

DURHAM CONFERENCE

24th to 28th AUGUST 2018

DAY THREE

This morning we had negotiated with the visiting choir, *Cantores Vagrantes*, who are sharing St Chad's with us and needed to leave early for the cathedral where they are singing the services. We had generously agreed that they could go in first and that we would arrive 15 minutes later. Not very long, you might think, but it provided a few extra minutes in bed for which most of us were grateful!



Our first session was led by Dr Hannah Cleugh, Senior Chaplain to the Bishop of Ely. Her topic was 'Jesus is Alive! Really? Where do we find Him? In Liturgy'. As her starting point she used the encounter with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus as the first post-resurrection liturgy. She asked us to discuss together times when we had experienced Christ present in liturgy, and things that might have prevented it. There was a brief feedback time.

Hannah then drew our attention to some paintings depicting that scene, including Velázquez's "Kitchen Maid and the Supper at Emmaus" in which

Christ is appearing to his disciples at Emmaus in the left background while in the foreground a servant is working in the kitchen. Hannah suggested that the light of Christ is shining on the face of the girl, and that Christ is alive and with us in everyday situations.



'What exactly IS liturgy?' she asked us, and then gave a very brief historical sketch of liturgical developments. She ended with the question raised by Rowan Williams, 'How do we make fresh what is thought to be familiar, so familiar that it doesn't need to be thought about?'

Hannah's presentation can be found by clicking the appropriate button on the Home Page.

After coffee we went across to the cathedral for the Sung Eucharist. It was a wonderful service, the visiting choir singing beautifully, and Bishop Irja Askola, the former Bishop of Helsinki, who is attending our conference, preached the sermon.

You can read the sermon by clicking the link on the Home Page.



Lunch was in the Prior's Hall, a very gracious building, and then we caught our double decker bus to Newcastle. There, in St Ann's Church, we were greeted by Pastor Thomas Jantzen, Pastor of the German Lutheran Church, and the Curate at St Ann's, the Rev Anthony O'Grady, and members of their two congregations.

Pastor Jantzen introduced us to Fr Colin Carr, Priest at St Dominic's Roman Catholic Church who told us a little about how the churches in the area co-operate in Churches Together.

We then had two presentations. The first, by Lindsay Cross, described the work of the West End Refugee Service which included an animated film showing just what faces someone arriving in the UK and seeking asylum.

Next came Liz Archibald from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Peace and Justice Coordinating Council. She was accompanied by Veronica Whitty and together they gave us a broad picture of the ways in which their Council deliberately tries NOT to undertake work on its own but to encourage, resource and equip local parishes to embrace the cause of peace and justice in their own contexts.

A full account of our visit to Newcastle and these two presentations can be found by clicking the link on the Home Page.



Then, after refreshments provided by the people of St Ann's, we had a short walk to the German Church where we joined the congregation there for Evening Worship. We were welcomed by Anthony Hellen who told us something of the congregation's history.

You can read what he said by clicking the link to on the Home Page.

The service was led by Pastor Thomas Jantzen. **You can read his sermon by clicking the link on the Home Page.**

We hope that we shall be able to strengthen the links between that congregation and our Society.

Back on the bus, past the 'Angel of the North', to Durham and supper in St Chad's after which those who heard John Arnold on the Saints of Northumbria last night went to the cathedral for their evening pilgrimage with Canon David Kennedy whilst the rest thoroughly enjoyed John's lively account of the saints of yesterday and today, and ended their day with Compline – and then a visit to the bar or to bed!

It's been a very full day. What awaits us tomorrow, we wonder!