

Dear All,

I thought you might like my perspective of life here in Canterbury. Jane Williams has pointed out that there are two conferences going on here – The Bishops' and The Spouses'.

We are in day 2 (Thursday) of the conference. It is very well run - I guess because they have 10 years to plan one large event. The bishops are on retreat at the Canterbury Cathedral, which has been closed off to the public for 2 days, and the spouses have begun our daily Bible Study groups with a group assigned to us, though some groups are melding or need translators that speak languages I've never heard of. My group of 8 has 2 that weren't there, 2 Australians, 2 English, 1 Indian, 1 American (me). I am the facilitator -- which is just that, thank goodness. I don't have to have (extra) Bible knowledge, just make sure sharing is divided up and that we start and stop on time.

My favorite "thing" so far is last night and today at our worship services with all bishops and spouses, we have said the Lord's Prayer in our own languages. It has to be similar to what Pentecost sounded like. Everyone is almost quiet about it and it creates this murmur of 1000 people saying something beautiful. I have been in hospitals and said the Lord's Prayer with people who have died that same day, said it at weddings and Eucharists. Now I have a new image for this prayer which I say many times a week.

Love,
Catherine