

Pastor Robin-Thomas Adams. The Anglican Church celebrates its 20th anniversary

Christ Church Brittany, Anglican church in Brittany, celebrates its 20 years of existence on the weekend of December 1 in Ploërmel. Meeting with Pastor Robin-Thomas Adams.



Irish and American, Pastor Adams and his wife Donna live in the region of Ploërmel, where the first congregation of Christ Church Brittany was created (© Jean-Michel Fournier)

By Jean-Michel Fournier

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The Anglican Church of Morbihan and Brittany - Christ Church Brittany - was created in a dining room of English residents, who decided to settle permanently in the Ploërmel region . It was already twenty years ago.

Since then, attached to the Church of England, but intervening in connection with the Catholic Church and evangelical churches in the region of Ploërmel (original sector) but also of Huelgoat , Rostrenen and Redon, it is gradually expanding, with the idea perhaps one day, of benefiting from branches in Rennes or even in other cities of Brittany. The American pastor(Irish by birth) Robin-Thomas Adams ensures the proper functioning of this Church until 2021.

13,000 English in Brittany

No less than 13,000 English people live in Brittany, not to mention all those who own second homes, who spend long months there, at different times of the year. To offer them the opportunity to pray in their adopted region, it seemed quite natural to Pastor Roger Fray (now deceased) and his wife Beri, initiators of this movement.

Roger and Beri Fray stayed a few years in Ploërmel, before leaving for other places (Vendée) to provide their services. Christ Church Brittany continued on her journey, guided by several other pastors, before the arrival in February 2018 of Pastor Robin-Thomas Adams and his wife Donna.

Since 1989 in the United States

Born April 15, 1954 in Ireland, Robin-Thomas Adams is also American. He resides since 1989 in the United States (State of Virginia). With his wife Donna, they are parents of three sons, one of whom is a pastor, the other a journalist and the third professor of history and geography.

A former computer engineer, Robin-Thomas Adams became a pastor more than 40 years ago:

"I had always wanted to become a pastor. I took the leap and have been in this role ever since," said Pastor Adams.

Divine light hit me while I was a student in Belfast. I understood that God offered me a way and that I had to follow it. I was happy, so I went to seminary in London, where I came out as a pastor. "

"I was sent to Ireland and served there for several years," he says.

While the Adams family remains in Ireland, the violence in Belfast is not a great incentive to raise a family. Robin-Thomas and Donna Adams choose to emigrate to America.

My supervisory authorities (Anglican Church) have informed me that there are vacancies for pastors in the United States. We seized the opportunity and since then I still work as a pastor, "

underlines Robin-Thomas Adams.

"Ploërmel, oldest congregation"

At 63, and as the time for retirement slowly approaches, Pastor Adams has addressed the church authorities in charge, explaining his intention to undertake something different.

I contacted our reference Bishop in Brussels who told me that a post was opening up in Ploërmel, the oldest congregation in Brittany. This is how we arrived in Morbihan, happy to find here a dynamic, voluntary congregation ...

says Robin-Thomas Adams.

"This is my mission ..."

Members of the Morbihan Anglican Church and Brittany took care of finding a place to live for the pastor and his wife, organized things, and continuity was assured in peace. If he does not have the necessary hindsight to tell the story of this Ploërmelaise congregation, Pastor Adams knows that there is no lack of activity to lead his flock to God... "but it is also my mission! "

Christ Church Brittany offers the many English and Irish people who live and invest in the region the opportunity to have representatives of their religion on site.

"It is not easy to be able to take into account the residence of a pastor ... Only donations from people attending church allow us to survive," said a parishioner, nevertheless happy to be able to count on the assistance of the Catholic church on site, especially through chapels etc.

"La source singers" in concert on November 29

Concert this Friday, November 29. Choir "La source singers" , at 7:30 pm, in the chapel, rue du Général Le Breton, in Ploërmel. Sunday, December 1, birthday mass at 11 a.m., followed by a meal open to all (each bringing a dish to share).

The pastor of the Anglican Church of Morbihan and Brittany, Pastor Robin-Thomas Adams, here with his wife Donna.