

THE FIRST SIGNING OF TREATY BETWEEN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN ITALY AND THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

Rome, 28th March 2019

We are delighted to announce that on the 26th of March 2019 at Palazzo Chigi the Treaty (*Intesa*) between the Republic of Italy and the *Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra* "ACDI" (which represents the Church of England in Italy) was signed. **The Revd Vickie Sims**, as President of the *Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra*, signed on behalf of the Church of England in Italy with the **Undersecretary of State On. Giancarlo Giorgetti**, representing the Italian Government and the **Prime Minister On. Giuseppe Conte**.

This is an immensely important milestone towards the full legal recognition of the chaplaincies and congregations in Italy. All the members of ACDI, i.e. chaplaincies and congregations in Italy of the Archdeaconry of Italy and Malta, Diocese in Europe, Church of England, will benefit from what is agreed in the Treaty (*Intesa*). Such benefits are numerous and include the full legal recognition by the Republic of Italy of the *Confessione Anglicana*



of the Church of England; the Treaty will also allow chaplains to access the Italian clergy pension scheme, permit foreign clergy to apply for a "religious visa" to live in Italy, recognise legally weddings celebrated according to the Anglican rite, consent clergy to visit officially in prisons and hospitals, and other rights for Anglican workers, students, soldiers, charities and cemeteries. Furthermore, donations made from Italian resident tax payers to the *Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra* (or to its member churches) may be deducted from the tax payers' taxes. The Treaty also admits ACDI to become part of the *8 per mille* scheme which sees "tax rebates" from Italian resident tax payers apportioned out to the various recognised churches in Italy now including the Church of England.

The Treaty was signed at Palazzo Chigi (Rome) in the presence of **H.E. Jill Morris CMG**, British Ambassador to the Republic of Italy and the Republic of San Marino and Board Member of ACDI; **The Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes**, Bishop of the Diocese in Europe, Church of England; **The Very Revd Dr John Shepherd**, Interim Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome and Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See and Board Member of ACDI; **Dott. Paolo Coniglio**, Secretary General and Board Member of ACDI; **Cav. Uff. Giampaolo Grazian**, Vice-President and Board Member of ACDI; **Dott.ssa Wendy Wyver**, Political Counsellor at the British Embassy in Rome; **Dott. Gerardo Kaiser**, Senior Political Analyst at the British Embassy in Rome; **The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman**, founder member of ACDI; **Mrs Sandra Seagram Annovazzi**, founder Member of ACDI; **Prof. Salvatore Bordonali**, Professor of Ecclesiastical Law from the University of Palermo Italy; **On. Roberto**

Chieppa, Segretario Generale della Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri della Repubblica Italiana, and; **Dott.ssa Anna Nardini**, Consigliere alla Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri della Repubblica Italiana. The signing ceremony also served as an occasion to offer our deep thanks to the those, who over the past thirteen years, gave freely and generously of their professional time and talent. We also thank all those members of the Italian government who guided us in this long and complex journey.

Further steps do remain, including the passing of the appropriate bill in the Italian Parliament. The signing ceremony on Tuesday the 26th of March 2019 was a 'pre-ceremony' which will culminate in the signing of the final Treaty by the Italian Prime Minister and the President of ACDI. We continue to work towards that goal.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact either The Revd Vickie Sims, President of ACDI, or Dott. Paolo Coniglio, General Secretary of ACDI, via the contact form at the webpage <http://www.chiesadinghilterra.org/contacts>

News from the Italian Government - *Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri*

<http://www.governo.it/articolo/siglata-intesa-italia-chiesa-dinghilterra/11211>

Tweet from the Bishop of Europe

<https://twitter.com/diocesineurope/status/1110934312051003392?s=12>

News from the Diocese in Europe <https://europe.anglican.org/>

News from ACDI <http://www.chiesadinghilterra.org/news>



From left to right: Dott.ssa Wendy Wyver, Dott. Paolo Coniglio, On. Roberto Chieppa, Cav. Uff. Giampaolo Grazian, H.E. Jill Morris, On. Giancarlo Giorgetti, The Revd Vickie Sims, Bishop Robert Innes, The Very Revd Dr John Shepherd, The Revd Canon Jonathan Boardman, Prof. Salvatore Bordonali, Mrs Sandra Seagram Annovazzi.

The association Chiesa d'Inghilterra (www.chiesadinghilterra.org)

The association *Chiesa d'Inghilterra* brings together all the churches in Italy who are members of the Anglican Communion and to the Church of England.

Today, over 100,000 Anglicans are estimated to be living in Italy, some of whom regularly go to one of the twenty churches, chaplaincies or congregations based in Italy.

Anglicans have lived, worked and professed their faith in Italy since the beginning of the 17th century: the first Anglican community was founded in 1605 by the British Ambassador, Sir Henry Wooton, in the Republic of Venice.

The association *Chiesa d'Inghilterra* is a "religious not-for-profit organization" which attained legal status on the 17th of July 2014 by Presidential Decree, signed by the President of the Italian Republic and approved by the Italian Cabinet on the 10th of July 2014.

The purpose of the association is to follow the principles of the Church of England, through the promotion and the implementation of all appropriate activities and social care, in the full knowledge that spiritual work is intimately linked to social action.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II is The Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Rt Hon. Justin Welby is the Primate of the Church of England, as also the Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Province of Canterbury and the Bishop of the Diocese. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the religious leader of the Church of England and of all the dioceses.

The main activities of the Chaplaincies and Congregations of the Church of England in Italy are: to provide spiritual assistance in accordance with the traditions of the Church of England; to provide pastoral care to those who ask for it, whether professing the Anglican Communion or not; to promote ecumenical dialogue and unity among all Christians; to encourage and support cultural, spiritual and social activities in their communities, and to support the various causes promoted by national and international charities.

Furthermore, the objectives of the association *Chiesa d'Inghilterra* are perfectly aligned with the work carried out for centuries by the various Chaplaincies and Congregations spread over Italy. The association is a not-for-profit organization, and its purpose is to follow the principles of the Church of England, and, in the full knowledge that the spiritual work is intimately linked to social action, the promotion and implementation of all appropriate activities and social care.