



ARCHDEACONRY OF GIBRALTAR SYNOD REPORT 2021

DAY 1

08.30 Morning Prayer

09.00 First synod session - Chair: The Ven. David Waller,
Archdeacon of Gibraltar and Archdeacon of Italy of Malta

10.00 Bible Study led by Dr Jane Williams, McDonald Professor in Christian Studies

11.30 Bishop Robert – Looking Back and Looking Forward

12.00 Keynote speaker: The Archbishop of York: The Most Revd. Stephen Cottrell
Opening a door of hope – sharing the gospel in a world of restrictions"

14.00 Breakout groups after a brief introduction from Fr David
a) how chaplaincies have dealt with the pandemic
b) moving forward (think theologically about your faith)

15.45 Evening Prayer with homily from Bishop David

DAY 2

08.30 Morning Prayer

09.00 Bible Study led by The Very Revd Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans

10.30 Diocesan Office team, updates and questions.
Mr Andrew Caspari, Chief Operating Officer (Dio. Secretary)
Mr Damian Thwaites, Communications Director
Ms Grace Fagan, Safeguarding Advisor

11.30 Breakout groups for Spanish business meeting and Portuguese business meeting

13.15 The Clergy Covenant: The Right Revd. Dr David Hamid

14.00 Peru update, Revd Deborah Chapman (Barcelona)

14.30 The Archdeacon's report and close of Synod

15.00 Evening Prayer with homily from Bishop Robert

15.45 End of meeting

16:15 Optional: Fun Quiz



The Revd Canon Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

REPORT BY MARILYN FORDER

Report to the Chaplaincy Council following my second experience, and this time via Zoom, as a Synod Representative for St Laurence's Chaplaincy, Lanzarote at the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar Synod 2 to the 3 February 2021.

Due to Covid 19 the Synod this year 2021 was by zoom. Chaplain Reverend Stan, Sunny Schwarz and myself were the representatives for Lanzarote attending this virtual meeting. We had all been instructed on how to attend the meeting virtually even so I was amazed that I managed zoom.

The theme for the Synod 2021 was: ***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock"***

Rev 3:20 (Living the Gospel during the pandemic)

The Rt. Reverend Dr Robert Innes, our Diocesan Bishop, welcomed us, followed by morning prayer. **The Venerable David Waller**, Archdeacon of Gibraltar, welcomed all participants mentioning Sunny as a new member.

Joan Berry outlined the 2020 minutes which had been emailed and they were accepted.

Gwen Furmston gave the financial report. All churches had taken a financial knock due to Covid19, because often there were no services able to be held in lockdown.

The first speaker of the day was **Dr Jane Williams McDonald**, professor in Christian Studies, from Wales and wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury - an excellent speaker.

Her talk was illustrated especially relating to the painting of Jesus knocking on the door by William Holman Hunt. Dr Jane used various Bible passages to help us see God more clearly. John 1. Genesis 3 – 9. She asked 'How do we live in this world?', 'Who are we?', 'Have we betrayed God and pushed him out?'

The questions to consider when we were put in virtual rooms were:

'How do we knock on outsiders' doors?' 'What's the good news?'

These answers were then shared by a delegated speaker from each room when back in plenary session.

Diocesan Bishop Robert Innes gave us a very lively talk on 'Looking back, looking forward'.

He felt that songs help us get through these difficult times and the ones he favoured were, 'You'll never walk alone' sung often by the Liverpool football club and Gloria Gaynor's 'I will survive', sung to a hand washing advert! He romped through his talk but was careful to make us realise that in this time with the fear of illness and Brexit we must help our neighbours.



The Revd Canon Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

We must cultivate compassion and kindness and be moderate in our pleasures.

We must not waste the world we have been given.

The next speaker was **The Archbishop of York, The Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell**.

‘How do we share the gospel and cause our hearts to sing?’

He addressed many issues concerning churches not having boundaries.

‘Is the Church a virtual Church for the future?’

We must be a “hybrid church” – embracing all that is good about virtual as well as our physical worship. We must keep hold of both styles of worship. That way we will not be alone.

Archdeacon David Waller gave a brief introduction after lunch and we were put into virtual breakout rooms. We discussed ways forward and how we would survive as a Church. How important was a virtual service compared with “the real thing”?

Evening prayer led by **Reverend Rob Kean** and a homily by our **Suffragan Bishop David Hamid** ended the Day 1.

Wednesday began with Morning Prayer.

I feel this is so important - even though it is virtual - to start the day.

The Bible Study was led by **The Very Reverend Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans**, but he won’t hold that position for much longer because he will be moving to St. Georges church in Paris.

The talk was centered around the question *‘Is God a God of truth and faithfulness?’*.

St John certainly thought so. John skillfully used words to describe the people in the towns he preaches to. Words on paper cannot really be the same as listening to the wonderful way in which Reverend Jeffrey led us, with an in-depth study of the Word.

The Diocesan office team brought us up to date with finances and plans for the future which all appeared a bit grim in the midst of the Covid pandemic. **Chief Operating Officer Andrew Caspari** didn’t expect life to return to the office in the near future. He felt we would have to find a new digital way for the future. Mr **Damian Thwaites, Diocesan Communications Director** felt there were 7 points for 2021: Adjust, Campaigning, Updating, Upgrading, Building up, Training and Resourcing. Each point was elaborated on.

Grace Fagan, Diocesan Head of Safeguarding, again delivered a difficult message to the clergy that they were not going to be able to hide behind the Church and there would be strict safeguarding disciplines in the future. She stressed that we must be a safe church. Everyone must be up to date with the new training courses on the website. Safeguarding must be in the very DNA of our Church.



The Revd Canon Stan Evans

Camino de las Cuestas 5c | 35572 Tias

Email: chaplain@lanzarotechurch.com | T: +34 928 514241



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Breakout groups to discuss Spanish and Portuguese business.

Questions: 'Would we have to have a revised business plan for the future?'

Recognition that no two churches are alike. 'Are we generous as chaplaincies?'

and 'What is the future re Brexit?'

After a lunch break, Archdeacon David Waller introduced **The Right Reverend David Hamid**.

His keynote's topic was 'The Clergy Covenant'.

Why do we need one? It is a permanent and sacramental event. T

hey need to base their lives on a set of roles. The clergy is responsible for all our souls.

It's a heavy burden. The weekend is never defined and the job can become 7/7 days a week.

The next agenda point was the Peru update by the **Reverend Deborah Chapman**.

Bishop Jorge and **Fr Luis Viscara** were shown in videos where they showed us the progress made over the last 12 months, even in these very difficult times. The guinea pig farm project was interesting. Joan asked us to donate generously to further support them.

The Archdeacon's report was the last official agenda item. Archdeacon David focussed once more on the Synod's topic - Jesus knocking on the door. He expressed his heartfelt thank you to the organizing team for the brilliant implementation of the first Synod on zoom. 5 nations, 27 chaplaincies and 58 church communities were brought together online.

Evening prayer was led by **Reverend Rob Kean** with the homily by **Bishop Robert**.

A virtual fun quiz followed a little later and it goes without saying that all 3 participants from Lanzarote joined!

