

Exploring links with churches in Paderborn

Germany – the East of the West and the West of the East

It was perhaps appropriate that in this 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War that our Diocese should be exploring new links with Germany, in this case with Paderborn, a city of 150, 000 situated to the east of the Ruhr. Organised by Rev Juergen Bridstrup, the purpose of the trip was to explore the possibility of links with the Paderborn district of the Protestant Church to encourage the exchange of clergy and links between parishes and young people.

Joining Juergen were the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, the Venerable Trevor Jones, Archdeacon of Hertford and Rev Canon Dennis Stamps, Ministerial Development Officer.

Through conversations during the trip with the Roman Catholic Johann Adam Moehler Institute for Ecumenical Studies it is hoped that friendships will grow with the Catholic Church in Paderborn.

Such partnership already exists in the Diocese links with Italian Catholic dioceses and at parish level between St Luke's Legrave and Berlin. In June 11 "Pilgrims" from Berlin-Spandau visited St Luke, Legrave as part of the growing partnership of Churches in Alt- Straaken and Pichelsdorf , an ecumenical venture. Rev Canon Stephen Purvis' programme included Coventry, the Bunyan Trail, meeting the Mayor of Luton and primarily building the fellowship of the four church communities of Christians together in Legrave.

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