationships and friendships as they rehearse and perform together. Led by Hannah Grigg, a choral specialist and school music teacher, the *Choristers of St Andrew's* is a product of her extensive experience of children's choirs and deep love for choral singing.

"I'm thrilled that the Choristers of St Andrew's has launched this year and it has started on such a strong footing with 14 young singers! I'm looking forward to developing the programme into the leading English-speaking children's choir in the Zurich region, offering an opportunity for English-speaking choral education which was not something readily available until now"

Hannah, Director of the Choristers

"I like Choristers because it is beautiful to sing with other people and when I get it right for the first time it makes me feel good and excited. Even though I do not plan to become an expert singer one day, it is still really cool to know how to sing and make music."

Oliver, Chorister

St Andrew's Church in Zurich is home to a well-established music programme, led by Shaun Yong, Director of Music at St Andrew's. Central to the programme is *The Choir of St Andrew's*, a mixed voice adult ensemble with a history dating back to the 1940s. Additionally, a third singing group at St Andrew's explores world music, including Taizé and Iona, offering a diverse and inclusive approach to worship.

Musical Diocese

Rescuing an Organ for St Mark's, Florence by David Elliott



A short walk south of the river Arno in Florence stands a hidden gem of the Diocese in Europe. Inspired by its larger namesake in Venice, the decorated splendour of St Mark's English Church never fails to surprise the people who venture inside for the first time. In 1994, at the invitation of a choir member who had heard that I was fixing the organ at the American Church, I was led through a badly lit corridor to see whether I could do anything to help their organ as well. My surprise was of a different flavour to that of the art-loving tourists. Sprouting from the top of a two-metre high and five-metre long wooden box were a myriad of pipes, many at odd angles, some bent over, others with dents and all caked in a thick layer of black dust.

There was no obvious means of access into the organ. After a little hunting, I found a key stuck in one of the access panels hidden behind piles of furniture. Once inside, I was met by a network of plastic drainpipes connected with sticky tape and festooned with reams of multi-coloured wiring, gothic horror cobwebs and yet more black dust.

After several hours I managed to get most of the pipes playing correctly and was able to tune the few ranks that I was told were used during the service. At least a third of the organ was avoided, as it sounded so awful even when in tune.

I continued to visit every couple of years or so to tune and maintain the organ, and each time there were more parts failing. The organ was only built in 1970, but using a console from 1950 with cotton-covered wiring and sparking contacts threatening fire at every arpeggio.

In a moment of desperation with the increasing number of failing parts in September of 2016, I offered to find, dismantle and install for free a redundant but reliable organ from the UK.

Finally, in October 2017, I found an organ that would fit: an unaltered Sweetland organ from 1880. It was in Chynhale Methodist Chapel at the very southernmost tip of Cornwall, but was being offered for free to a good home. As it happens, the organ in Holy Trinity, the first Anglican Church in Florence, was built by Sweetland's last apprentice, William Trice, who went on to influence the Romantic style of organ building in Italy. So the Sweetland organ would be a most appropriate witness to this Anglo-Italian cooperation.

In December 2017 I visited Chynhale to inspect the organ. Then began a long saga involving five separate planning applications over the next four years. Once permission was finally obtained, Brexit held things up even further. On arrival at the Chapel in September 2023, I found that half the pipes (312) had been stolen. At this point I nearly gave up.



Musical Diocese



After a month of work and the gift of a second-hand blower from Puccini Organ Builders of Lucca, I finally got the organ on wind. However, the Swell pallets leaked air. On inspection, it became clear that only a partial restoration had been carried out in 1975 and even this work was failing. The organ had been left un-played for eight years in a very damp church with moths, mice and bats. The felt, leather and wood were eaten away in many areas.

There was nothing for it - I had to dismantle half the organ to get the Swell windchest out and restore it. Materials were ordered from Henry Willis & Sons in 2024. They also kindly offered advice and arranged the transport of some suitable replacement pipes for those stolen.

Being left in a very damp building in Cornwall, the animal glue joints had failed. Around 80 of the wooden pipes had collapsed into pieces and required careful rebuilding, while checking that they were correctly on speech before the glue set!

All this renovation work as well as voicing, regulating and tuning of the 698 pipes took several months, 1,230 hours in fact. The instrument was finally inaugurated by organists James Gray and Émile Chandellier on 16th March 2025.

During the last eight years of some 500 emails, several people had told me to give up on the project, but somehow I found the strength to carry on. Perhaps being the fifth generation of a family of organ builders meant I had something to prove, or perhaps I just wanted to keep my promise.



Father Chris Williams, Chaplain at St Mark's Florence added:

“When David started rebuilding the organ in 2023 we called him a star, and then a saint, and then, as the enormous task he was undertaking became clearer, as close to God-like as possible without becoming too blasphemous! Living on site meant I had a ringside seat for the Florence chapter of this dramatic adventure. There can be few people as resourceful as David, who also repaired a bike so he could cycle around Florence to find what was not available on site. This has certainly been a labour of love with, literally, much blood, sweat and tears, but we are now enjoying the fruit of David's efforts as we hear the 'new' instrument played at every Sunday service - something I hope will continue for many years to come.”

Celebrating our 2025 Ordinands

In 2025, we are once again privileged, excited and grateful to be welcoming those called to ordination in the Diocese in Europe. The Revd Canon William Gulliford, Diocesan Director of Ordinands for the Diocese in Europe, writes;



“ The Diocese in Europe has been blessed not to have experienced the downturn in numbers coming forward to explore vocation and enter training that other English dioceses have.

At a time when there is reason to worry about the falling numbers of ordinands in the Church of England, and there are many other matters of wider concern, it is important to celebrate this good news. Tribute needs to be paid to the various pipelines which nurture those in formation. The Diocesan Ministry Experience Scheme is one of them, and the Theological Colleges in England, notably the Eastern Region Ministerial Course and the residential colleges all do great work on slim budgets.

At the ordination service at Holy Trinity Brussels, the Reverend Canon John Wilkinson appealed in his sermon;

“ All of us here who name Jesus as our Lord and Saviour are also part of this amazing community of faith, which Jesus proclaims to Peter and the disciples. We are in this together - newly ordained and long ordained, deacons, priests, bishops and the whole people of God, of which we are all part, whether we are ordained or not. The responsibility for the Kingdom of God is entrusted by Him to us, and it's a shared responsibility. So to your congregations, some of whom are here today, some of whom are watching us online, I say do not take too lightly the calling that these people have received from God. Love them, support them; don't expect them to get everything right any more than you do. Give them time and space to grow and to flourish as Christians as well as ordained ministers.



Celebrating our 2025 Ordinands

Our ordinands this year are:

- Revd Alison Heal, being ordained to Priest at All Saints, Luxembourg
- Revd Angela Berben, being ordained to Priest at Zwolle (Holy Trinity, Utrecht)
- Revd Betty Talbot, being ordained to Priest at La Cote, Switzerland
- Claire Smith, being ordained to Deacon at Maisons Laffitte
- Revd Daleen Bakker, being ordained to Priest at St George's, Lisbon
- Revd Florence Lorrain, being ordained to Priest at Poitou-Charentes
- Revd Dan Culbertson, being ordained to Priest at St Margaret's, Budapest
- Graeme Lloyd-Roberts, being ordained to Deacon at St Albans, Copenhagen
- Jacob Quick, being ordained to Deacon at St Edmunds, Oslo
- Revd James Morgan, being ordained to Priest at St Ursula's, Bern
- Revd Massimo Radice, being ordained to Priest at St George's, Barcelona
- Samuel Haiser, being ordained to Deacon at City Kirche, Vienna
- Seth Barker, being ordained to Deacon at All Saints, Vevey
- Stephen Razafindratsima, being ordained to Deacon at St George's, Paris



Revd Angela Berben



Revd Betty Talbot



Claire Smith



Revd Daleen Bakker



Revd Florence Lorrain



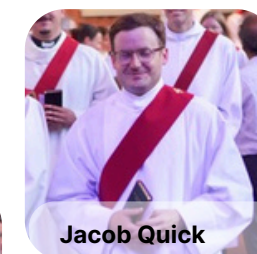
Revd Dan Culbertson



Revd Massimo Radice



Graeme Lloyd-Roberts



Jacob Quick



Seth Barker



Stephen Razafindratsima



Revd Alison Heal

"..being surrounded by our own congregation, and by a 'great cloud' of other witnesses, felt very affirming that God has called me to this life of a priest. I was well aware that becoming a priest isn't something I'm doing in my own strength, or as a personal life goal. Without the grace of God, the prayers of the church and the ordination and anointing by Bishop Andrew, I couldn't serve our congregation, and point to Jesus among the people of Luxembourg, as I've been called to do."

Revd Alison Heal



Revd James Morgan

"It wasn't until it happened that I realised how much of a blessing the ordination service could be. I could feel the support."

Revd James Morgan



Samuel Haiser

Celebrating our 2025 Ordinands

Hear about the journey some of our ordinands are taking and why they feel the Diocese in Europe is a significant part of that. To watch these videos, simply click on each image.

**Diocese in Europe**

Ordinations 2025



REVD ALISON HEAL
Deacon at All Saints Chaplaincy Luxembourg, to be ordained as Priest



**Diocese in Europe**

Ordinations 2025



STEPHEN RAZAFINDRATSIMA
Being ordained to Deacon at St George's, Paris



**Diocese in Europe**

Ordinations 2025



REVD DAN CULBERTSON
Deacon at St Margaret's Chaplaincy, Budapest to be ordained as Priest



**Diocese in Europe**

Ordinations 2025



SAMUEL HAISER
Being ordained to Deacon at City Kirche, Vienna



**Diocese in Europe**

Ordinations 2025



REVD BETTY TALBOT
Deacon at La Côte Chaplaincy, Switzerland, to be ordained as Priest



Women in Ministry



 *Participants in the Conference for Women Clergy*

In Madrid last week, 18 female clergy who serve across the Diocese in Europe met for a few days of fellowship at the Conference for Women Clergy. Held at La Salle Centro Universitario, the conference was generously sponsored by CCLA and discussions led by Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells, Bishop for Episcopal Ministry and Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Honorary Assistant Bishop for the Diocese in Europe, The Rt Revd Alison White, also played an intrinsic part in the conference, which was a vital opportunity to share and discuss many of the issues, some of which are unique to female clergy.

At the end of the conference, a service to celebrate the 30th anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood was held at St George's chaplaincy in Madrid. The live stream of the service was enjoyed by many across the diocese. Bishop Jo presided over the service and reflected;

“ It was a delight to preside at the service marking 30 years since the first women were ordained in the Diocese of Europe and to lead their conference sessions. We have explored some of the Old Testament prophets – those called to speak for God – seeking both wisdom and inspiration for addressing some of the opportunities and challenges across Europe today. Among these women I find similar courage, adventure and faithfulness – a commitment to speak the truth and build communities of truth in a lonely post-truth world. ”

“ ..Often your chaplaincy might be hundreds of miles from, or even in a different country, from the closest other chaplain... It's lovely to actually come together as a group of support and encouragement, but also as women, it is, I think, important again, because we sometimes face different issues that our male colleagues don't. ”

Revd Carla Vicencio Prior, St Vincent's chaplaincy, Portugal

 Click image to watch video in a new tab



Reflections

from
Diocese in Europe Conference for Women Clergy
Madrid
June 16th - 20th 2025

Nicene Creed

Every Sunday, we say the words of the Nicene Creed in our service. These words unite us in our Anglican faith – across our diocese from Norway to Morocco and across the world, hundreds of thousands of people in church say the same words together as a proclamation of our shared faith.

1700 years ago this year, the foundations of the Nicene Creed were written in Nicaea. Therefore, much of the global church is using this anniversary as an opportunity to breathe new life into the words we say each week and to celebrate that which unites us. As Nicaea is in Iznik, in modern-day Turkey and therefore our diocese, we have a unique and special reason to celebrate.

“I am excited this anniversary year to be declaring with Christians across the globe God’s saving intent for humanity as expressed in our ancient creed.”

Bishop Robert



So far in 2025, as part of this celebration:



Nicene Creed Lent Course

We have shared fellowship and learning with a bespoke Lent course written for us by Revd Donald McFadyen (Chaplain of Fontainbleau)

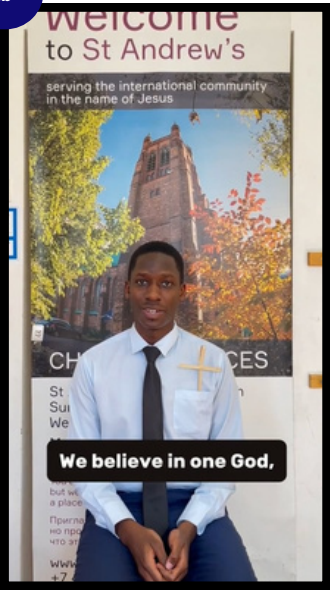
At least 19 chaplaincies took part over Lent and to date, 1,948 people have downloaded it.

A participant from the chaplaincy in Kyiv wrote, “The words of the Creed for me are a reminder of what God has done in various forms for me which I’m ever in-debted and grateful for.”

Sharing the Creed

It’s a joy to see many sharing videos of themselves reciting the Nicene Creed. We would love to receive more of these, see our website for more details: [Sharing the Creed](#)

Here is a video sent to us from the wonderful youth group in Moscow:



Nicene Creed

Expressing the Creed musically

This anniversary is cause for celebration and chaplaincies express this in worship and music in many ways.

Bishop Robert specifically encouraged all chaplaincies to sing The Hymn to the Trinity, written by Bishop Geoffrey Rowell, the previous Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe.

Here is a recording of the choir at Holy Trinity Geneva singing it (with much thanks to them for recording it!). It can be sung to several different tunes, including Ode to Joy, Abbot's Leigh, Blaenwern, Ebenezer, Hyfrydol, and Lux Eoi).



Click image to watch video in a new tab

Reflections on the Nicene Creed



Click image to watch video in a new tab



Click image to watch video in a new tab

Please share yours with us - is there a part of the Nicene Creed which resonates with you in a special way?

Creationtide

This Creationtide, we will spend time reflecting on how Creation, and our part in caring for it, links to the Nicene Creed.



Nicene Creed: Pilgrimage

Signs of Promise - and Peril

Rt Revd Lord Chartres



The Pilgrimage group

AT THE beginning of this month, the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association celebrated the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea with an ecumenical pilgrimage to the sites of the first four General Councils of the Christian Church, all of which lie in the territory of modern-day Turkey.

Co-led by Metropolitan Nikitas, Orthodox Archbishop of Great Britain, and me, the party of more than 60 pilgrims included Orthodox, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics, among them the Bishop in Europe, Dr Robert Innes, and the Bishop of Fulham, the Rt Revd Jonathan Baker.

The whole party was received with notable warmth by the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew. He recalled that when, in the negotiations leading up to the Treaty of Lausanne in 1922, there was a proposal to expel the Patriarchate from Constantinople/Istanbul, the Church of England was in the forefront of opposition to the plan. Memories are long in this part of the world. It was good to be reminded how effective Anglican diplomacy once was.

After Constantinople, site of the Council of 381, we crossed into Asia and visited Chalcedon, where the Fourth General Council was convened in 451.

Nicaea (Iznik) is some three hours from Istanbul. The modern city stands on the shores of Lake Iznik. Beneath whose waters lie submerged the remains of the church in which, modern scholars believe, the Council of 325 was held very close to the imperial palace of the Emperor Constantine.

The problem being addressed had arisen from the teaching of the Alexandrian priest Arius. Anxious to defend the faith in one God, Arius taught that Christ, although a divine being, was not on the same level as the Father and Creator of all. In the words of a popular Arian hymn about Christ, "there was when he was not."

For centuries, however, as the Roman governor Pliny reported to the Emperor Trajan, Christians were singing hymns to Christ as to God. There was a tradition of prayer and devotion at stake. In the event, the Council concluded that Christ was of the same substance (homoousios) as the Father. Jesus Christ, who lived among us and gave his life on the cross, is not just "like God", but is very God of very God.

The Emperor Constantine looked to the Council, which he convened to consolidate the unity of the Empire. For the 318 bishops who attended, it must have seemed a miracle. Some of them bore the scars of the torture that they had experienced in the last great official persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire; now, they were welcomed into the palace for a banquet under the protection of the imperial guard. The bishops were mainly from the Greek-speaking East, but there were representatives of the Bishop of Rome, as well as Ossius, Bishop of Cordoba, a friend of the Emperor.

Nicene Creed: Pilgrimage

The fruit of the work of the Council, largely confirmed by the subsequent gathering in Constantinople, still stands as a fundamental statement of the faith of the Undivided Church, which, in the form of the Nicene Creed, is proclaimed in Anglican churches week by week.

Preparations for the visit of the Patriarch on the actual anniversary were well advanced, although, alas, the hope that he would be accompanied by Pope Francis was overtaken by the latter's death just after Easter. It will be an important sign of the priorities of Pope Leo XIV if he decides to make the journey to Nicaea with the Patriarch.

In their own journey, the pilgrims worshipped together in the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist, in Izmir. The Chaplain, the Revd James Buxton, one of the organisers of the pilgrimage, was appointed a Canon in recognition of his outstanding service to ecumenism. The diocesan registrar even wore his wig.

UNUSUALLY, the celebration of the resurrection in 2025 fell on the same day for Churches of both the Western and Eastern traditions (News, 25 April). The Anglican and Eastern Churches Association was founded in 1864 to pray for the reunion of Christians East and West. As Archbishop Nikitas insisted, the third Christian millennium is full of promise for closer relations, but also of peril.

The prayers of John Mason Neale, and the other founders of the Association, have been partially fulfilled, but the situation faced by Christians in the ancient womb of our faith is challenging. The pilgrimage was itself a microcosm of the Christian world, and a reminder that mending the net of common belief that holds us together should be everybody's urgent concern.

The rebirth of the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" must come first from revisiting the sources. As Anglicans say in the Declaration of Assent, professing "the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds" is the foundation on which we must build. This is not some species of antiquarianism, but essential if we are to read the signs of promise and peril in our own times and draw out of our common traditions something fresh, so that the world can see Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and — amid so many threats to human flourishing — the life.


The Rt Revd Lord Chartres is a former Bishop of London.

This article was first published in the 23 May edition of the Church Times.

Refugee Ministry Updates

A memorial for those who journeyed in hope: a reflection by Ruth Blanco, Head of Communications



 The Memorial for those who journeyed in hope in Canterbury Cathedral

The Crypt of Canterbury cathedral is quiet and contemplative space. The simplicity of the memorial fitted well here. The memorial is a series of plain wooden boards with the names of those who died engraved on them. I noticed the ages – these are young people, and sadly there are many children listed. I noticed families grouped together. In 2020 three children’s names appeared – Anita aged 9, Armin aged 6 and Artin aged just 15 months.

We are asked to read the names, quietly or aloud, to ensure they are not forgotten. Each name is someone who had hopes and dreams, families and loved ones, who just wanted to seek sanctuary and safety.

Next to the memorial, the Huguenot Chapel, remembering refugees who sought sanctity and safety in Kent in the 1500s. Canterbury Cathedral

supported this community then, and I found it so powerful to see that they still support refugees today. In 1867 Samuel Smiles wrote of this chapel ‘...that eloquent memorial survives, bearing testimony to the glorious asylum which England has in all times given to foreigners flying for refuge against oppression and tyranny’

This made me reflect that the new memorial continues a tradition of refuge that both the UK and the church has embedded over many hundreds of years. We will not forget them.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Subscribe to our
You Tube Refugee
Support channel



Our website is
regularly updated



Updates from Calais
Bradon Muilenburg, the Anglican Refugee Support Lead, regularly sends us video reports directly from on the ground in Calais. Please keep an eye out for these - there are ways to practically help, including signing petitions, donating and prayer support.



Update from Calais
July 2025
Refuge

Click image to
watch video in
a new tab



Caring for Creation

Creationtide will take place from September 1 to October 4 with the theme for 2025 being 'Peace with Creation.' We are encouraged to focus on our relationship with God as Creator and with the wider world, providing an opportunity to renew our commitment to caring for and protecting the environment.

How the Diocese in Europe is celebrating Creationtide

Get involved with your chaplaincy!

'Ask me anything!' with our environmental experts

Save the date: October 1 2025 at 19.00 CET

Join a theologian, an activist and a scientist to hear how we can all make the biggest difference to care for our creation. Ask them anything! Look out for the Zoom link in September. Everyone is welcome.

'The Big Switch for creation

We will be sharing videos and resources to encourage your church to swap to an environmentally friendly energy supplier.



The Nicene Creed and Creationtide

As part of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, this Creationtide we are asking:

'How can the Nicene Creed inspire and motivate us to live in peace with creation and how can we practically do so?'



Click image to
watch video in
a new tab



Please send us your own
thoughts and reflections on
this question - with a video,
words or photograph.

WhatsApp Mission

Revd James Hadley, Chaplain at All Saint's Milan

WhatsApp (WA) is a great tool for churches to use to organise, inform, build community, and provide pastoral presence. I must admit that when the app first appeared I was resistant. I loathed the idea of another communication stream, but mission and ministry often means going where the people are at, and there are currently 45 million WA users in the EU alone. Users can share text, images, video, and voice messages, as well as supporting voice and video calling. It is now even possible to embed a widget to your church's web or Facebook page. Across demographics I meet almost no one that does not use the app. All this makes it appealing for ministry.

All Saints' Milan uses the WA's group feature for management, sharing announcements, and fostering congregation connection. For example our Sunday School group brings together our young families. Here we post reminders, and coordinate Sunday lessons and activities. It is also a place of support. At times a parent will ask a question and a conversation ensues with others in the group.

What surprises me is WA communication has become an acceptable and even expected part of pastoral presence. Our general church chat group is a place for fellowship and camaraderie. Congregants share personal news, stories, and photos. It's a place to encourage, say hello, and 'I'm praying for you'. What I have found to be the most fruitful pastoral use of WA, however, is personal messaging. If I hear news about an individual, I can send a quick message to the person. If I haven't seen the person on Sunday for a while, I write. It was a learning curve to understand that these quick messages are just as valued as a home visit, or phone call. After a quick check-in if more contact is needed or wanted I follow up in more traditional ways.

Of course, in using the app it's important to stick to ethical social media use. Our general group is in fact called All Saints' 9am-9pm, with some expectations built into the title. Serious matters needing a paper trail should be dealt with via email, and discussions held at meetings not on an app. These considerations keep the app a positive, useful, and safe tool. Today the communication landscape is rapidly changing providing churches with new options and opportunities.



Checks update

Checks and training for Congregational Worship Leaders will come under the Diocesan Safeguarding Team from 4th August and no longer be the responsibility of local chaplaincies. All enquiries to: europe.safeguarding@churchofengland.org

Safeguarding Conference

Save the important dates below.

Further details will be published nearer the dates.



Grace Fagan-Stewart,
Head of Safeguarding
Diocese in Europe

14th November

Safeguarding Service

A time to reflect on safeguarding's importance, remember survivors of abuse, and recommit to creating safe and welcoming communities. This important initiative is a chance for congregations to use their regular Sunday service to listen and talk together about how we can all make our churches safer for all and thank those working behind the scenes who help to make this happen.

15th November

Autumn Safeguarding Conference

An opportunity to meet together online, listen to speakers and share ideas together.

16th November

Safeguarding Sunday

This initiative, spearheaded by Thirtyone:eight invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places.

To register: **Safeguarding Sunday**



Racial Justice Conference

We are excited to announce that there will be a third Racial Justice Conference held in Berlin in December. This Conference with the working title **Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Democracy, Challenging Hostility** is a follow-up to our successful Conferences on Racial Justice, held in Freiburg (November 2023) and in Bad Bol (December 2024). The following is taken from the Racial Justice Conference Information leaflet, which can be downloaded in full [here](#).

The need for this Follow-Up Conference

Current realities in Europe and the world present a context of conflict, fear, misinformation, disregard for human dignity, and threats to life. Societies are increasingly focusing on “othering” through polarization and populism. Nationalist movements and extreme populist rhetoric deepen societal divisions, undermining honest conversations, compromise, and collaborative policymaking. The erosion of democratic values and prophetic voices from institutions of long-standing integrity follows, as independent bodies like the judiciary, the press, and electoral commissions come under increasing pressure, weakening essential checks and balances.

Aggressive anti-immigrant sentiments, exclusionary policies, and xenophobia are rising, creating social tensions and hindering efforts to build inclusive communities. New expressions of hostility include hate speech, racial intolerance, suppression of dissent, cultural and religious discrimination, gender-based injustices, and an apathy toward climate justice.

Social media has evolved with huge challenges in the context of racism, discrimination, and threats to democracy. Although good communication via social media platforms are possible, they are also significant breeding grounds for hate speech, targeted disinformation, and group-based discrimination.

Churches have a calling and responsibility to speak out and furthermore address issues within their own structures. Left unchecked, these tendencies marginalize vulnerable groups and jeopardize the future of humanity.

Faith communities must move beyond mere pleas for mercy and carve out a new trajectory for justice, peace, and love. This prophetic call must be understood in its entirety and implemented with urgency and faith. Stakeholders, including young leaders in churches and faith-based organizations, must come together to strategize the way forward.

Our calling as churches is to remain attentive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, discern deep-rooted divisions and exclusions—however subtle—and uphold all that fosters coexistence and the celebration of diversity.

The conference will be held as follows:

4th - 7th December 2025

Evangelische Bildungsstätte Schwanenwerder, Berlin

For more information about the conference and to register your interest or to book:

Racial Justice Conference 2025

Online Worship and Celebration

Since Covid, many of our chaplaincies continue to stream their church services live. As a diocese, covering such a huge geographical area, times of shared worship are very important to the diocesan community. Over the past few months, we have shared the installation and consecration of our new Suffragan Bishop Andrew as well as three diocesan wide services online:

Service of Prayer for Ukraine

"Hospitality and a peaceful atmosphere revive people after stressful hours spent in the inner corridors at night" - Christina, Church Warden at Christ Church Kyiv

"The followers of Jesus Christ are called to be peacemakers. His followers are not just to be peace lovers, but peace makers." Revd Kasta Dip, chaplain of Warsaw and Kyiv

A service of prayer for Ukraine was held on Zoom on 19th February 2025. Over 200 Christians from right across our diocese and beyond joined in unity and fellowship to pray on what was the third anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.



Read more and watch a recording:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/service-prayer-ukraine>

Diocesan Service of Prayer

Over 100 people gathered together online in prayer to mark the 20th anniversary of the international day against LGBTQIA+ discrimination. The service was led by both of our Bishops – Bishop Robert and Bishop Andrew, and the liturgy included voices from across our diocese.

This day is marked in more than 130 countries, including many across Europe. The 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the Day offers an occasion for hope, as well as for lament at the continuing violation of human rights across the world.



Read more and watch a recording:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/diocesan-online-service-prayer-0>

Celebrating 30 years of women's ordination to priesthood

Earlier in this edition, we wrote about the Women's Clergy Conference in Madrid and the celebration service that was held as part of that. It was a wonderful service at St George's Madrid on June 19th this year. Everyone was invited to join us for this joyous occasion to pray and thank God for women's sacramental ministry across our diocese.

Revd Annie Bolger noted, "What a thrill to honour 30 years of women serving the Church of England as priests! For me, it is especially important to honour the women who have ministered in God's name over the past three decades, and whose wisdom, leadership, and vision have broadened the horizons of the church worldwide, and enabled even greater inclusion in the CofE."



Read more and watch a recording:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/celebrating-30-years-womens-ordination-priesthood-online-diocesan-service-june>



Diocese in Europe

Thank you for reading

European Anglicans July 2025

Please get in touch with ideas for articles and stories for future editions

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**Daily Prayer
Diary**



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