

## **COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK**

### **Introduction from the Framework Chair**

*"I have come that you may have life in all its fullness ..."* (John's Gospel 10:10)

The year 2017 could have been declared as the year for cementing partnerships. Communities and Partnerships already had a significant web of networks through its various activities; in 2017 we saw the continued growth in being approached for partnership working, and to represent the Diocese in a variety of ways to give a Christian presence and perspective on social justice issues.

Our Framework has always been undergirded by the four platforms of

- Changing lives in the Diocese
- Changing lives globally
- Bringing Churches together
- Building Partnerships to increase and embed mission and ministry in our local communities.

These strands we can further develop as we embed the strategic aims of the Diocese in the coming year as we embed Changed Lives>Changing Lives.

Predominantly, the Framework's activities were centred on the issues surrounding our response to the increasing levels of personal debt and its impact on our communities, the continued response to migration and refugees, the growth and impact of modern slavery in our communities and worker exploitation as part of the Clewer Initiative and the development of engagement on environmental issues. However, our Framework officers were able to develop as promised in our 2015 report the Diocese's work on environmental issues, our links with our European ecumenical partnerships, and strengthening the Diocese's position as being a significant stakeholder and advocate on rural issues.

As a Framework, our portfolio is constantly evolving as it works to respond to the many social injustices in our communities and our society. Our Framework officers are involved, or are responsible for convening regional networks surrounding particular areas of work so that we can share resources, while also gathering greater intelligence and understanding around issues and what appropriate responses might be.

As the prophet Jeremiah records: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (29:11) There are significant partnership projects which are already entrain which will come to fruition in both 2018 and 2019 which will embody and embed further our work both in the communities our local churches serve, and the wider County as we respond to the needs that are many and various of the people here in Kent.

As Framework Chair, the energy of our Framework is tremendous and our partnerships are constantly growing. It is my great privilege to be part of a dedicated group of advisers who constantly strive to build partnerships that deepen the presence of Christ's church in each of our communities.

**Amanda Cottrell** (Chair, Communities and Partnerships)

## **CHANGING LIVES IN THE DIOCESE - CHURCH BUILDINGS - Diocesan Advisory Committee and Care of Churches Officers**

Over the past year, the DAC has dealt with a wide range of projects involving church buildings. A major change in its life occurred in October 2017, when Ian Dodd and Liz Shearman bowed out for a well-earned retirement. They were succeeded by Edmund Harris and Chloe Ewen, who are Care of Churches Officer and Assistant Care of Churches Officer respectively. Edmund joined the Diocese from a heritage consultancy, but before that was ecclesiastical caseworker at the Victorian Society for two years, then for three years part of the Care of Churches team at the Diocese of London. Chloe arrives from the University of Kent and is a parishioner at Holy Innocents in Adisham.

Edmund and Chloe have taken the opportunity to reorganize the work of the office and to build on the greater efficiency in processing faculty applications brought about by the introduction of the on-line system. Edmund deals with alterations and re-orderings, development projects, restoration projects, consultations with Historic England (since 2017 represented on the DAC by Alice Brockway) and the national amenity societies, grant applications and quinquennial inspections. Chloe deals with churchyards, memorials, routine repairs, unlisted churches and List B matters. Their aim is to decrease the administrative burden as much as possible so that parishes can concentrate instead on numerical and spiritual growth.

Edmund's post benefits from the generous assistance of Historic England, for which organisation he is working on a register of all the churches in the Diocese. The aim is to give senior clergy a strategic overview of them so that they can see clearly where there is potential for and expediency in reimagining ministry. His role also involves working closely with parishes that require support to maintain and enhance their buildings through providing them with the facilities expected to allow them to serve their communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This can often be achieved by forging partnerships at a local level between the parish and the wider community that enhance the life of each.

Through the DAC, the Diocese continues to benefit from the expert knowledge of its members and consultants. The latter included the distinguished structural engineer, Brian Morton, who sadly passed away in November after a short illness. He is much missed and the DAC owes him a debt of gratitude for the many occasions when he provided invaluable guidance.

### **TOGETHER CANTEBURY – Joint Venture**

Together Canterbury is a joint venture between the Diocese and Church Urban Fund with a vision of creating a more caring and inclusive society. The Aims of the joint venture align with the Diocesan strategy of Changed Lives-Changing Lives :

**To grow the church** by building greater trust between churches and communities, sharing best practice and upskilling volunteers.

**To re-imagine ministry** through more effective church based social action, by supporting Mission Priests and by working to improve trust in the voice of the church.

**To build partnerships that enrich communities** by raising awareness of the work of churches and connecting them with appropriate external partners.

The work of the joint venture also feeds in to the national Together Network to better inform both local and national work and policy.

### **Credit Unions and Community Hubs**

Connecting Canterbury operates three church hubs that provide practical and emotional support to those in need across the city through partnerships with CAP, Citizens Advice, the Canterbury Foodbank and Kent Savers Credit Union. Further independent hubs operate at churches in Herne Bay, Murston and Tenterden. All hubs have seen increased usage with financial hardship being the most common difficulty. The projects receive ongoing practical help and advice from Together Canterbury.

### **Kent Winter Night Shelter Forum**

The forum is formed of representatives from all Kent Winter Night Shelter projects plus Together Canterbury and Housing Justice. The aim is to share night shelter problems and best practice, and to highlight homelessness across the county. It is a collaborative partnership with more established projects supporting newer ones and projects sharing client history/wellbeing in order to better support the individuals.

For the winter of 2016/17 a total of 436 homeless individuals were supported across the ten projects, 20% of these were in work and 10% were women. 161 individuals had been found housing by the end of the winter. 74 churches were used as venues and nearly 2,000 people volunteered to help. All ten projects opened again for the 2017/18 winter.

### **Homeless Ex-Offenders**

Together Canterbury continues to work with the homeless charities Catching Lives and Porchlight and with HMP Elmley on the CampaignKent project aimed at providing accommodation for ex-offenders released into homelessness. Such ex-offenders are much more likely to re-offend than when released into supported or stable housing. Discussions are ongoing with the Diocesan Property Department over a vacant Vicarage to be used as supported accommodation.

### **The Year in Numbers**

- 19 projects supported, 7 of which were new projects and 11 were partnerships.
- 15 workshops and events organised, attended by 131 people.
- 6 presentations given on Together Canterbury's work in the Diocese to 265 people.
- 4 successful fundraising applications supported, (£18,620 received).
- 3 Mission Priests supported.

### **RAMSGATE ST GEORGE'S CME PROJECT**

This past twelve months has seen significant numbers of people using the project. Though not overtly evangelistic the project is obviously church influenced and the

aesthetic is Christian. There is a definite forming/formed community of folk who use the project. The motive behind the stable numbers is hard to determine though an educated guess would be food and friendship and of course the weekly quiz.

Within the aesthetic there are points of Christian interaction. There are prayer cards and pens at each place-setting which are often used and pinned to the large wooden cross that sits on a table in full view of everyone. Folk know that the prayer cards will be taken at the end of the evening and the requested prayer will be prayed for. Christian worship music is played and after the meal there is the opportunity to be prayed for. There is now planned a Christianity Explored course to run directly after the food is finished. The project is dependent on a number of volunteers.

Prior to the opening of the meal members of the team will walk through Ramsgate Town centre and personally invite people they meet. These are sometimes known to the team but often are people new and either begging or obviously homeless.

There are plans to open up the basement of the building to offer shower and laundry facilities though there are some problems with the age of the plumbing of the building.

The project carries the DNA of the Ignite project that came out of St Pauls in Cliftonville, Margate. There has been a good working relationship between the Dioceses of Canterbury and Church Army. Another significant partnership was with the project and the Winter Night Shelter.

*Debbie Ellisdon & Pete Bone (Ramsgate St George's Community Mission Enablers)*

## **UNIVERSITY OF KENT – Anglican Chaplain**

**“To grow the church numerically and spiritually”**

### *‘Prioritising Young People’*

The Diocesan Strategy has a renewed focus on secondary school aged children. In a few short years approximately 40% of them will have moved on to Higher Education. University chaplains and student Christian groups are in a unique position to reach out to the 18-24 age demographic and for this reason Canterbury Diocese has shown an enduring commitment to Higher Education Chaplaincies both Kent University and Canterbury Christ Church University. **Chaplains traditionally encourage and nurture a ‘core group’** of students to pray, worship and share at the heart of their ministries. At Kent University students and staff take part in a rhythm of **prayer and worship** on campus each week in term-time, the ‘C of E’ focus of which is the 12noon **Sunday Communion Service** which is normally attended by a good number of students from the UK and overseas. Also under the auspices of the Anglican Chaplain are student-led services during the week, a **student society** (called ‘Christian Focus’), an annual **Lent course, Baptism and Confirmation preparation**, an annual **weekend retreat** at Aylesford Priory and numerous social events (usually involving food and drink) in order to trigger and support community life. At present 5 recent Kent University graduates (four male, one female) who were part of the Chaplaincy core community have completed discernment and training and have begun their **professional ministries** in other dioceses. A staff member, ordained Deacon in 2016, is serving a title in Canterbury on a self-supporting basis

and assists with Chaplaincy ministry. The Chaplain's 6-year stint as a Bishops' Adviser (Education) at BAPs has enabled him to provide first class advice to prospective ministry candidates.

### **“To re-imagine ministry”**

Discussions about aspects of University Chaplaincy ministry, and ministry to students and young people in general, can now be fully and objectively informed by the recent **publication *Christianity and the University Experience (Bloomsbury 2013)* by R. Warner, M. Guest, K. Aune & S. Sharma**. Kent University and its Chaplaincy feature in the team's detailed research, which is ongoing and with which we continue to cooperate. Large parts of this excellent volume describe and explore Christian life and the work of the Chaplaincy at Kent University, but its wider observations and conclusions about the faith-grounding of young people make it required reading for those involved with planning and implementation of aspects of the Diocesan Strategy. Anglican Chaplains are aware that their core groups, typically consisting of students who are used to broader manifestations of Church of England/Anglican culture (a ministry of word and sacrament, study groups, and the marking of days such as Ash Wednesday) will not necessarily be large and will - to an extent - depend on some students arriving at the University with a familiarity with Anglican practices based on experience from their home churches. Anglican Chaplains everywhere need 'to run to stand still' in order to maintain these core groups, as the kind of students traditionally associated with them are increasingly hard to find. At the same time it is more important than ever to maintain an Anglican identity amongst a very (and, at its fringes, worryingly) diverse Christian scene on campus.

### **“To build partnerships that enrich communities”**

The University of Kent is a large, nationally and internationally renowned, campus-based university with a high proportion of students resident on or near the Canterbury site (the second campus in Chatham has separate Chaplaincy arrangements). Chaplains fit into the University's structure of welfare-provision for both students and staff. They promote, nurture and grow the faith community to which they themselves belong (and which supports their work): this is achieved by leading and providing opportunities for prayer and worship together with related study-groups and social activities. Much time is devoted to the pastoral care and nurture of individuals. At Kent University we have a team of chaplains representing diverse world faiths and major Christian denominations: the chaplains keep up-to-date with what each other is doing, and - where possible - work together, not least in the planning and delivery of interfaith initiatives such as the *Destiny and Afterlife* symposium in Interfaith Week 2017. Chaplains also act as bridges between groups on campus and religious communities and congregations in the local area and wider region.

There are numerous opportunities for a chaplain to become involved with the academic, cultural and social life of the University. It is a requirement, not an option, to make full use of these. It is also a privilege. Greater involvement comes through being a recognised part of the Student Services Department, through teaching and research when opportunities present themselves, participation in University committees and events and attendance at special lectures, seminars, concerts and

other occasions. For all these reasons, the support of chaplaincy in education is a key part of the national strategy of the Church of England.

### **The Church of England at Kent University**

Many faces from the staff body of the University are seen in local parish churches on Sundays and weekdays, often in leading roles. The Church of England is strongly represented and promoted within the life of the University of Kent in all sorts of specific and high-profile ways. The **Michael Ramsey Chair of Modern Theology** (held by Professor Gordon Lynch) is a key component of the Theology and Religious Studies Department. The **Anglican Chaplain**, the Revd Dr Stephen Laird may be called upon to undertake daytime teaching for undergraduates (typically 18-21 year olds) with module subjects including Islam as well as Christianity.

There are ecumenical/'jointly-owned' events including the **University Cathedral Carol Service** (the biggest event in the University's annual calendar, where people from all walks of life within the University hear the Christmas message together). This service is organised by the Chaplains with the help of students from the committees of various denominational societies. There are particularly good relationships between the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist groups on campus. This is (at least partly) a reflection of the close working and social relationships which exist between their chaplains.

During 2017 it was announced that in 2020 our campus will become the venue of the next **Lambeth Conference**, the current Anglican Chaplain having taken the role in 1998 as Coordinator of the International Student Volunteer Teams; and in 2008 as *Rapporteur* within an Indaba group of 38 Bishops and co-leader of the 'Post-Conference Conference' for Student Volunteers and served as a member of the Canterbury Local Committee on both occasions.

The Revd Dr Stephen Laird FSA FHEA, University Chaplain

### **RURAL ISSUES –**

**Modern Slavery in Rural Areas** - The Diocese is leading on this strand for the national Church as part of its Clewer Initiative. We have been liaising with various the sectors that comprise the wider "Rural" sector to gain full understanding of the issues, along with external influencers which include the increase of "County Lines" which bring drugs into Kent and their rapid multiplication into our local communities.

**Kent God's Acre Project and Sacred Space Awards** – In 2017, the Diocese reviewed the Kent God's Acre project and began working with Blean (St Cosmus and St Damian) to pilot God's Acre resources for children as a result of work with the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (Area of Outstanding Beauty) Unit. We have been working our colleagues in the Children, Schools and Young People Framework in developing further the Lincs Wolds resources and even the prospect of "Messy Churchyard" resources.

### **Kent is Delicious Schools Competition –**

In its fourth year, the Kent is Delicious continued to go from strength to strength. The theme for 2017 was breakfast, a newsletter was developed and has been well-received and the Framework has been able to work with schools and partner organisations in providing classroom resources and visits throughout the year. After

the competition, we were worked with our stakeholders to review and audit the competition. The winners for 2017 were Teynham CE Primary School.

### **Fifth Continent HLF project –**

The Fifth Continent HLF Scheme is being led by Kent Wildlife Trust, supported by a partnership of more than fifteen organisations, of which our Diocesan Communities and Partnerships Framework is one of the main partners. The scheme has secured £2.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Romney Marsh landscape. This will be used to cover a variety of projects, one of which is the ‘Sentinels of the Marsh’ project, which focuses on the historic churches in the area, which the Diocese working with the Marsh churches as the main partner organisation are responsible for this strand of the project. The delivery stage of the Scheme began in March 2017 and will continue until September 2017.

### **RURAL BUSINESS CHAPLAIN**

The Rural Business Chaplain is a funded post in partnership with the Diocese of Chichester, and the Farming Community Network it is a unique post and has attracted attention both nationally and internationally.

January 2017 began my first full year as Rural Business Chaplain and started with the annual Plough Sunday Service at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. This service brings the farming community together to worship, to pray for the year ahead and to hear something of what the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution does to help farmers, and those who work in the agricultural sector, who are in crisis. I attend as chaplain to the Kent branch of the Farming Community Network and also as I sit on the committee of RABI in both Kent and Sussex.

To hear the work of what these two organizations do and to play a small part within them grounds the Rural Business Chaplaincy firmly within the Diocesan strategy of ‘Changed Lives → Changing Lives’ as it is often those who these charities have helped, that go on to help others and the church has a huge role to play in that. My work within Ashford Cattle Market and Hailsham Cattle Market continued throughout 2017. I had many conversations with market users about a wide range of problems, some had nothing to do with agriculture but showed how the lack of services in our rural communities is having an effect on those who live and work in rural areas.

Attending the cattle markets, agricultural shows, ploughing matches and various meetings across Kent and East Sussex is a privilege as I am able to engage with farmers, farmworkers and those who live and work rurally where they are. Many people who I speak to are surprised that the ‘church’ is interested in the problems that they face!

During the year I was also able to attend some conferences. These included the British Food Fortnight, Brexit and the Rural Future: Implications for Churches and Communities, Dying to Live Conference, Dementia Friendly Church, Rural Officers’ Gathering, UK Farming and the Environment Post Brexit Forum and Inspiring Rural Communities Conference.

These conferences have been of great help in understanding some of the issues facing our rural communities and in discerning where the church can meet those who are suffering because of rural change and how we need to re-imagine ministry that meets not only the needs of rural people but speaks to them in their language where they are.

I also spoke at two church breakfasts and at the RABI Harvest Supper.  
Revd Chris Hodgkins (Rural Business Chaplain)

## **CHANGING LIVES GLOBALLY – Saving the Planet – Environment Working Group**

As one of the first to be registered as an Eco Diocese, environmental encouragement focussed on the following areas.

In 2017 the Diocese's commitment to the environment was formalised with the development of an Environment Working Group headed initially by the Archdeacon of Maidstone and later by the Diocesan Environment Advisor Teresa Redfern

The Environment Working Group met twice during 2017, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> October to discuss and pursue environmental matters. Teresa Redfern was appointed as Diocesan Environmental Officer (DEO) and in October Archdeacon Stephen Taylor and Teresa Redfern attended the DEO conference at Launde Abbey. The forum has formalised a new Environment Policy as well as running a number of events for churches on how to 'green' your church and Eco Finance.

### **Eco Church**

To mark the first anniversary of the Eco Church award scheme, a special Eco Service was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February in the Cathedral Crypt. The service was led by Bishop Trevor and followed the specially commissioned liturgy written by the Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral, Matthew Rushton.

By the end of 2017, there were around 23 registered Eco Churches, two of which had achieved a Bronze Award.

### **Embedding environmental issues**

Training on 'How to Become an Eco Church', which was open to all clergy and laity, was held on 21<sup>st</sup> February in Canterbury. The session was guided by Dr Ruth Valerio (A Rocha UK) and Rev Matthew Rushton. It offered an exploration of Creationtide and of available environmental worship resources, as well as consideration of best practice and the showcasing of successful projects from across the Diocese.

An **ALM training programme** on the environment was developed and advertised. Unfortunately, there was insufficient interest for the programme to run in 2017.

Outdoor Church was the theme for the Eco Forum meeting held at Wychling church on 6th June. The event was and run by Sam and Sara Hargreaves of Engage Worship and provided an opportunity to explore the scope and possibilities of engaging with God in his creation.

An **Environmental Forum** on how we manage environmental resources was held at St Mary Bredin Church, Canterbury, on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Speakers included Father Lawrence MacLean (Hove Parish Priest) and Dr David Greenfield (Social, Environmental & Economic Solutions Ltd) who spoke about the Diocese of Chichester Energy Stewardship Programme. Visiting delegates from Germany talked about their initiatives to manage environmental resources.

### **Diocesan investments**

An Environment Forum on 'Ethical banking and investment' was held in Ashford on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The event was led by Doug Gibb, *Director of Finance for the Diocese, and included presentations from Charity Bank and Shared Interest*. The Diocese now invests in the Charity Bank and all investments are advised by CoE Ethical Investment Advisory Group.

*Teresa Redfern*

*Diocesan Environmental Officer*

### **BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER – ECUMENICAL –**

The Diocese continues to be part of the Churches Together in Kent and is responsible for facilitating the denominational ecumenical officers group for the County. Our work involves liaising and reviewing Local Ecumenical Partnerships both of churches, but also as a contributor to the Kent Workplace Mission which supports and facilitates workplace chaplaincies. Additionally, this includes the Kent Critical Incidents Chaplaincies which is part of the Kent Voluntary Services Emergency Group.

### **INTERFAITH**

During the year the Diocese met with representatives of Kent County Council, Medway Interfaith Action Group and SACRE to plan a joint event to celebrate Inter-Faith Week. The event was led by Bishop Trevor and Mike Hill, KCC Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services and well attended by representatives of all the major religions. There were presentations from a number of inter-faith groups and the Kent Equality Cohesion Council, followed by discussions on next steps.

Following the meeting, Kent County Council has started a mapping exercise of inter-faith groups.

### **EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **German Partnership – Markgräflerland and Zossen Flaming**

The Diocese of Canterbury has a partnership with two regional churches in Germany – Zossen-Flaming near Berlin and Markgräflerland near Basel in South West Germany. These churches belong to the Evangelical Churches in Germany (EKD), a fellowship of 20 regional Lutheran, Reformed and United churches. Each regional church is governed by a synod and can be likened to our own dioceses.

Every year the partnership meets at one of the three locations and in 2017 it was the turn of Canterbury to host the meetings. Twenty two people came from Germany and met up with representatives from the Diocesan staff and parishes to discuss a range of subjects which included sessions on the environment, refugees and the implications of Brexit.

The session on the environment compared the work being done and the resources available in each partner area and also in the UK generally. The Diocesan Refugee Officer updated the meeting on the progress being made by the church in welcoming refugees and changing the narrative within the country. The Brexit discussion was lively and many of the German attendees found the breadth of the discussion gave them a wider perspective on the issues. All agreed that partnerships, such as this one, were going to be more important as the UK leaves the EU. There was also the opportunity for visitors to attend a community event in Ramsgate on Universal Credit and the Churchwardens training in Ashford.

The 2018 partnership meeting is being hosted by Markgräflerland and will be based in Strasbourg. Anyone interested in joining the Canterbury partnership team should contact Keith Berry in Communities & Partnerships.

### **MADAGASCAR – Province of the Indian Ocean**

The Diocese has continued its long partnership with the Province of the Indian Ocean and more particularly with the dioceses in Madagascar. A number of our parishes have direct links with communities in Madagascar. Our partnership has been further strengthened by working with USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) as we seek to support, resource, and develop the churches and communities in Madagascar. This partnership with USPG is further cemented in our work with refugees in Calais. Bishop Trevor visited the Province in August 2017 when there was the election of the new Archbishop for the Province (Rt Revd James Wong, Bishop of Seychelles).

The partnership is also one of financial support, and when there was the cyclone in 2017, our diocesan community were incredibly generous in their donations to fund the rebuilding of homes and communities in the responding to the devastation it caused.

### **Arras, France – Roman Catholic Diocese**

We have continued our long involvement and partnership with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arras and its wider Province “Le LAC” which includes the dioceses of Lille and Cambrai. We have been contributing to their work to facilitate an international conference on “Just Peace” which is scheduled for April 2018 as part of the centenary commemorations of the 1914-1918 war.

We have also continued our liaison with the Diocese in terms of the particularities of refugee issues due to our contexts of being gateways to our countries and to Europe.

### **REFUGEES -**

During 2017 the Kent Refugee Project has continued to build partnerships that enrich communities. The post is funded solely by donations through the Bishop’s Advent Justice Appeal. Following up from the work started in Sept 2016, the Kent Refugee Project has continued to seek out and strengthen partnerships with service providers and statutory organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers. After an initial phase we have developed further work with parishes, community

groups and schools to raise awareness and positive understanding of the challenges refugees and asylum seekers face. We have continued to offer practical tools to support refugees and asylum seekers.

The Kent Refugee Project has:

### **East Kent Network of Sanctuary**

- Managing of the network- Meetings, speakers and dissemination of material
- 100 contacts on mailing list and 10 meetings arranged.

### **Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme (SVPRS)**

- Working with Reverend Bob Weldon, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Folkestone, for the allocation of St George's Vicarage to a Syrian refugee family as part of the scheme.
- Working with Reverend Joyce Addison in her work with the Syrian refugee family housed at St Martin's vicarage, Maidstone.
- Working with Reverend Diane Fawcett working with Syrian families in Deal.
- Raised awareness on resentment schemes at St Luke's church, Sevenoaks – as a result the Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugee group formed.
- Liaised with KCC and Sevenoaks Housing Manager – 1 Family is now to arrive in Sevenoaks.
- Established good relationship with Kent County Council, Home Office, Sub-contracted Agencies, Canterbury City Council, Ashford Borough Council and with the South East Partnership for Migration Team.

### **Kent Syrian Families Stakeholders Meeting**

- Set up in February 2017 and convened by the Diocesan refugee officer.
- More than 30 key stakeholders supporting the resettlement of refugees in the Kent region, attend on average-including local government, NGOs, faith groups and civil society.

### **Community Sponsorship**

- Workshops on Community Sponsorship on ad hoc basis to secular and faith groups to 100 participants between January and May 2017.
- Interlined good relationship with the Home Office Resettlement Team.
- In contact with most successful sponsors, Citizens U.K and Churches Together for Refugees.
- Attended 5 events on Community Sponsorship throughout 2017.
- Contributed to Bishop Trevor's Roundtable meeting on Community Sponsorship, March 2017.
- Contributed Community Sponsorship Event in Canterbury (March 2018)- The first of its Kind in Kent

### **Direct contact with refugees**

- Ongoing support is provided to Syrian refugee families in Canterbury, in Maidstone, Deal and Folkestone.
- Young refugee girls in Canterbury, Ashford, Folkestone, Whitstable, Maidstone and Ashford.

### **Awareness Raising**

- An overall of 200 attendees benefitted from workshops focussing on government led resettlement schemes, and on the realities surrounding asylum and refuge at local, national and international level. This is ongoing work done with parishes, community groups and individuals.
- Work with local advocacy groups; Whitstable Calais Solidarity group, Faversham and Villages Calais Solidarity Groups, Sevenoaks welcomes Refugees, The Salvation Army Canterbury and Hythe.
- Presented work with Refugees in Kent at Migrant Communities Network, April 2017
- Presented work with Refugees in Kent with the Link Group, Jan 2017.
- Presented work with Refugees in Kent Ethnic Minority Independent Council, February 2017.
- Presented work with Refugees in Kent Migrant Communities Network, January 2017.
- Met with Kings School to discuss Ana Draper's Sport's Therapy Project with UASCs in Kent, Jan 2017.
- Presentation of our work with refugees in Kent at University of East London and Victoria Climbe' Foundation, London, May 2017.
- Anglican Alliance, report on our work with refugees in Kent, June 2017.

### **Memberships**

- Member of the Link Group- (local representatives of national and international NGOs).
- Member of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration group
- Member of the Ethnic Minority Independent Council
- Member of the Migrant Communities Network
- Member of the Young Refugees Stakeholders Meeting

### **Events**

In bringing together various statutory and NGOs together, we have been able to organise and convene the following.

- The Great Get Together, June 2017.
- Refugee Week 2017, June 2017.
- Bishop Trevor Breakfast – Refugee Week 2017, June 2017.
- Bishop Trevor Refugee Round Table – Community Sponsorship, March 2017.
- Kent Refuge Help opening of exhibition "I live here", Conquest House, Canterbury, July 2017.

### **International involvement**

- Speaker at the International Workshop "The Refugee Crisis and Religious Engagement: Widening Routes to Legal Protection" Milan, March 2017.
- Attended Summer School in Human Rights, Conference of European Churches for Migrants, Palermo, July 2017.
- Strengthening relationships with organisations and faith groups operating in Northern France. Produced a report on the situation in Calais- Dec. 2017.

**Fundraising:** Awarded £15,000 by the Arts Council England for the delivery of the Home Project in Ashford in 2018. Home is an arts project that brings 10 newly arrived Syrian refugee women together with 10 local women, (and their families/wider community), living in Ashford, Kent. Participants will work with a female visual artist (who they help to select) over a period of 6 months: exploring the theme of home and recognising each woman's unique perspective while reinforcing the universally shared need to feel at home wherever we are. An exhibition will be co-curated by the artist and participants and shown in Kent. The Diocese of Canterbury (DoC) will work in partnership with arts charity People United (PU) and Ashford Borough Council (ABC).

### **Refugees – The Children's Society secondment**

In 2017, we were able to host in partnership with the Children's Society the Refugees Advocacy and Policy officer, Juliette Wales. Juliette's work over the six month period was to work within Kent and beyond to explore and review policy and implementation of the care of young refugees from 2015, and to scope potential developments in responding to their needs and welfare.

The Diocese continues in its relationship and partnership with The Children's Society as it develops the work begun in piloting Hat-Te-Bah and also in its wider work with young people.

### **Green Pilgrimage – Interreg Europe funded project**

The Diocese of Canterbury is an advisor on a five year large scale Interreg Europe project looking at Green Pilgrimage with a view to promote awareness and growth of environmentally friendly pilgrimage across the continent, this will eventually lead to the creation of practical projects to develop and support pilgrim pathways in regions like Kent.

The Diocese acts as a broker between local authorities and faith groups who manage pilgrimage routes and destinations. The Diocese will advise the partners throughout the project on existing best practice across Europe as well as being available for advice and consultation throughout the lifetime of the project.

The Diocese organised the week long opening event in Kent in May 2017 bringing together partners from eight European countries along with representatives from partner organisations in the UK. As well as a full programme of talks and presentations, there were opportunities to visit a number of sites within Canterbury including the Cathedral, Eastbridge Hospital, St Augustine's and St Martin's Church

as well as a full day in Ramsgate at St Augustine's Cross and St Augustine's Church. The final day was a full days Pilgrimage between Canterbury and Chilham.

The Director of Communities and Partnerships went to Romania as the faith advisor in September 2017.

## **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Partnership Engagement – Bishop's Breakfasts**

There were four Bishops Breakfasts held in 2017 which covered a wide variety of the work that Communities and Partnerships undertake.

The first breakfast in March was to bring together people at The Yarrow Hotel in Thanet to support the work that Ignite and other organisations have done with the disadvantaged. A number of working relationships were formed at that event including donations from the Fire Service to the homeless and links with other community leaders.

In June we had a much larger scale breakfast at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge to bring together local and national organisations working with refugees. At this event opportunity was given for a number of the organisations to speak and explain their roles. This breakfast was particularly to allow our Refugee Officer to develop a closer working relationship with other relevant groups and ensure a network of support was in place for the refugee families located in Kent.

The final breakfast of 2017 was held at the County Showground to look at rural deprivation and the role the church can play in being supportive to farming networks and rural communities.

We also run an annual breakfast at the County Showground for those attending the Kent County Show to bring everyone together prior to the three day event.

The breakfasts that we hold allow the various project officers involved to see how best to engage with the communities they need to work in and see where the opportunities for new work exist. It allows relationships to develop in a more informal setting which encourages conversation and the sharing of knowledge. In 2017 we had over 200 people attend a Bishops Breakfast.