

## In brief

### New Governor for ACR

Bishop Charles Jenkins has been nominated by Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori to become a member of the Governors of the Anglican Centre. He also succeeds



Mary Reath as the Chair of the American Friends of the Centre. The 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, he saw his home flooded and his diocese nearly destroyed in the floods following Hurricane Katrina. Looking for a new dimension to his Christian vocation having just retired from Louisiana, Bishop Charles has found the ACR. It is a delight to welcome him.

It's an additional delight to hear that the TEC Convention has agreed an annual grant of \$5000 to the Centre for the next three years.

### Director in the US

In July David Richardson took part in the Seton Hall summer programme for Roman Catholic priests at Long Branch, New Jersey. His five lectures examined the historical background of the modern Anglican Communion, the premises on which the ARCIC dialogues were based and the promise they hold.

Whilst in the States he saw two great friends of the Anglican Centre, Mary Reath (who having relinquished her outstanding work as Chair of the American Friends remains a Governor) and Canon John Andrew, Rector Emeritus of St Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue (see p 9).

### Sitting comfortably

Some new chairs are being bought for the Seminar Room, following adverse comments about the present seating. The new ones cost €80 each. Donations would be welcome, directly to the Centre or through the contacts listed on p.11.

## ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION PLANS STATEMENT ON APPROACHES TO MORAL ISSUES

**“There is real potential for some breakthrough ecumenical work. And that’s even more exciting since it’s in the area of moral theology, which has almost not been touched in the bilateral dialogues.”** Fr Matthew Olver was talking after the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the United States (ARC/USA) held its 68th meeting in Louisiana in September.

In earlier meetings of the Commission, members had discussed Catholic and Anglican positions on contraception, debt relief, immigration, same-sex unions and health care. This session was largely devoted to the examination of a draft outline of a potential agreed statement on the topic of the current round of dialogue, “Ecclesiology and Moral Discernment: Common Ground and Divergences.” This topic explores the fact that while the two churches share the same convictions on a wide range of ethical questions, there are serious differences regarding certain issues in personal morality, especially on human sexuality. More at <http://www.usccb.org/seia/anglican.shtml>



ARC/USA meeting in Louisiana, September 2010

## SHARING A SIMNEL CAKE, an earnest of unity

Canon David Goodacre, from Newcastle upon Tyne, writes:

The movement towards church unity, Marcus Pound told the English Friends of the Anglican Centre meeting in Newcastle in April, has passed through three stages. The first was an optimistic one when Churches sought to come together. The second was a time of making cross-conciliatory agreements. The third, the time in which we live now, is the actual practising of ecumenism, as we were to do when a group of us - men and women priests, Anglican and Roman Catholic lay folk - met the following day on a pilgrimage for unity.

In reality, the pilgrimage had begun that morning, with eucharist in the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas and prayers for the Anglican Centre in Rome and its friends.

The next day, Sunday, the first station of our pilgrimage of prayer was Holy Island, from where in the C7<sup>th</sup> St Aidan had brought the gospel to the North East. We were there to pray for unity among all Christians. At Shepherds Law, a hermitage in Northumberland, our prayer was for unity between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. Brother Harold Palmer, formerly an Anglican Franciscan and now a Roman Catholic lay brother, has been praying here for unity and mission in concert with the great North Eastern Saints for almost 40 years. He led us in his special Anglican form of the office and explained that he felt the ordinariate was a true ecumenical gesture to welcome the traditions of worship of the Church of England into the Roman Church. For Bishop Edward Holland, the Chair of the Friends, this was ‘a key part of the whole week-end.’ He said he was ‘especially taken with Brother Harold’s approach to becoming RC and its application to the ordinariate, allowing the English “Use” to be held within the Catholic Church.’

After Evensong in the beautiful chapel, we celebrated our togetherness with tea and Simnel Cake, a typical cake for Easter, serving on this occasion as a symbol of the unity for which we were praying.