



ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF MARSEILLE, AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

Happy New Year!

Whilst many of us celebrate the dawning of a New Year, this January, the New Year has brought sadness and loss. As we look around us, we see the world's scientists warning us that we have but a short time to fix the global problem of climate change. We see horrendous coverage of the fires devastating millions of acres of Australia, destroying thousands of homes, dozens of people losing their lives, and over a million animals killed. Brexit looms, bringing many people uncertainty and worry. In China, a new killer virus stalks the land, indiscriminately killing people. There's still violence and war across the world. It's all too easy to get depressed about the state of things as we move into a new year and a new decade. These problems are all so big, what can we as individuals do about them?

It's a test of faith for many and I'm reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 17:20, when he had cast out a demon from a youngster where the disciples had failed "if you had faith as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." Anything is possible if a person believes in the power of God. And he went on to say it's done through prayer.

When we look closely at the world, we see the young people taking matters into their own hands and protesting about climate change – they are the electorate of the future and politicians will listen. Industrial chiefs and financiers are working hard to put things right – after all, there's no point in making a profit today if we aren't here tomorrow. Other nations are offering help to Australia where volunteers are risking their lives daily to control the fires and bring help to those who need it. And already the plant life is putting out new shoots. The advice from the embassy on Brexit is that nothing will change apart from lots of forms for us all to fill in. And in China the authorities are moving quickly to contain the virus.

Our Declaration of faith says:

We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ His Son

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit

We believe and trust in the Three in One

So let's have faith, and let's move mountains this year and this decade.

Almighty God, help us to have faith in you, give all in authority your direction and guidance, and listen to our prayers.

Amen





Things Ecumenical

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-24, 2020 began in the Luberon with an ecumenical service at Sanctuaire Notre Dame in Lumière on Saturday January 18. Representatives of the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Anglican faiths were present and all contributed to the service. Between 55 and 60 people were present. The address was given by Father Serge Cuenot, the rector of Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Lumière.

Annually, leaders of faith communities throughout the world gather together to arrive at the theme for the annual celebration of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for this year was prepared by a group of representatives from the Christian Churches in Malta. Not surprisingly, they chose a reading from Acts (27:18-28:10 – Paul’s shipwreck off the coast of Malta) with the key text being Paul’s comment that the people of Malta showed those who were shipwrecked “unusual kindness”. Something that we all need to show to our fellow believers if we are to overcome the small differences that separate us and build on the huge commonalities that unite us.

One key development that happened in the planning meeting for the service, attended by Christopher Morgan and John Smith, was that we were asked by Father Huber, who many of you will know from our joint Christmas Service, if we (the Anglicans) had a problem attending services with the Roman Catholics. He seemed genuinely surprised and very pleasantly so, when he learnt that not only did we not have a problem but we would very much welcome the opportunity to worship and share mass together. We agreed that we should meet in the coming weeks to plan a joint service to be held in the autumn probably.

Revd John Smith

Things Musical

On Saturday 18th January the choir “Doubles Croches” gave a concert in the church at All Saints Marseille. Many thanks to the Marseille team who looked after the choir and the church for this event.



Staying on the musical theme, the piano there has now been tuned so we ourselves should be more tuneful too!

Amanda Haste is organising a Singing and Instrumental Day on Saturday 14th March 2020 at St Marks in Versailles, as part of the Royal School of Church Music activities.

For more details please contact Amanda at amanda.haste@sfr.fr

Things Food

There will be a Bring and Share lunch after the Candlemas Service on the 2nd February at All Saints Marseille. All are welcome to share in this.



Things People

For those of you who met Alex and Pam Packett from Australia when Alex was locum in the chaplaincy in 2018 - thankfully they haven't been affected by the fires in their homeland but they are hoping to come to Europe this summer. They send their prayers for us all for the new year ahead.

Sue and Steve Goodwin are not enjoying the wet winter in the UK! Steve has been asked to cover some Sunday services near their home and Sue is going to be helping to run a 4 week course in February. No news yet on their house sale, but they are intending to travel, firstly to the Oberammergau Passion Play and then to North Carolina. They may also be looking at another locum post in France. They send their love and prayers.

Things Printed

Our service booklets have been over-hauled and updated by Jamie and the ministry team, and will be put to the Chaplaincy Council for approval on the 9th February. We can then get them printed with all the necessary changes.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday, 2nd February – Candlemas

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston, followed by a Bring and Share lunch

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Oratoire, Aix en Provence, led by Revd Canon David Pickering with Reader Christine Portman

Sunday, 9th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at the Eglise Sacré Coeur, Oppède led by The Revd John Smith, followed by the Chaplaincy Council meeting

Sunday, 16th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston

Sunday, 23rd February – Sunday next before Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston with Reader Jane Quarmby

Wednesday, 26th February – Ash Wednesday Tbc

Service at All Saints. Marseille led by Revd Jamie Johnston

Service at Eglise Sacré Coeur, Oppède. Led by Revd John Smith

Sunday 1st March – 1st Sunday in Lent

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at The Oratoire, Aix en Provence, led by Revd Canon David Pickering with Reader Christine Portman

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF MARSEILLE, AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON
NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

Lent

Thanks again to Jane Quarmby for preparing last month's newsletter while I was away visiting family in Australia. It was the first time I had visited the country, where my grandmother was born. There were reunions with cousins not seen for decades and I went to many places whose names I had known all my life but was now seeing. Highlights included standing in a small church north of Sydney where my great-great-grandfather had ministered to a congregation of expatriate Scots in the 1890s, and visiting the Anglican church in Adelaide where my grandparents were married over a century ago. Back in the present, the impact of the bush fires dominated the news and many of the conversations. I was deeply impressed by the resilience I encountered throughout. The emphasis was on what communities were doing for one another, how they could raise funds to help those who had lost homes or livelihoods, how people were already beginning to rebuild their lives.

Arriving back in Europe I found a mixture of Brexit despondency, strikes in Marseille and increasing anxiety about the Covid-19 epidemic. It seemed like good preparation for the penitential season of Lent.

There is something recentring about the words that the Church uses on Ash Wednesday: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' Lent is a time for taking stock. It offers us space to examine ourselves, to explore aspects of our lives that may need changing (the sort of change that *metanoia*, translated as 'repentance', involves). For a time we are invited to share Jesus's experience of wilderness as we prepare to follow him on the road to Calvary in Holy Week. This year two groups in the chaplaincy will be meeting each week to study the Beatitudes – the sentences of Jesus which open the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, each beginning 'Blessed are...'. Please join us if you can for some or all of the sessions.

So, in words that echo across the centuries, I wish you a holy Lent, as we prepare to walk together the way of the Cross.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Chaplaincy news

Candlemas and Cleaning

On 2nd February we celebrated Candlemas at the 10.00 service in Marseille, followed by a bring and share lunch. Thanks to Helen for arranging the lunch and to all who contributed on the day.



On 12th February a group of us assembled in All Saints to spring clean the church. Thanks to Jane for organising this and to all who took part.

Lent study course

During Lent two groups will be meeting weekly in different parts of the chaplaincy to study the Beatitudes. We will be using material from the Church of England's *Pilgrim* course. One of its main authors is Bishop Stephen Cottrell, whose appointment as the new Archbishop of York was recently announced. One group will meet in the Luberon on a weekday afternoon. The other will meet in Marseille on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 pm. All are very welcome to attend - please contact the Chaplain if you are interested so we can provide you with detailed arrangements.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2020

Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal this year is to help raise funds for a new school classroom in the Diocese of Mumias, Kenya. He writes:

'In 2013 the Kenyan government introduced a policy of free primary education. This has led to big increases in the numbers of children enrolled in schools. All the evidence suggests that improving primary school participation rates is a key factor in development and wellbeing. However, the number of teachers has not increased and classrooms are congested. Some classes have as many as 150 pupils with students sharing desks. In other cases, a shortage of buildings means children trying to learn outside, despite the vagaries of the weather.

Aware of this challenge, the Anglican Diocese of Mumias has established the Bishop Hannington Academy as their contribution towards better quality primary education in a Christian context. Their current enrolment stands at 38. The school currently consists of just one block with two classrooms, with a third room serving as the administrative wing. At present, they have three grades, Kindergarten, Grade One and Grade Two, and the Diocese employs three teachers. Bishop Joseph Wandera and the Diocese of Mumias would love to expand the school. To do that, they need to build more classrooms. Bishop Joseph estimates it will cost 20,000USD to build and furnish a new classroom. (That is very good value by Western European standards!) Our Lent Appeal could therefore go most of the way to constructing a very tangible expansion of the Diocese of Mumias's mission to educate primary school children.'

To support the appeal, members of the chaplaincy are being invited during Lent to put any spare change they have into a jamjar (an old fashioned but surprisingly effective method of saving). At our Easter services the funds collected will be brought to the Altar and passed to the Diocese via our Treasurer, Garry Quarmby.

Choir visit

Further ahead, we are looking forward to welcoming the choir of St Matthew's Westminster, who will be with us from 17th to 19th April. They will sing Choral Evensong at All Saints Marseille at 6.30 pm on Friday, 17th April, which will be followed by a drinks reception. On Saturday, 18th April at 4.00 pm they will perform music and readings for Easter in Aix-en-Provence at the Eglise Protestante Unie de France, 4 rue Villars. Finally, they will sing a Choral Eucharist at 10.00 am in Marseille on Sunday, 19th April. All are warmly invited to attend. Please encourage your friends who may not be familiar with Anglican choral music to come and discover it. If anyone is able to provide accommodation for one or more singers during that weekend, please let the Chaplain know.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, 26th February – Ash Wednesday

- 3.00 pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at the Eglise Sacré Coeur, Oppède led by Canon David Pickering. Preacher: The Revd John Smith
- 6.30 pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston. Preacher: The Very Revd Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury

Sunday 1st March – 1st Sunday in Lent

- 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston
- 11.00 am Holy Communion at The Oratoire, Aix-en-Provence, led by Canon David Pickering with Reader Christine Portman

Sunday 8th March – 2nd Sunday in Lent

- 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd John Smith
- 10.30 am Holy Communion at the Eglise Sacré Coeur, Oppède led by The Revd Jamie Johnston

Sunday 15th March – 3rd Sunday in Lent

- 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston

Sunday 22nd March – 4th Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday

- 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston. Preacher: Reader Jane Quarmby. At the end of the service Amanda and Tim Haste will renew their marriage vows as they celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary.

Sunday 29th March – 5th Sunday in Lent - Passion Sunday

- 10.00 am Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille led by The Revd Jamie Johnston, followed by a meeting of the Chaplaincy Council in church at 11.30 am

With every blessing,
The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain

4, rue de Belloi, 13006 Marseille
tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email: anglican.marseille@gmail.com



*Anglican Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

Passiontide

One of the strange things about living through a crisis is what it does to our perception of time. As I write this, it is only a week since France went into lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, yet for many it feels like one of the longest weeks they can remember. Trying to keep up with rapidly evolving responses by governments, both in France and in other places where we have loved ones living, adds to the sense of distortion. The UK's response has been about a week behind, and it has been like watching a film in slow motion. As the lockdown continues, the sense of disrupted time may start to become less strange, and it is possible that a sense may also develop - at least for some - of having more time than usual in the day. If so, let us try to use it well. Across the chaplaincy and beyond, people are already doing a great deal to support one another through a time of deep uncertainty and fear, against a backdrop of huge sacrificial commitment by those working in healthcare and allied services to care for the sick. For those of us not working on the front line, this can become a time when we too discover what our deepest commitments are, what we live by, and why it makes a difference.

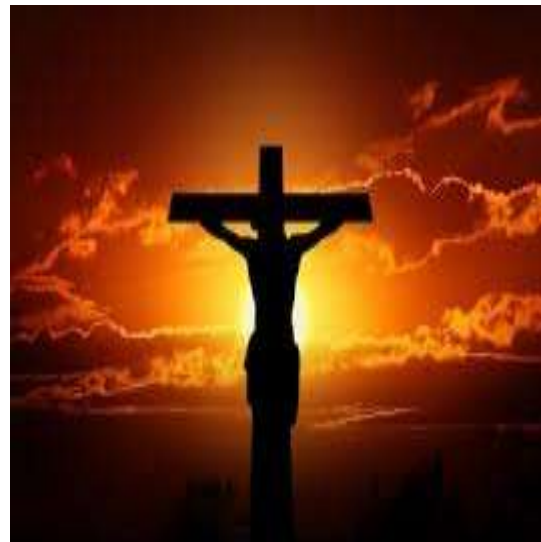
Faith leaders are uniting in their offers of support and prayer. On 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, when we recall God's promise of closeness to us in the Incarnation, many Christians joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Pope Francis in pausing at noon to say Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer.

Psalm 23, with its familiar words ‘The Lord is my Shepherd’, is a good one to keep close in times of intense fear and loss. It is about how God relates to us at different times in our lives, good and bad – in green pastures (normal life), still waters (our times of refreshment, the times we have felt fully alive, time spent with our loved ones), right pathways (the times we have had to take difficult decisions) and even the valley of the shadow of death (where many in the world feel they are now). All the stages of what it means to be human, which Christ shared with us. Throughout our lives God is present to us, faithful to us, and we can never be separated from his goodness and mercy, whatever happens to us and around us. Psalm 23 was written in response to an experience of exile, when the people of Israel saw a face of God they hadn’t seen before, a God who suffered out of love. They felt closer to him in their hardship than they had in the time of plenty. May we find that same comfort now, through Christ our Shepherd.

This Sunday, the focus of Lent turns from the wilderness to Jerusalem, as we prepare to follow Christ through the time of his Passion. We do so in the knowledge that it ends not in defeat but in resurrection, the victory of love over suffering and death. May God bless you through these weeks, and may you feel closer to him than ever.

The Collect for Passion Sunday

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the
cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Chaplaincy news

Most events have now been postponed or cancelled, but chaplaincy members are still connected through phone calls, emails and our website. A sense of community is forming, partly through the act of worship we share on Sundays. We are currently planning material for Holy Week and Easter. Meanwhile the list of resources for prayer, reflection and other information on the website is growing. Please keep sending them in.

Although the Lent study course has been suspended, we plan to return to the Pilgrim material at a later date. The choir visit in April has also been postponed, but some of their recordings are among the resources now on our website.

Lent Appeal

Our Lent appeal, however, continues. Members of the chaplaincy are invited to continue putting spare change into a jamjar for us to collect sometime after Easter and send to the Bishop in Europe's Lent Appeal, which this year is to help raise funds for a new school classroom in the Diocese of Mumias, Kenya.

Standing Orders/donations

Closer to home, our other appeal continues too. A few of you have kindly put in place standing orders to help the chaplaincy through the time when there are no church collections. This is becoming increasingly pressing, as the chaplaincy has few reserves and has lost around 80% of its income. (None of the helpful government assistance that has been announced applies to churches.) The email we sent out on 7th March included details of how to set up a standing order in France or the UK. If you would like to do this, or to make a one-off donation, and no longer have access to the details please email us on anglican.marseille@gmail.com or contact +33 7 66 01 71 50. Thank you for your support.

Useful links

In addition to free channels, a number of platforms that would normally require a subscription are making available free content (concerts, films, courses etc). The following have been sent to us:

<https://www.france.tv/spectacles-et-culture/opera-et-musique-classique/toutes-les-vidéos/>

<https://www.arte.tv/fr/arte-concert/musiques-classiques/>

<https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>

<https://openculture.com>

Do let us know if you are aware of others which chaplaincy members might like to share.

Easter recipe

Jane Quarmby has shared the following recipe for simnel cake (on a day it was snowing in Provence!)

<https://www.redonline.co.uk/food/recipes/a501121/mary-berrys-simnel-cake/>

Finally, a **message from Andrew Caspari**, Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese in Europe:

‘It is hard to focus on good news at a time like this, but as Isaiah said ‘those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined’. At this time of the year we wait for the light to shine at Easter. In a recent Diocesan meeting, someone said ‘We don’t know when Easter will be this year’. I pondered this and concluded that what he

meant was: we don't know *when* we will celebrate together in church, but celebrate we will. Our faith is that the wilderness and the cross are followed by the resurrection and no virus can take that away.'

Amen.

With every blessing,

The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain

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tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email: anglican.marseille@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

As “le confinement” is gradually being lifted, it’s probably time we went back to having a regular newsletter again, to try and keep everyone as up to date with developments as possible. So here we go!

Firstly, a note from our Bishops, Robert and David:

“Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have just celebrated Trinity Sunday, the day that sums up the Church’s liturgical year with its focus on the awesome and wonderful reality of the three-personed God. The Father-Creator, the incarnate, crucified and risen Son, and the Pentecostal Holy Spirit are together acknowledged and worshipped on a Sunday which marks the liturgical transition from the telling of the events of salvation to the twenty plus Sundays of “Ordinary Time”. In these Sundays, we work out the Christian message of faith, love and hope on a journey towards Advent and the completion of God’s work of the restoration and healing of humanity and the created order.

In 2020 these Sundays are, however, much less ‘ordinary’ than usual. We are all struggling to work our way towards some kind of ‘new normal’. We cannot be sure what this will be like, although we can be fairly sure that the continuing threat of Covid-19 means it won’t be the same as the ‘old normal’.Across the diocese and in each chaplaincy, clergy and councils are working out if and how to ‘re-open’, deliberating over local and diocesan guidance, and putting into place new safety guidance.

The great theological virtue that sustains us in all of this is our Christian hope. This hope is the future dimension of faith and it is to a large extent the test of faith. It is neither given by ourselves nor it is to be kept to ourselves. As a pilgrim people we live in a hope that is renewed and fostered every day by the Holy Spirit. And it is this hope that helps us cope with all our struggles and trials of life in our diverse contexts and situations.

For many of us these last months of lockdown have been a hard experience when we have felt isolated and lonely. Deconfinement now brings a different range of stresses and anxieties. We will have to find new ways of caring for one another as we seek how to be church and how to offer in-church worship with physical distancing, with proper hygiene, and with some of our members not yet being or feeling ready to join in congregational gatherings.”

Worship in our Chaplaincy

At the Chaplaincy Council meeting on 6th June, it was agreed that we would start to re-open our churches for worship. This is subject to very strict protocols for keeping us all safe and a copy of these can be seen on our website or sent to you if you’d like to see a copy. We have to abide by these protocols or risk not only closing the churches again but potentially causing harm to others by infecting them.

So we can worship again which is good news, although it won’t be quite the same as before. For example,

- We will need to clean each worship venue scrupulously and disinfect surfaces (teams of volunteers needed!)

- We all have to wear masks
- We all have to stay 2 metres apart from each other unless we are part of a household
- We can't sing or have a choir
- The Eucharist will only be in the form of a wafer
- We will need stewards on the doors to ensure social distancing and use of hand gel
- We must keep a register of attendees
- We must bring our own hand gel if possible, tissues and a pen to sign the register
- We can't socialise at the end of the service
- We will be using printed service sheets which will be binned at the end of the service.

The advice is also that if for whatever reason you don't feel well, then please don't come to church.

Our Zoom services on a Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings will continue for those who can't get to church for whatever reason. These have been a great success story for our Chaplaincy, bringing all 3 congregations together and also friends and families living in Britain and Kenya. Please don't feel you have to come to church if you are worried – the advice is clear that if you are over 65 and/or have an underlying health condition don't even try – God is making house calls at the moment!

Our first congregational service will be this Sunday 14th June (weather permitting) in the Revd John Smith's garden in Oppède. All are welcome but please also bring your own chair. It will start at 10.30 a.m. There will also be a Zoom service at 10.30 a.m. as usual.

Our first service at All Saints' Marseille will be on Sunday 21st June at 10.00 a.m.

No news yet on services at Aix – we'll keep you informed as we get news.

Zoom Communion services will continue to be available from 21st June but at the later time of 11.30 a.m.

Prayers

If you would like prayers for yourself or anyone you know, please let our Chaplain Jamie know at anglican.marseille@gmail.com . We can all do with a little help at the moment!

Events

Sadly we can't plan any events at the moment other than services, so all fundraising has had to be postponed and also a number of weddings booked for this year and a couple of baptisms.

Finance

Without the regular giving at services, our income has dropped and a big thank you is due to all those who have generously and thoughtfully either continued to give via their banks, or have set up new standing orders. But there's room for more – so please let our Warden Jane know if you are able to give by cheque or standing order at the bank and she'll be happy to help. Without this funding our Chaplaincy can't exist and it has proved to be a lifeline to many of us through this difficult time, with the online services and pastoral care provided by Jamie and his ministry team. One effect of the lockdown has been that we now have access to 8 services a month rather than 1 for many of us, so the Chaplaincy is proving even better value!

As the new editor of the Newsletter, I would be grateful for contributions. I will shortly have a new Warden's e-mail address, which will be posted on the website and mentioned in the next Newsletter, but for now please continue to use janequarmby0430@gmail.com. .

This brings prayers and best wishes from the ministry team as we continue to journey through these challenging times.

Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

10th June 2020

NEWSLETTER 25TH JUNE 2020

Worship in Church

We have now had two services of public worship, one in the Rev John Smith's garden in Oppède on the 14th June where 10 gathered together and one in All Saints' Church in Marseille where 14 gathered. Celebration at being allowed to gather again for worship was muted, however, as we are not "back to normal" yet and somehow it isn't the same wearing masks and being so far apart. But it is a start and one on which we can build. Grateful thanks are due to all who have helped get things ready for these services, cleaning and stewarding in particular.

Here's the service at Oppède.



All Saints ready to go!

We are mindful that not everyone is out and about fully yet and, for those who are still isolating to an extent to protect themselves or loved ones, we are continuing with our Zoom services. We are celebrating the Eucharist on Sunday mornings at 11.30 am and Compline at 10 pm (French time – an hour earlier for our friends in the UK.) So don't worry if you are concerned about coming to church – please carry on joining our international congregation online!

It is unlikely that we will be resuming services in Aix until the Autumn but, in the meantime, we can arrange home communion for those who would like it – please contact Jamie our Chaplain on anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Choir practice

We have been contacted by the Choeur Sainte Victoire in Marseille who are looking for somewhere to practise in, and providing all is well regarding Covid restrictions being eased by then, they will be using All Saints from the middle of September, once a week. There are 35 in the choir so they should fill the church with song!

Prayers

If you need prayers for yourself or anyone you know please let our Chaplain Jamie know at anglican.marseille@gmail.com . We can all do with a little help at the moment!

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Thought for the Week – from Brian Draper, from a series of reflections commissioned by St Paul's Cathedral on where God is in this crisis of Covid 19.

“ Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes – including you.”
writes Anne Lamott.

That's not to be flippant, in a pandemic; but her words remind me that, far from finding lock-down restful, it's been hard to unplug mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and I expect it has for you.

And so, as the restrictions ease, let's not assume we should be automatically primed for action. The Bible speaks of finding “rest for the soul” for good reason, and thankfully the summer offers restorative opportunities, even if we can't go on holiday.

The trick, I've found, is to keep it simple. On the summer retreats I lead, we take a few steps barefoot, for example, to feel the grass beneath our feet. It can earth us, in a most heavenly way. Often, this evokes childhood memories too; as if the child in us knew, all along, that *here* we stand on holy ground.

Summer touches the soul through the senses, doesn't it? The Victorian nature writer Richard Jeffries describes a saunter which, for him, became spiritually immersive: 'the grasshoppers called and leaped, the greenfinches sang, the blackbirds happily fluted, all the air hummed with life. I was plunged deep in existence,' he writes, 'and with all that existence I prayed.'

How wonderful! At a time when we still can't quite get into church, he reminds me that Creation offers a uniquely worshipful space with all God's creatures, of which, and with which, we're one.

It takes courage to permit one's self to be at ease; though the psalmist urges us too: 'Be still and know that I am God.' Not that rest for the soul means everlasting idleness of course. I led a retreat for St Paul's a couple of years ago, and we spent time in Green Park, one of London's most verdant spaces. I encouraged us, in the spirit of Psalm 23, to lie down in its green pastures, to 'be'. In our group was an exhausted psychotherapist who'd been working with children in war-torn areas.... he reported that for him, these few minutes of taking rest in God's creation are what energised him most fully for the work that lay ahead. We are restored no doubt, for good reason.

Try one of these, this week:

- Take a few steps on grass with bare feet. Savour the sensation. Find restoration in the physical touch which reaches to the soul.
- Spend a few minutes contemplating one specific part of nature – a blade of grass, a stretch of water, a flower.... Let nature teach you stillness.
- Lie down if you can on the grass. Give yourself permission to be at ease for a few minutes every day.
- Take your Bible outside and read Psalm 23. Meditate on what it means for your soul to be restored.

Jane has now taken over editing the Newsletter and would be grateful for contributions.

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF
ALL SAINTS MARSEILLE WITH AIX EN PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

NEWSLETTER 9TH JULY 2020

Coming out of Lockdown

Our Chaplain, Jamie Johnston, read this recently about the Lord's Prayer, in the context of the apprehension people may be feeling as they start to come out of lockdown:

"We can easily feel at the mercy of events, constantly anxious and tending to blame others for difficulties we find ourselves in.

The simplest way to restore equilibrium in the day is to say the Lord's Prayer. The three central petitions are about the present, past and future. 'Give us' is a request that we have enough for today; we may want answers and certainties, but if we have wise friends, abiding companions and humble faith, we can face adversity with courage.

'Forgive us' is an entreaty to let go of the past – especially the wrongs done to us – so we can truly live in the present.

'Deliver us' is an appeal to God to spare us situations and temptations that will be too much for us; again it's a request that we can bring all our energies to the present and not lose them on anxiety about the future."

Worship in church at Oppède

Good news – we have been given permission by the local Roman Catholic priest to use the church in Oppède for our monthly worship. From this Sunday, the 14th July, we will once again be meeting for worship at 10.30a.m., at the Eglise Sacré-Coeur in Oppède. Revd John Smith will be presiding.

Diocesan Service

The Diocese of Europe has taken to having diocesan wide services using Zoom "like a duck to water" and on 7th July held another, on the theme of a 'Service to Mark our Pilgrimage through Lockdown". It can be viewed on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGJCIP-qZ1YGN_4CUhlqi4g/videos

It's a great opportunity to see people like our Bishops David and Robert and to feel a part of our geographically vast diocese.

Speaking of Technology

We are continuing to hold services live via Zoom for all those who are, for whatever reason, not able to get to a physical church building. On Sundays we have the Eucharist at 11.30 am CET, and on Wednesday evenings we have Compline at 10.00 pm CET. Please join us online

and enjoy these services. As one cartoonist had it during the “confinement” “God is making house calls” - and still is!

We are now feeling a little under equipped, however, and are actively looking for donations for a decent laptop and a camera, to enable us to provide a better quality service. Anyone feeling they can donate towards this please contact Jamie or Jane who will be delighted to help.

170 YEARS OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS...BUT WE'RE STILL HERE!

Amanda Haste writes:

It was 170 years ago this month that our new Anglican chaplaincy held its first service, and as we can't exactly celebrate this anniversary together as we had hoped, we thought you might like a glimpse of the various ways in which the chaplaincy has been challenged in the past...and survived.

Part 1 - Our chaplaincy: The debut

The early nineteenth century was a time of growing affluence and trade between the British and French empires, and the port of Marseille was a major hub for the trade routes between Britain, France, and their respective colonies. Inevitably, this led to a demand for an Anglican/Episcopalian presence, and by the 1840s “The English Church Service” was sometimes performed on Sundays at the French Protestant Church in the Rue Grignan. However, there was no resident Anglican clergyman, and being restricted to an afternoon service was problematic for many. So a group of prominent British businessmen, with the support and guidance of the British Consul, established a “British Episcopal Church Establishment” as a consular chaplaincy. A chaplain was soon appointed, and the first service was held in a spacious rented upper room at 100 Rue Sylvabelle.



100 rue Sylvabelle, home of the ‘English Church’ in Marseille from 1849 to 1902

This temporary ‘chapel’ was fitted out with benches, lectern, pulpit, and a seraphine (a type of harmonium), and services were held twice on Sundays, afternoon and evening. Or at least they were until the summer months, when the afternoon service was suspended during June,

July, August and September on account of the heat. The services were attended by three main groups: the British Colony of long-term residents who lived and worked in Marseille; British and American sailors and their families; and those British and American travellers 'resorting to' Marseilles, including soldiers, civil servants and missionaries passing through the port en route to far-flung outposts of the Empire.

The first consular chaplain, who conducted our first ever service in June 1850, was the Revd. Michael John Mayers. He was actually born into a Jewish family in Great Yarmouth and subsequently converted to the Christian faith; he was probably the 'Yarmouth Rabbi' whose baptism in Berlin (in about 1824) was much advertised in the press at the time. (According to Cecil Roth's account in *The Rise of Provincial Jewry* (1950) Mayers was "a memorable character," having published in 1824 a "500-page work, *The History of the Jews, from their Origin to their Ultimate Dispersion* – the first work of this nature written by an English Jew – which displays a warm Jewish feeling," and another of his works "is clearly the work of one who had embraced Christianity".) Having entered the Anglican Church, the Revd. Mayers became colonial chaplain in Tasmania in 1831, then consular chaplain in Marseille in 1850. As well as conducting services and ministering to his flock, Mayers worked hard to minister to seamen putting into port, and he quickly founded the Seamen's Club in La Joliette. However, while Mayers served the chaplaincy for fifteen years, and clearly did much good work in Marseille, it seems he departed under something of a cloud. On 16 July 1863 the trustees sent Mayers a letter asking him for information on the following points:

- 1) Has any money ever been collected for the purpose of building a church at Marseilles?
- 2) If so, what is the amount, and where is the list of contributors?
- 3) Where is the money lodged, and in whose name?

Mayers promptly resigned. Frustratingly, there is no reply on file – just his letter of resignation – and the matter is not mentioned in the trustees' annual reports. We can only assume that no case was ever answered, as Mayers subsequently held benefices in different parts of England; he died at Winchester in 1881. So it may have been the tensions that had clearly arisen between the chaplain and trustees that led him to leave Marseille.

Over the next 21 years (1864-1885) the chaplaincy was served by no fewer than eight chaplains – conditions were hard, and the post was not well paid (especially for those young clergymen with wives and children) – but the chaplaincy flourished and the seamen's mission proved to be essential work.

Next time we'll look at the conditions in Marseille in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which offer a useful perspective on the current pandemic.

Thanks to Amanda for her research and writing on this.

Dates for Diary

12 July 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Eglise Sacré-Coeur at Oppède
11.30 a.m. Holy Communion via Zoom

15th July at 10.00 p.m. Compline via Zoom

19th July at 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

22nd July at 10.00 p.m. Compline via Zoom

Brexit

A note for expats – if you need to apply for residence in France, the portal which was due to open for applications on 1st July will now be opening on 1st October. For full details of this, what to do about driving licences and health cover, please log onto the British Government website GOV.UK (Living in France).

Prayer

Un sourire ne coute rien et apporte beaucoup. Il enrichit celui qui le reçoit sans appauvrir celui qui le donne.

Il ne dure qu'un instant mais son souvenir est parfois immortel.

Et pourtant il ne peut ni s'acheter, ni se prêter, ni se voler, car il n'a de valeur qu'à partir du moment où il se donne.

Et si on vous refuse le sourire que vous méritez, soyez généreux, donnez-lui le vôtre – pour l'amour de Dieu.

Jane Quarmby
Chaplaincy Warden

ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS MARSEILLE
WITH AIX EN PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

NEWSLETTER 23RD JULY 2020

Church services

We are continuing to hold services in the churches both in Marseille and Oppède, and also providing a twice weekly “Zoom” service for those who find it difficult to get to either of the churches. Details are at the end of the newsletter.

New Archbishop of York

On 9th July, Stephen Cottrell, formerly Bishop of Chelmsford, became the 98th Archbishop of York and two days later spoke to the Synod of his experience of recent months of lockdown. He said:

“the church must learn afresh how to share the gospel.

“I hugely miss our church buildings and our liturgy, just as I also miss going to the cinema and eating in restaurants, or just having a coffee; and I grieve for the fact that I was not able to say goodbye to the diocese of Chelmsford in the ways I wanted, nor am I able to hug my new grandson without donning a mask, and I cry out for the pain of all those socially distanced funerals, the thousands of people who have died alone, the baptisms, weddings and ordinations that have had to be postponed; the economic misery which is around the corner and the devastating impact of this pandemic upon the whole life of our world.

“But neither can I deny, that it has forced me to encounter things about myself which I had allowed to remain hidden behind the security of the things I have had to relinquish.”

He spoke about a group he is leading to discern a vision and strategy for the church for the next decade. The vision, he said, is the easy part: “It is unchanging, it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the power of the Spirit. At the moment I am engaged in a very wide-ranging discussion with people from all over the church but with a particular determination to draw in and listen to the voices of younger Christians and those whose voices are not usually so easily heard in church.”

He concluded his opening address to Synod with these words; “So, dear General Synod, as we enter some turbulent times and some challenging decisions, we are just going to have to learn again how to love one another, love the world and love God, so that both individually and collectively we can be the place where God is revealed.

“We’ve not always been very good at this.

“We have allowed ourselves to become tribal and divided.

“We have allowed secondary things to obscure our belonging to one another.

“The Holy Spirit reveals Christ in us; and through us may we learn afresh how to share the gospel in the world.”

Masks

France has now made it compulsory to wear masks in enclosed public spaces.

170th Anniversary of our Chaplaincy

Part 2 - Plague and pestilence: This is not our first epidemic!

Conditions in Marseille in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were far from healthy: as well as the risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, poor sanitation led to regular cholera epidemics. Infected rats were responsible for continuing sporadic minor epidemics of bubonic plague, notably in 1903 and 1930; these were rarely notified as 'plague' as such, but the authorities were quick to carry out sanitising measures which were clearly out of proportion for anything other than a deadly disease such as bubonic plague.

Most deaths occurred around the port areas, where infected rats had easy access and the poor local residents lived in appallingly inadequate housing. The main concern was the spread of disease, especially to the bourgeoisie: passengers at St Charles train station were fumigated, and the isolation of suspected or confirmed cases was a common practice.



1884: Passengers at Marseille St Charles Station being fumigated against cholera

The chaplaincy registers clearly show the human cost to the British colony, which can easily be illustrated through the experiences of Marseille chaplains over the course of only thirteen years. In 1853 the Revd. Michael John Mayers had to bury his own little girl: the heartbreaking entry in the register reads "Lucy Sophia, aged 8, daughter of the Revd. M. John Mayers, was buried this ninth day of March 1853, by me, M. John Mayers, British Chaplain". And in 1864, less than a month after taking up the Marseille post, the 36-year-old Revd. Joseph Beaumont Hawkins lost his wife. The details were recorded in the consular registry rather than that of the church, but the chaplain added a memorandum to the burial register to the effect that "On the 13th February 1864, my beloved wife was buried, service being taken by Revd. Robert Jarratt, Rector of Bourton."

In August 1885, having already conducted three burials that month, the Consular Chaplain the Revd. Avidis Garboushian himself died, at only 35 years old and six months into his tenure. Presumably due to the sudden lack of an English clergyman, he was not buried until the arrival of his successor, the Revd. Thomas Charles Skeggs, two months later. And on 29 February 1886, the young Revd. Skeggs was burying his own father, Charles John Skeggs, a Shanghai-based merchant aged only 56 years.

It's noticeable that throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, outbreaks of cholera, typhus fever and plague led to those residents who could afford to resort to the "three-word remedy" – *vite, loin, longtemps* [go fast, far, and for a long time]. Those who couldn't relied on masks, kept their distance from others, and attempted to cleanse themselves and purify the "bad air." Does any of this sound familiar? Of course – *plus ça change*. Importantly, although we lost many parishioners, the chaplaincy continued to grow, and to minister to the very seamen whose ships sometimes brought tragedy. And our 170-year mission to seamen is the topic of our next instalment.

Our thanks to Amanda Haste for these articles.

Dates for Diary

26th July **10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints, Marseille**
 11.30 a.m. Holy Communion via Zoom

29th July **10.00 p.m. Compline (Night Prayer) via Zoom**

2nd August **10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille**
 11.30 a.m. Holy Communion via Zoom

5th August **10.00 p.m. Compline (Night Prayer) via Zoom**

Prayer

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low, that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Articles for the newsletter

If anyone has an item for the newsletter please send to Jane Quarmby on jane.quarmby0430@gmail.com or to Jamie Johnston our Chaplain on anglican.marseille@gmail.com. The newsletter comes out every 2 weeks.

Jane Quarmby
Chaplaincy Warden

Newsletter August 2020

Church services

We are continuing to hold services every Sunday morning at 10.00 am at All Saints' Marseille, and every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30 am at the church in Oppède. We have not yet resumed services in Aix as the majority of Aix attendees are still self-isolating. In addition, our programme of Zoom services continues to flourish, with a communion service every Sunday morning at 11.30 am and Compline or night prayer every Wednesday evening at 10.00 pm (French time). Our thanks to everyone making this possible. We are planning to get wifi installed in All Saints' church this month which will enable us to broadcast our services from there in future.

Covid-19

The *départements* of the Paca region (particularly Bouches-du-Rhone) are now designated red areas under the Covid precautionary measures – quite what the consequences of this are remain unclear at present but it is now obligatory to wear masks outside in Marseille, parts of Aix, Nice, Cannes and a number of other large towns. Our own protocols for personal attendance in church remain unchanged – wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, signing the register, cleaning your space after use etc. We are monitoring the position as cases in France of infection are continuing to rise and it may be necessary once more to review worship in church buildings.

Chaplaincy Council meeting

Our next chaplaincy council meeting is to be held on the 12th September via Zoom. Further details to follow for members.

Chaplaincy AGM

Due to the confinement we were unable to hold our AGM in the spring and it has been rescheduled to 4th October at 11.15 am at All Saints' Marseille. Any outstanding reports for inclusion in the annual report to Jane Quarmby, please, before 13th September. There are a few changes which those standing for the council need to address – as below.

Christine Portman, our Safeguarding Officer, writes:

The AGM's around the corner! Will you offer to stand for the next Chaplaincy Council?

A healthy, functioning chaplaincy needs a lively council with members who represent all our congregations. True, church members need to be kept fully informed of what's going on, but more than that, everyone needs to be able, through their representatives, to bring ideas or concerns to the council's attention. If you feel able to offer yourself for this service, please don't hesitate to contact either Jamie or Jane and let them know that you would like your name to go forward at the AGM.

As you know, safeguarding is at the heart of the Church's commitment to provide a safe and caring environment for all its members. It reflects our faithful adherence to Christian values. All council members have a clearly spelled-out Duty of Care to their congregations¹, so the Church of England has asked all those who undertake specific roles within the Church to provide various pieces of information to ensure that, as far as possible, parishes and chaplaincies are following safe practice.

Many thanks to those of you who intend to stand for the council and have already sent in photocopies of the documents listed below. However, if you have not yet done so, please be sure during September to send to our Safeguarding Officer, Christine Portman, the documents that she needs to see:

- A photocopy of your ID (passport, *carte d'identité* etc.)
- A photocopy of your new *casier judiciaire*. This can be applied for online in English at: <https://casier-judiciaire.justice.gouv.fr/mai-web-b3-presentation/pages/accueil.xhtml?cid=1> or in French at: <https://casier-judiciaire.justice.gouv.fr/pages/accueil.xhtml>
The service is free of charge and the document will be sent to your home address within two weeks.
- A completed Confidential Declaration Form. This can be found on the diocesan website at: <https://europe.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/2019/confidential-delaration-form-cdf.pdf>

For those who have previously filled in the CDF, you'll be pleased to know that a shorter Confidential Renewal Form can now be found at:

<https://europe.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/2019/confidential-renewal-form-crf.pdf>

Christine can send you either of these as an email attachment if you'd prefer.

- Finally, you'll need to send her a copy of the certificate you will receive when you complete the new, Church of England Basic Awareness C0 Safeguarding training. The course gives an excellent overview of the essentials you'll need to know as a member of the Chaplaincy Council. It's free, takes around an hour to complete and can be found online at: <https://europe.anglican.org/safeguarding/online-training>
Click on the red link under 'Basic Awareness, C0 Online course. If you haven't done Safeguarding before and don't already have an account, enter your own name under "Username" when prompted. Then create a password for your personal account. Please make a note of this in case you need to access it in future. If prompted for the name of the Chaplaincy, enter marseille.
The course is easy to follow and functions more smoothly than the previous version. However, if you have any difficulties, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Christine at safeguarding.anglican.marseille@gmail.com
This is the address to use when you send in the supporting documents.

We hope that you'll join us and so help to make our church even more responsive to our members' needs.

¹ Promoting a Safer Church – House of Bishops 2017
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/PromotingSaferChurchWeb.pdf>

Our Chaplaincy's History Part 3 - FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA: Our Mission to Seamen

Even before All Saints' Church was built, an important part of the chaplaincy's mission was the Mission to Seamen. Life at sea is often dangerous, and in a port such as Marseille seafarers have always faced additional dangers even when ashore. Quite apart from the moral dangers of drink and 'loose women', there were very real physical risks for British and American sailors abroad, as illustrated in this vivid snapshot written by a locum priest in our chaplaincy.

“[Marseilles has acquired] a reputation for peril and adventure which still holds, and not without cause. The sounds of struggle, stifled screams, and the sudden report of firearms, followed by as ominous a silence, are no infrequent occurrences in the night there [. . . .] Some, not infrequently, are waylaid thus even now, robbed, mishandled, even murdered, their bodies being found later in the water, 'cause of death unknown'. There is a need of a worthy club for British seamen putting in at this notorious port, not worse, perhaps, than others of like kind, but probably far more populous, and extremely undesirable for young lads to be adrift in. The very fact of their not knowing the language puts them at a disadvantage from the onset. They look about for someone who can speak their own tongue, and very often the wrong person speaking it turns up, only too willing to act as tout and guide, and with an eye to a profitable remuneration.”

In the 1880s the Anglican Diocese of Gibraltar (now the Diocese in Europe) had become very concerned with the wellbeing of British sailors, and in 1878 the first of a succession of Sailors' Clubs in Marseille was set up near the docks.

The Club was popular, and if anyone feared that the Sailors' Club would be invaded by the stereotypical 'drunken sailor' they could be assured that “the genteel behaviour of these cleanly-clad seafarers showed unmistakably that they do appreciate the amenities of an Institute such as this, and the demands upon the canteen (held by Miss Lucena and run on strictly temperance grounds) disproves the popular belief that Jack ashore must have liquor to enjoy himself.”

The Club was increasingly well frequented until, with the outbreak of World War II, the port area (including the Seamen's Club) was closed. However, the premises were still used, and the courage of several people working clandestinely ensured the safe return of many others to their respective home countries.

While the activity at the Mission has necessarily taken place in the dock area, our chaplains have frequently held services on board ship, and groups of officers and men have also attended services in the church itself: in 1956, All Saints was “full to the rafters” with the aircraft carrier *Bulwark* in port, and the crews of HMS *Ulysses* and HMS *Urania* in church. The chaplain, Revd. William Passmore, had also celebrated Holy Communion on HMS *Ulysses*, and reported that the large number of communicants is not unusual on a destroyer.

A similar willingness to attend church to commemorate fellow seafarers is illustrated in the case of “Joe”. Joe was a native of the Cook Islands, known to his fellow sailors only by his Christian name, who died helping to make his ship fast during a storm. He was an Anglican (very probably as a result of the Anglican missionary presence in the Cook Islands) and the chaplain reports that “nearly 100 seamen and dock hands turned up to his funeral” in 1962, even though “not one of them could speak English”.

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century, the advent of air travel meant that the port lost much of its former importance. Apart from the small leisure craft berthed in the Vieux Port, most of the

maritime traffic now consists of container ships, ferries to North Africa, and the huge cruise ships which make a brief stop at Marseille.

In 2013, however, the *Association Marseillaise des Amis des Marins* (AMAM) built a new *Foyer des croisières* a few metres from Porte no.4, in order to cater to the cruise ship crews, and a band of volunteers from the chaplaincy now regularly welcome crew members of all nationalities from the massive cruise ships which dock there. Each ship carries some 6000 people, of whom 1000-1200 will be crew members; they are mainly Filipino, but also come from Indonesia, Latin America, Spain and Italy, and the *lingua franca* is English so an anglophone welcome is still much appreciated. The seafarers comprise not only sailors, engineers and technicians but also cooks, waiters, dancers, musicians and tour guides; just as 100 years ago, everyone behaves impeccably at the Club.



Some of the seafarers at the *Foyer des croisières* at Porte 4

Residency

Just a reminder to those needing to apply for residency that the French government portal opens on-line on 1st October 2020. We then have until July 2021 to get our applications in.

Donations

In order to continue to refresh our services and keep a good quality of them on-line, we urgently need donations towards the Chaplaincy's 2000 costs in euros. Anyone who can help with this appeal please contact Jane Quarmby our Warden.

Diary dates

Sunday 30 th August	Holy Communion at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00. Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45
Wednesday 2nd September	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 6 th September	Holy Communion at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 9th September	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Saturday 12 th September	Chaplaincy council meeting via zoom 14.30

Sunday 13th September	Holy Communion at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion at l'Eglise Sacré-Coeur, Oppède at 10.30 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 16th September	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 20 th September	Holy Communion at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 23rd September	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 27 th September	Holy Communion at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 30th September	Compline via zoom at 22.00

Editor: Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon
4 rue de Belloi, 13006 Marseille

Tel: 07 66 01 71 50

Email: anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Newsletter September 2020

Reflection - A Jubilee for the Earth

There is an old Hasidic story about a child who, every morning, during daily prayers, would go out into the woods. One day his father decided to follow him and watched as the child prayed, among animals and trees. "Why do you go outside to pray?" inquired the father. "I come here to be with the LORD" the child replied. "Don't you know that the LORD is the same everywhere?" the father asked. "I know," said the child, "but I am not."

Where do you experience the freedom to be your true selves?

On 18th September, some of us joined in the diocesan Creationtide service online, celebrating God's Creation and calling us to keep a Jubilee for the Earth, a time of restorative justice for our planet. If you wonder whether 'Creationtide' is an attempt to renew or reform the Church of England liturgical year, let not your heart be troubled.

It all started in 1989, when the Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios established September 1st, the beginning of the liturgical year for Orthodox Churches, as a Day of Prayer for Creation. It would have, perhaps, remained a 'parochial' event if the Iron Curtain had not fallen a few months later. The following decades have seen an ever-increasing willingness of European churches not only to share their spiritual heritage, but also to contribute Christian voices and values to the building of a common Europe, broader and deeper than the EU. And so, in 2007, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly held in Romania, at Sibiu, made the proposal to celebrate a 'Time for Creation' during the five weeks between 1st September and 4th October. The following year, the World Council of Churches invited its members to observe these five weeks through prayers and action on ecological issues. Since then, many Christians have heard, and responded to, the call to acknowledge our contribution to the disfigurement of creation and to care for, rather than abuse, the natural world.

If humanity tries to find answers to the extraordinary environmental challenges we can no longer dismiss as not relevant, will technological, economic and political solutions suffice? Don't we need to undergo a conversion, a change of heart, that has spiritual roots?

On the last day of Creationtide, 4th October, some Western Churches, including the Church of England, commemorate Francis of Assisi, that compelling and inspiring figure, "a man of great fervour, feeling much sweetness and tenderness even toward lesser creatures, [...] simple by grace, not by nature" (*Thomas of Celano, The Life of St Francis*).

Francis was known to immerse himself in the beauty and peace of God's creation when he wanted to pray – as his true self. "This is indeed the reason why I account it a great treasure, because man has had no hand in it, but all has been given to us by divine Providence" (*Little Flowers of St Francis*). He had surely rediscovered that the divine and the human meet in the tiniest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation.

The harmony which Francis experienced with all creation led to a liberation from fear, greed and compulsion, and a desire to speak the language of fraternity and beauty with the world. He could hear the clamour of the earth and the clamour of the poor; he kissed the leper and crossed battle lines to enter into peaceful conversation with Muslims.

The Jubilee for the Earth could be for us a time to acknowledge that we should be indifferent to nothing in this world. A time to try to heal relationships with Creation that have become conflictual, and to move gradually away from what we want to what God's world needs. And a time to pray for the grace of confidently coming before God as our true selves, in the knowledge that He is, in the words of Francis, "all good, every good".

The Revd Roxana Tenea Teleman

Church services

We are continuing to hold services every Sunday morning at 10.00 am at All Saints, Marseille, and every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30 am at the church in Oppède. Thanks to our strict protocols we are able to continue in both churches despite the recent restrictions imposed for Marseille. Thanks to the generous offer from Gabrielle and René to use their garden, we will also be holding our first service since the confinement in Aix on Sunday 4th October. We have not yet resumed services in the Oratoire as it is part of residential accommodation and used daily.

Reader licensing

Our two Readers, Christine Portman and Jane Quarmbly, were re-licensed this Sunday, 27th September. Thanks to zoom we were able to share the service from Dauphin across the chaplaincy and beyond.



Covid-19

The *département* of Bouches-du- Rhône, which covers both Marseille and Aix, is now designated a red area of ‘maximum alert’ under the Covid precautionary measures, as a result of which the government have increased restrictions on certain types of gathering. Bars and restaurants are now closed in Marseille and their opening hours have been shortened elsewhere. For the time being churches remain open for worship, provided health protocols are complied with. Our own protocols for personal attendance in church remain unchanged – wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, signing the register, cleaning your space after use etc. We are monitoring the position and will let you know if and when things change.

Chaplaincy AGM

Due to the lockdown we were unable to hold our AGM in the spring and it was rescheduled to 4th October at 11.15 am at All Saints’ Marseille. However, this has now been postponed to 17th October as the restrictions on meetings in Marseille are changing rapidly and further information is awaited on whether it may be possible to hold such meetings via zoom. Please send any items for the agenda to Jane Quarmby, along any outstanding reports for inclusion in the annual report (as requested in April). It would be very helpful if you could send everything to Jane before 10th October. There are some documents which those standing for the Council need to supply to Christine and, as we haven’t had many responses yet, here are the requirements again – as below:

The AGM’s around the corner! Will you offer to stand for the next Chaplaincy Council?

A healthy, functioning chaplaincy needs a lively council with members who represent all our congregations. True, church members need to be kept fully informed of what’s going on, but more than that, everyone needs to be able, through their representatives, to bring ideas or concerns to the council’s attention. If you feel able to offer yourself for this service, please don’t hesitate to contact either Jamie or Jane and let them know that you would like your name to go forward at the AGM.

As you know, safeguarding is at the heart of the Church’s commitment to provide a safe and caring environment for all its members. It reflects our faithful adherence to Christian values. All council members have a clearly spelled-out Duty of Care to their congregations*, so the Church of England has asked all those who undertake specific roles within the Church to provide various pieces of information to ensure that, as far as possible, parishes and chaplaincies are following safe practice.

Many thanks to those of you who intend to stand for the council and have already sent in photocopies of the documents listed below. However, if you have not yet done so, please be sure during September to send to our Safeguarding Officer, Christine Portman, the documents that she needs to see:

- A photocopy of your ID (passport, carte d’identité etc.)
- A photocopy of your new casier judiciaire. This can be applied for online in English at: <https://casier-judiciaire.justice.gouv.fr/mai-web-b3-presentation/pages/accueil.xhtml?cid=1> or in French at: <https://casier-judiciaire.justice.gouv.fr/pages/accueil.xhtml>

The service is free of charge and the document will be sent to your home address within two weeks.

- A completed Confidential Declaration Form. This can be found on the diocesan website at: <https://europe.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/2019/confidential-declaration-form-cdf.pdf>

For those who have previously filled in the CDF, you'll be pleased to know that a shorter Confidential Renewal Form can now be found at:

<https://europe.anglican.org/downloads/safeguarding/2019/confidential-renewal-form-crf.pdf>

Christine can send you either of these as a mail attachment if you'd prefer.

- Finally, you'll need to send her a copy of the certificate you will receive when you complete the new, Church of England Basic Awareness CO Safeguarding training. The course gives an excellent overview of the essentials you'll need to know as a member of the Chaplaincy Council. It's free, takes around an hour to complete and can be found online at:

<https://europe.anglican.org/safeguarding/online-training>

Click on the red link under 'Basic Awareness, CO Online course. If you haven't done Safeguarding before and don't already have an account, enter your own name under "Username" when prompted. Then create a password for your personal account. Please make a note of this in case you need to access it in future. If prompted for the name of the Chaplaincy, enter marseille.

The course is easy to follow and functions more smoothly than the previous version. However, if you have any difficulties, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Christine at

safeguarding.anglican.marseille@gmail.com

This is the address to use when you send in the supporting documents.

We hope that you'll join us and so help to make our church even more responsive to our members' needs.

- * Promoting a Safer Church – House of Bishops 2017

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/PromotingSaferChurchWeb.pdf>

Please be aware that these documents are mandatory now for all Council members so if you want to be on the Council and play a part in running our chaplaincy you need to get your skates on!

Help for refugees and asylum-seekers

Following the recent devastating fire at the Moria refugee camp in Greece, our prayers continue for refugees and asylum-seekers in the Diocese. Christine Portman has details of a grassroots appeal being organised to raise money for humanitarian aid and support on the island of Lesbos, where the need is acute. If you would like more details, please contact Christine by email at pickport@gmail.com.

Our Chaplaincy's History

Part 4 - WARTIME: "These anxious times"

At the outbreak of World War II most of the 'British Colony' fled Marseille, keen to escape the German occupation and rejoin their families. During what the *Diocesan Gazette* called "these anxious times" conditions became difficult for the British Colony. The chaplain, **Revd. Hubert COX**, was at least in Marseille at the outbreak of war – unlike other priests who were stranded far from their chaplaincies – and rose manfully to the challenge of supporting his flock. In October 1939 it was reported that "Mr Cox is tackling a very difficult job [...] At the beginning of the war he was busy helping people leaving France. The Church Council has adopted "Business as Usual" as its motto and the Annual Sale of work will be held. The ladies of the community are knitting for the French troops at the Front."

Revd. Cox was clearly a tower of strength, combining his sense of duty with an equally keen sense of humour. In February 1940 he wrote:

"I am not free, of course, to take up full-time Army chaplain work, as I have the Colony and the Sailors' Club to care for, but I am trying to act as far as I can in the capacity of chaplain to the troops [and] I have had special services in church and in billets. [On Christmas Day] the men assembled at table for a scrumptious meal due for 7.30. At 7.10 began the short service of reading, one and a half hymns, a carol, sermonette and prayers; it ended at 7.29¾. To my mingled surprise and joy, the men took part in the service with the same hearty good will with which they later attacked the meal".

The Seamen's Club was by now providing an even more crucial service than it did in peacetime, arranging football matches and excursions, and supplying books and papers to men in billets and hospital, loan of wireless sets, holding of services in billets, etc.

But the Seamen's Club was providing rather more of a service than the Germans realised. Early in 1940 Revd. Cox was appointed Chaplain to the Army Base in Marseille "until they have enough troops to justify a uniformed man", and was subsequently called up as an Army Chaplain working with the troops on the south coast of England. Due to tightened security around the port area, the usual functioning of the Seamen's Club at rue de Forbin was suspended . . . until a Church of Scotland minister in Paris, **Revd. Donald C. Caskie**, arrived on the scene in 1940. According to the *Diocesan Gazette*, after the Germans entered Paris the Revd. Caskie had left the city on foot, having surrendered his passage in favour of a stranded lady, and tried to escape through Spain.

"Thwarted in this he found his way to Marseille, where he was asked by the Consular authorities to take charge of a group of stranded British folk who had been housed in the Institute of the Mediterranean Mission to Seamen. Mr Caskie was instrumental in helping hundreds of British people who had escaped from the North and in sending messages of reassurance to their friends at home."

However, the work going on at the Seamen's Club went far further than 'sending messages of reassurance'. In 1940, Caskie had been joined by George Rodocanachi, a Greek Orthodox doctor working in Marseille, and together they were helping allied servicemen who had not made the evacuation at Dunkirk and were thus trapped in German-occupied France. Rodocanachi treated wounded men and even hid some of them in his own flat, and the Mission was thought to be the largest safe house in France at that time. They received anonymous funding, food parcels were left on the Mission's doorstep overnight, and phone calls were made to warn them when police would be checking the building. This shows that a

lot of locals knew what the Mission was doing and sympathized with those fleeing. The Mission would bring the men in and arrange false papers and identities for them. They would take their uniforms and tie them in sacks with rocks, then drop them in the harbour at night time. They would then attempt to move the men through the Pyrenees and down to Gibraltar. The Mission was very successful, but eventually it came under suspicion and was forced to close; the work, however, continued.

As for All Saints' Church itself, the Bishop of Gibraltar granted permission for a succession of US Army chaplains to become temporary wartime chaplains, and the church was later used by a French Protestant congregation.



1944: The liberation of Marseille

After France was liberated, the tattered remains of the Anglican congregation were delighted to find that, despite the bombing of the Vieux Port, the building had remained intact. A letter from the British Consul-General of Marseille to the Bishop reports that “The English Church is undamaged. An American Chaplain (Anglican) has been given the key to the Church and will shortly be leading services [. . .] The Parsonage at Boulevard Rivet has, I understand, not been damaged, but [much] of the furniture and belongings have been looted.”

All Saints' Church was opened up (although it was to take many months of clean-up operations before the building was restored to its regular state), and on 5 April 1945 the churchwarden Mr Arkless wrote that “The Church is doing excellent work. It was full on Palm and Easter Sundays, with extra chairs. The services were very fine, and on Easter Sunday the three National Anthems were played” (presumably French, British and American).

On 13 May 1945 Victory in Europe (VE Day) was celebrated in All Saints' Church with a Solemn Service of Thanksgiving presided by **Revd. Paul S. OLVER**, a New York priest and US Army Chaplain, and the church was re-opened for public worship and Anglican use. However, even though the church was operational it was to be another three years before All Saints again had an Anglican priest as a regular chaplain.

Our thanks to Amanda Haste for compiling this from her research into the history of the chaplaincy.

Residency

Just a reminder to those needing to apply for residency that the French government portal opens on-line in October 2020. It has just been announced that the date has been put back (again) from 1st to 15th October. We will then have until July 2021 to get our applications in.

Donations

Good news – we have received two very generous donations which have covered the initial costs of equipping the church at Marseille with wifi, camera and microphones. Our grateful thanks to our anonymous benefactors.

Diary dates

Wednesday 30 th September	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 4 th October	Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45. Holy Communion at Aix (Gabrielle and René's garden – details available from Jane) at 11.00
Wednesday 7 th October	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 11 th October	Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion at l'Eglise Sacre Coeur, Oppède at 10.30 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45
Wednesday 14 th October	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 18 th October	Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 (A special service for St Luke's tide, with a focus on healing) Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 21 st October	Compline via zoom at 22.00
Sunday 25 th October	Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45.
Wednesday 28 th October	Compline via zoom at 22.00

Editor: Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon

4, rue de Belloi, 13006 Marseille

Tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email : anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Newsletter October 2020

As we enter the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, our chaplaincy has been busy.....

Church services

We are continuing to hold services every Sunday morning at 10.00 am at All Saints' Marseille, and every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30 am at the church in Oppède. Thanks to our strict protocols we are able to continue in both churches despite the recent restrictions imposed for Marseille and elsewhere. The Aix congregation are taking it in turns to host services at home as we have not yet resumed services in the Oratoire. Our zoom services are continuing and being very well supported. We now have the church at All Saints' Marseille kitted out with wifi, so we can zoom services from there from this weekend.

Reader licensing

Our two readers, Christine Portman and Jane Quarmby, were re-licensed on Sunday, 27th September.



Covid measures

We have had new guidance from the Diocese on church use and the good news is that we can now have a small choir singing in our churches. The Luberon 'Voices' were therefore able to accompany the hymns at the last service in Oppède.

Much of our area of PACA is now a designated 'maximum alert' red zone, with a curfew in force from midnight on Friday, 23rd October for 6 weeks as cases rise. It is now obligatory to wear masks outside in Marseille, parts of Aix, Nice, Cannes and a number of other large towns. Bars remain closed in Marseille, though restaurants have reopened during the day with additional health measures in place. Our own protocols for personal attendance in church remain unchanged – wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, keeping distanced, signing the register, cleaning your space after use etc. We are continuing to monitor the position and, if new measures are brought in, we will circulate details.

Reflection

Our reflection this month comes from Rev Sue Goodwin and touches on the worry and uncertainty caused by the pandemic:

The Testing of our Faith

I don't know about you but I feel my faith is being well and truly tested through this Covid-19 pandemic which seems to be never ending. Testing is a normal part of our journey of faith and we won't know how strong our faith is until it has been tested. Every manufacturer knows that his products must be tested to see if they are 'fit for purpose'. Are they strong enough? Are they safe to use? Will they do the job they were designed for? The same is true of our faith. Is it strong enough to withstand temptation? Is it fit for purpose? Are we able to declare what we believe and stick to it?

The testing may come in many guises. We can become too busy and lose our focus on God. We can be drawn away to ungodly pursuits. We can get our priorities wrong and put family, or work or even ministry first. We may become sick and have our faith tested that way. We may panic over circumstances beyond our control. This pandemic is a prime example of that. We can be afraid of catching the virus or we fear for our jobs, loss of income and home, loss of status, fear of isolation. Faith is the counter balance to fear and in exercising our faith it becomes stronger and grows like a mustard seed. And we must never forget that our faith has an impact on others.

Our faith should show our confidence in God, His trustworthiness, the Rock on which we build. If you are anything like me, you may learn best the hard way. I learn more from my mistakes and failures than I do from my successes. Life may seem plain sailing to others but below the surface we may be paddling furiously just to stay afloat. There is no shame in admitting our struggles. Sometimes we may grind to a halt unable to move backwards or forwards and we simply have to wait for God to pick us up and move us on. Important in all of this is the community of faith, the church, the fellowship of believers. We all need a safe place to admit our fears and anxieties. A place where others will uphold us with their love, their prayers and their practical help till we are back on an even keel. In any community there will be those who are doing well, strong in faith, and those who are really struggling. That is why we need each other and need to be honest with each other. Galatians 6:2 says this: "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." This is beautifully illustrated in the Good News version of the Bible by a line on people walking one behind each other each supporting the burden the one in front of them is carrying.

What is the secret weapon to help us withstand the testing? In a recent reflection John talked of practical ways to help our faith grow:

- feeding on the Word of God
- celebrating our faith by looking back and seeing the faithfulness of God
- belonging to the community of faith
- serving others.

But the secret weapon to help us withstand the testing is JOY! It is the gift of joy given by the Holy Spirit. Nehemiah 8:10 says “the joy of the Lord is our strength”. And Peter talks of learning to rejoice in the face of adversity in his letter:

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

Chaplaincy AGM

Due to the confinement we were unable to hold our AGM in the spring and it was rescheduled, initially to October but now again to (almost certainly) 21st November. It has been confirmed now that we can hold it via zoom. Any items for the agenda to Jane Quarmby please, before 4th November.

Our Chaplaincy's History

Part 5 – Reaching Out

From at least the early twentieth century the chaplaincy has included Aix-en-Provence within its ‘parish boundaries’, and in 1929 the chaplain reported that Aix was “the home of a few American artists and some five British families” whom he visited from time to time. However, in 1951, our young, go-getting post-war chaplain the Revd. Ronald “Ronnie” Noakes established a groundbreaking initiative, arranging for a student exchange between the Universities of London and Bristol with the University of Aix-Marseille. A year on, the year’s experiment proved highly successful, and the Revd. Noakes called, through the Church Times, for “incumbents in England [to] forward the names of those whom they knew to be going to Aix.” Armed with these introductions, Noakes was able to arrange meetings of the English students, and a large number of them became involved with the church choir and other activities. Two years later, Noakes’ successor, the Revd. Anthony Grain, was able to illustrate the wide scope of the work:

“We have a few British people living [in Montpellier] and also a number of others connected with the university – bright youngsters with plenty of truly British initiative. [...] Next day we had a very well attended Communion service, followed by an English breakfast (tea, eggs and bacon, toast and marmalade). Later I squeezed as many as possible into my car, and after visiting Aigues-Mortes (where Protestants were still imprisoned only 200 years ago), we picnicked in glorious sunshine on the beach of Saintes Marie-de-la-Mer, the traditional landing place of Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, with their servant Sara, on their expulsion from the Holy Land”.

In 1964, some thirteen years and five chaplains down the line, the chaplain reported that “work amongst American students at Aix is increasing” and that he was going there “roughly once a fortnight”. By then

the church was “well supported” by *au pair* girls and by Americans “and it is encouraging to see these young people both using the Church and being glad to find it here [...] on Thanksgiving we had forty at Mass”. Services were somewhat peripatetic, being held variously in the university chapel in term time, and in the chapel of the Catholic sisters of the Community of the Presentation during the academic holidays in the 1960s and 1970s. Around the turn of the century the Aix congregation found itself homeless, and a house church was started at the home of Valerie Aymar. However, by the 2000s we were able to start using the oratory chapel of the RC Cathedral of St. Sauveur once a month for our worship gatherings.

We seem to have founded daughter communities roughly once every 90 years, and in 2016 our then chaplain, the Revd. Canon David Greenwood, was delighted to receive an approach from Christopher Morgan to establish an Anglican congregation in the Luberon. Christopher publicised the venture, and permission was granted for monthly services to begin in Goult in 2017, soon moving to the Luberon congregation’s present adopted home in an RC church on the edge of the village of Oppède. This flourishing congregation, consisting mainly of British people with homes in the area, was originally under the wing of one of our assistant priests, the Revd. Malcolm Dodd, but was soon to be enriched by the presence of the Revd. John Smith, who conveniently lived close by. In due course the Revd. Smith was given Permission to Officiate (PTO) across the chaplaincy’s three worship centres, and in February 2018 the Luberon congregation was regularized and officially recognized by the Diocese of Europe as a daughter church in the Marseille chaplaincy.

As a result, the chaplaincy now consists of three very different congregations: in the bustling multicultural melting pot that is Marseille; in the university town of Aix-en-Provence where we have been able to welcome students and young families; and in the Luberon where the local expatriate community and their visitors enjoy the chance to gather for the time-honoured worship of the Anglican Church in the midst of their rural idyll.

In our next and final instalment in this series we will be looking at the way that, in true British stiff-upper-lip fashion, the chaplaincy “carries on carrying on” in the face of challenges.

Our thanks go to Amanda Haste for editing extracts of her history entitled ‘All Saints and Sailors’ for the purposes of this series.

Residency

Just a reminder to those needing to apply for residency that the French government portal has now opened online (a little later than 1st October but it is now working). We have until July 2021 to get our applications in. if you need to apply, go to the link <https://contacts-demarches.interieur.gouv.fr> and make your way to *brexit-demande-titre-sejour*. Don’t panic if your French is not perfect as at the bottom of the page is a British flag which when clicked will put the whole process into English. Do make sure that you read the table of documents needed and have them ready as files before you start the process.

Bishop’s Advent Appeal

Covid-19 Support to the Anglican Communion

Last week, we witnessed a deeply sobering point in our global struggle against Covid-19: over 1 million people worldwide have now died from the virus. We know and see the impacts of Covid-19 in our own

communities here in Europe, and the stresses and strains it brings for us all in our daily lives. We see, too, numbers of infections and deaths increasing once more among us, across the Diocese in Europe.

In Morocco (within our own Diocese) there have now been over 140,000 confirmed cases, and nearly 2,500 deaths. In South Africa, despite introducing one of the severest lockdowns in the world, over 685,000 cases have been recorded. In some areas of Africa, Covid-19 is exacerbating both ongoing violence, conflict and bloodshed and existing health crises, like tuberculosis. Lack of testing and data issues mean the real numbers in Africa may actually be far higher than those recorded. John Nkengasong from the Africa Centres for Disease Control told the BBC recently: "I don't think we are over the first wave yet, we have not yet hit the bottom at all."

In response to emergency needs right across the Communion, you may have seen that the Archbishop of Canterbury launched a Covid-19 "Together in Unity" Appeal. I am delighted that his Appeal has already raised over £100,000. My Advent Appeal this year is to urge your support for the work the Anglican Communion Fund is doing to alleviate the ravaging impact of Covid-19 in the poorest parts of the world. The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) is making a difference on the ground to people who are suffering every day, the human cost of this pandemic.

Behind the statistics are human life stories of deprivation from lack of food, access to basic hygiene and sanitation facilities, and worsening economic hardship in the poorest communities for those unable to work. Below and attached are illustrated examples from ACF-supported projects in Sudan and Mexico. Where you have relationships with churches across the Communion, you will know of their situations, with first-hand reasons to support an Appeal to help those who have already lost so much and have least.



People queue for hot meals and food and essential supplies in Mexico City. Photo (The Anglican Church of Mexico provided by ACF)

I am delighted that, with your help, the diocese raised nearly £15,500 for my Advent Appeal 2019 to promote the empowerment of women in the Anglican Communion. I should add that ACF also provides key support to our own work representing the Anglican Communion in the European Institutions, on issues such as migration and refugees, human rights, freedom of expression and belief, and domestic violence against women.

Bishop Moses Zungo from Maridi Diocese in South Sudan expresses his gratitude for ACF's support, saying, "You held our hand during our most trying moments." I hope we in our diocese can help with an outstretched hand to brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion who are suffering so deeply right now from the impact of Covid-19, by supporting the work on the ground by the ACF.

Please give as generously as you can to this Advent Appeal. You can find details of how you can donate attached.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Advent Appeal 2020:

By cheque:

"Advent Appeal 2020"

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance Office

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39

Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

Remembrance

We have been told that there will be a small service of Remembrance at the War Cemetery in Marseille on November 7th. This date has still to be confirmed plus all of the arrangements so if you are interested in going, you will be very welcome but please contact Rev Jamie Johnston for more precise details.

Diary dates

Sunday 1st November All Saints Day

Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 (Patronal Festival)

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.45

Wednesday 4th November Compline via zoom at 22.00

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00

Holy Communion at Eglise Sacré-Coeur, Oppède at 10.30

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30

Wednesday 11th November Compline via zoom at 22.00

Sunday 15th November Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30

Wednesday 18th November Compline via zoom at 22.00

Sunday 22nd November Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30

Wednesday 25th November Compline via zoom at 22.00

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30

If anyone has any articles or news for this newsletter please send to anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Editor: Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon

4, rue de Belloi, 13006 Marseille

Tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email : anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix en Provence and the Luberon

Newsletter November 2020

As many of us have been experiencing the difficulties of a second lockdown, the Christmas message of our Bishop Robert is timely:

In one of our best-loved carols, Christina Rossetti situates the birth of Jesus 'in the bleak midwinter'. She paints a severe and freezing manger scene, with howling wind and deep snow. She represents the frosted earth and water with iron and stone.

From the biblical narrative, it seems unlikely that Jesus was born in the bleak mid-winter, as the shepherds would not be putting their sheep out to pasture in freezing conditions. But that does not stop us gladly enjoying Rossetti's romantic poetic licence and reminding ourselves that the conditions of the first Christmas were hard, extraordinarily hard by modern standards.

Mary was a young girl giving birth a long way from home. The town of Bethlehem was crowded with strangers registering with the tax authorities of the occupying powers. Mary laid her new-born baby in an animal's stone feeding trough. And the first visitors were not close family but rough men from the fields.

It is extremely difficult to recover this first Christmas. The festival has become overlaid with medieval nativity scenes and Romantic or Dickensian winter scenes. In the twentieth century, Christmas became the setting of the perfect family gathering. Most significantly, the run up to the commercial Christmas – the 'golden quarter' – is now a vital part of the retail industry's overall wellbeing so that vast sums are expended on advertising to persuade us to acquire more goods and more debt.

But not in 2020. This year it will be very different. Travel bans, lockdowns and quarantines mean it will be harder and perhaps impossible to get together with our loved ones. People are poorer. High streets, at least at the time of writing, are closed in many countries. And even when they re-open, shopping isn't quite the same when you have to physically distance and wear a mask.

Christmas will be simpler this year. And for many it will be sadder. As Covid-19 has progressed, more and more families have been affected by the virus and its frightening and sometimes long-term symptoms. Some of us have a relative who has been in intensive care, struggling to breathe. Many of us know someone who has very sadly lost their life, and some of us face the first Christmas without someone close to us. This year, perhaps we more intuitively sense the harshness of the manger scene, the cruelty of death, the pain of a bleak mid-winter.

Another well-known – and much older – carol speaks to us about 'tidings of comfort and joy'. In 2020 we need to hear these tidings. For Christmas is at heart the story of a God who draws near to us in Jesus, sharing the sorrows and joys of human experience. In the

mystery of the incarnation, the eternal God wonderfully condescends to be born as a human baby, in the roughest conditions. He is 'Immanuel' – the God who is with us.

Whatever conditions you face this Christmas, I hope you will be able to reach out and find the God who is with us. I hope you will take comfort from the presence of God with you, and perhaps also find opportunity to comfort others.

'God rest you merry' in modern English means 'may God grant you peace and happiness'. The unknown author continued:

'Let nothing you dismay

for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan's power

when we had gone astray

Which brings tidings of comfort and joy.'

I wish each of you and your families comfort and joy as we approach this Christmas season.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe



+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

New Appointments

Curate for the Chaplaincy

We are delighted to welcome Roxana Teleman as our new curate. Many will know her from her long service on the Chaplaincy Council as secretary, and playing the piano for services at All Saints. She and her family live in Marseille. Roxana completed her theological studies in the UK along with other ordinands from the Diocese of Europe and was ordained Deacon in Brussels in

2019. After serving the first part of her curacy in Nice, we are very pleased that Roxana is being appointed to Marseille, Aix and the Luberon to continue her training.

She will be licensed as Curate on Saturday, 28th November and will join the Ministry Team on Advent Sunday, the beginning of the new liturgical year. Please would everyone keep Roxana in their prayers.

New Archdeacon of France

Bishop Robert has just announced the appointment of our new Archdeacon:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that Canon Dr. Peter Hooper has been appointed to be the next Archdeacon of France.

Peter is currently priest-in-charge of seven rural churches near Melton Mowbray and Area Dean of the Framland Deanery in the Leicester Diocese. He is the Chair of the House of Clergy, is a member of Bishop's Council, sits on various other Diocesan Committees and also serves as the Rural Officer for Leicester Diocese. Much of his time in ministry has been directed to growing Christian communities and presence, both within established settings as well as in start-up situations and secular organisations. Children and young people have been a particular focus, and he has helped two communities register as Eco-Churches. He is interested in national initiatives on clergy flourishing and has co-ordinated a series of projects looking at reducing the administration burden for clergy. Peter has been Area Dean for two different deaneries, both of which have been re-organised under his leadership, and his ministry has emphasised the need to care for and encourage clergy and parishioners who find change difficult.

Prior to ordination Peter worked in agriculture, eventually becoming managing director of a large agricultural seeds subsidiary of DuPont, based in Toulouse, and represented the industry up to national level in France. As a business leader he nurtured discipleship through a 'faith in the workplace' course and continues to tutor on various Diocesan Discipleship programmes. A major part of Peter's ordination training took place at the *Institut Catholique de Toulouse*, though more as a result of geography than tradition, as Peter has a very broad churchmanship. Whilst living in Toulouse he served as Chaplaincy Warden in the Anglican Chaplaincy, so understands well the realities of chaplaincy life in the Archdeaconry from a lay officer perspective, particularly as related to financial issues.

Peter was widowed in 2019 and has two grown up children, William who is a Chartered Civil Engineer and Catherine, a Human Nutritionist, who works in the Food Industry. Whilst they will not be returning with him to live in France, they are excited about the opportunities to visit. Peter has lived and worked in France for over a decade and looks forward very much to returning to a country that he regards as his home.

Peter will begin work with us on 15 February 2021. He will be licensed initially as Acting Archdeacon, continuing to live in Leicestershire. A move to France will be organised as quickly as possible in these difficult times, when Peter will be licensed as Archdeacon in full title.

Peter feels a strong sense of calling to this role. He comments: "It is often quoted that you should 'never go back'. However, when we truly open ourselves up to God's guidance, such dismissive

thought should not be part of our discipleship journey. We offer our lives to be shaped, formed and placed where God knows best and so it is with enormous pleasure and great excitement that I respond to his call to 'go back' to my ministerial roots in France".

I am thrilled that we are able to appoint a priest of such rich experience and skill to this key leadership role, with responsibilities for our chaplaincies across France and Monaco. Please pray for Peter as he begins a major period of transition. In due course I hope you will join with me in giving Peter a warm welcome into his new responsibilities and return to France.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe



New Chaplaincy Council

At the AGM on Saturday 21st November, some long serving members of the Chaplaincy Council stood down for a well-earned rest, and some new members have joined us. The Chaplaincy Council is now slightly smaller and comprises of:

Revd Jamie Johnston – Chair, Anne Roumieu, Gaston Roumieu, Dimby Razafintsambaina, Michael Annett, Muriel Teusink, Christopher Morgan, plus Christine Portman and Jane Quarmbly as Synod reps. Jane was also re-elected as Church Warden (we still have a vacancy for a second Warden if anyone is interested....)

The new Council looks forward to serving all of our congregations in Marseille, Aix and Oppède.

Fundraising in Advent

One of our zoom members in England is involved with a charity providing relief to those in need in a deprived area of West London not far from Grenfell Tower, the apartment block which suffered a devastating fire in 2017. This year the calls on the charity's food distribution centre have trebled due to the lockdowns. As a chaplaincy we are keen to help, and have a target of raising enough funds to buy 100 chickens so that clients of the food distribution centre can receive a Christmas lunch.

If you can find it in your heart to help towards this collection, please donate 15 pounds (or more if you can) to our account with the Diocese in the UK:

Either online at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

Click 'Donate', choose an amount, enter card details, then under 'Your donation summary' click 'Add a message of support' and write in 'For Marseille Chaplaincy Christmas Project'. (This will enable us to allocate your donation to the collection.)

Or by bank transfer to:

Sort code: 02-06-13

Account number: 40317039

Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund

Reference: 'Marseille Xmas'

For further details please contact the Chaplain on anglican.marseille@gmail.com or (+33) (0)7 66 01 71 50.

Brexit

The British Consul in Marseille, Michèle Solari, and her colleagues recently held an online workshop with chaplains in the Riviera Deanery to brief them on the process for applying for a post Brexit residency card in France, applications for which need to be made before 1st July 2021.

The team at the Consulate are very keen to ensure that any British citizens in the area who may be isolated or vulnerable receive all the help they need with the application process. If any of you know someone who may need assistance, particularly if they don't have access to computer facilities (since applications can only be made online), please let the Chaplain know on anglican.marseille@gmail.com or (+33) (0) 7 66 01 71 50 and one of us will be in touch with you.

If you haven't already signed up to the UK Government website 'Living in France', this is a helpful way of keeping up with changes in the rules. You can, in particular, opt to receive email alerts when new information about Brexit is published.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>

For those of us affected by Brexit, here's another link which you may find helpful (please note that this is from a commercial organisation, not a government body):

<https://www.spectrum-ifa.com/category/driving-licence-in-france/?fbclid=IwAR2jHvmXTRYttFhXmg1cbMRkROvtSfYI1KyqE-AZ19GMxZ5BhCg9dASfkBU>

Woolly hats

Calling all knitters! One of the practical ways in which our chaplaincy supports the Seamen's Mission is by the provision of handknitted woolly hats. Sadly the ladies who used to knit these are no longer with us so it's down to us. I have found a very easy pattern on the internet which you are welcome to use (I'm not the best knitter in the world and it works for me).

You need a pair of 5.5 mm knitting needles, some fairly thick wool like Arran, and a needle.

Cast on 74 stitches and work to a tension of 15 stitches to 4 inches.

Work in garter stitch (knit) for 10 inches. Bind off, leaving a long tail. Thread the tail through the last row and pull together, knot securely. Sew up the seam and weave in any loose ends.

Ta-ra! One hat. Pom poms optional.

Once done please send to Gaston Roumieu, who will make sure they get to the port.

Survey

We recently asked for views on our provision of worship across the chaplaincy especially in these difficult times of isolation and lockdowns caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. 35 people responded to our survey so a big thank-you to all of you who took the time to let us know your views.

Overall the feedback was very positive. Here's a precis:

Just over 82 %of respondents live in France and attend worship in one of our 3 locations. 14% live in the UK.

Before the crisis, 80% attended worship in our chaplaincy at least once a month, of which 26% attended weekly. After the lockdown, the numbers of attendees dropped to 52% overall and 18% weekly.

During the lockdown, 62% joined in the weekly zoom services of Holy Communion on a Sunday morning, and 48% the weekly zoom services of Compline on a Wednesday night. After lockdown 53% continued to attend the zoom services of Holy Communion on a Sunday and 35% the Compline services on a Wednesday.

100% join in with the responses in a zoom service, 92% out loud and 8% internally.

The social side of the services met with varying levels of interest – 79% liked some chat beforehand, but 21% not at all, 96% like to share the peace to some degree, and 97% like to say goodbye in some way at the end of the service of Holy Communion.

Online worship doesn't allow us to take the host and instead we have the prayer of spiritual communion. 76% of people found this prayer helpful but missed sharing the moment of communion physically with others. However 44% of people did not find it hard that they could not receive the sacraments physically, and only 21% had received home communion.

80% of people were largely happy with the music chosen, with a further 16% preferring it if the music was restricted to hymns so that they could sing along with the music.

Once the lockdown is over the majority of people (75%) think that they will go to church for worship whilst 15% felt the opposite.

Comments received in answer to being asked what have people appreciated the most, what were the downsides and what could we do differently were:

“Having the opportunity to take time out of a busy week, during difficult times to worship and focus on what is important”.

“I appreciate it all, and look forward to the services. There are no downsides, under the current circumstances.”

“Everything is perfect. Thank-you so much!” (We know that's not true, but we liked it anyway. Ed.)

History of the Chaplaincy

Part 6 - KEEPING ON KEEPING ON: Challenges past, present and future

In this, our final instalment of the history of our chaplaincy, we look at some of the challenges we have faced over the past 170 years and continue to face today. As well as facing down the plague and pestilence, war and scandals touched on in previous instalments of this series, the chaplaincy (unlike our richer neighbours on the French Riviera) has always been financially challenged. Originally established as a consular chaplaincy in 1850, the chaplaincy's role in supporting British residents and visitors to the port was recognised with some British government support, but we mainly relied on the collection plate and donations. As a seamen's mission, the chaplaincy also asked captains of English vessels to contribute five francs every time they came into the port, and this helped fund our work at the Seamen's Club.

By the early 1880s the national endowment of consular chaplaincies had been withdrawn, and the British Foreign Office was also making an annual Parliamentary grant of £100 towards the maintenance of the Marseille chaplaincy (similar grants were made to other ports such as Trieste and Smyrna); other than that the congregation were now left to provide for their religious wants from their own resources. Marseille, along with Malaga and Trieste, was “represented as having exceptional claims for help” being “much frequented by British sailors”, the Diocese's estimate being “tens of thousands of British seamen

entering Marseilles annually". Some church societies also gave assistance: for many years the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts gave a grant of £30 to Marseilles, and the MSS and St. Andrew's Waterside Church Mission were, as the Bishop's *Pastoral Letter* points out, also "very liberal in supplying books for the sailors".

All Saints has also benefitted from the generosity of private individuals, and it is only through occasional large gifts that All Saints' church was built and has been kept in good order. One important benefactor was **Charles Henry LOWE** of Rowde Hall, Wiltshire, who made his fortune in the shipping trade, and his generosity resulted not only in completion of the present-day church in rue de Belloi but also in the purchase of a parsonage, "a very suitable and pretty villa in the Boulevard Rivet No. 16," for successive chaplains.

1909 was a momentous year for All Saints, as with the death of the last consular chaplain in Marseille, we became an independent chaplaincy. Needless to say, the trustees and congregation were concerned about the loss of the British government grant, but the Consul felt that "the abolition of the Consular Chaplaincy would perhaps be beneficial" because we would be freed from the restrictions imposed centrally.



Hitherto, only British subjects had been eligible to subscribe to the church, and the Consul considered that this had kept "a certain number of active and well-to-do members of the congregation (as for instance, British subjects who have voluntarily become naturalized as French citizens for

commercial purposes), Americans, and Foreigners married to Englishwomen, from participating in the management of the temporal affairs of the church". It appears the Consul was right: the church survived and, over a century later, is still benefitting from the rich contribution made to parish life by its multinational congregations.

Nowadays our only income consists of pledges; donations via the collection plate; baptism and wedding fees, and a small (and diminishing) grant from the Mission to Seamen – we receive no funding from the Anglican Church, and indeed need to make a contribution to the Diocese in Europe every year. The roof has, like so many church roofs, been a leaky liability for over 100 years, and repairs (and repairing water-damaged paintwork) have been needed on average every 30 years. Over the years our community have, through necessity, responded by being eager fundraisers, with the Christmas Fair, concerts and sales of work being major events in the Marseille calendar.

EPILOGUE

But it is not all doom and gloom and fixing leaky buildings. Rich in vocations, the chaplaincy has sponsored two ordinands in recent years: our French former Licensed Lay Minister **Stéphane Javelle** was ordained priest in 2018 and is now curate in the Diocese of Salisbury, and our Romanian former secretary and music coordinator **Roxana Tenea Teleman** was ordained deacon in Brussels in 2019.

In 2019 we welcomed our 41st permanent chaplain in 170 years, the **Revd. Jamie Johnston**, and under his leadership we are now facing up to the challenges of an ongoing pandemic. Our online services are well attended, and now that our churches are able to open again we are



offering no fewer than 14 services a month, and are in the process of installing wifi and webcam in All Saints' Marseille with a view to streaming services and other events from there. Of course, especially in the current climate, challenges still remain –this year's Christmas Fair is having to be made a virtual event – but we have survived crises before, and with your help as parishioners we are looking forward with optimism to the continued work of the English Church in Marseille, Aix and the Luberon, as our Anglican community approaches its third century.

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This series has been redacted and revised from our church history, "All Saints and Sailors," which is available in All Saints church in Marseille, or by email as a PDF file, for a modest price of 8 euro (or 10 euro on Amazon!). Every penny of the purchase price goes to chaplaincy funds and this little book (now in its fourth edition) has raised over 1000 euro to date. If you would like to read more about our fascinating history while contributing to our survival, please email Amanda Haste on amanda.haste@sfr.fr.

Dates for the Diary

These arrangements are all assuming the current relaxation of lockdown restrictions continues – as and when things change we will let you know.

Sunday 29th November Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30 a.m.

Wednesday 2nd December Compline at 10.00 p.m. via zoom

Saturday 5th December Chaplaincy Council Meeting at 2.30 p.m. via zoom

Sunday 6th December Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at 11.30 a.m. via zoom

Wednesday 9th December Compline at 10.00 p.m. via zoom

Sunday 13th December Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at Oppède at 10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion at 11.30 a.m. via zoom

Wednesday 16th December Compline at 10.00 p.m. via zoom

Sunday 20th December Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion at 11.30 a.m. via zoom

Carol Service at 4.00 p.m. via zoom

Wednesday 23rd December Compline at 10.00 p.m. via zoom

Thursday 24th December Holy Communion at 11.30 p.m. via zoom

Friday 25th December **Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.**
Holy Communion at 11.30 a.m. via zoom

Sunday 27th December **Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille at 10.00 a.m.**
Holy Communion at 11.30 a.m. via zoom

Wednesday 30th December **Compline at 10.00 p.m. via zoom**

If anyone has any articles or news for this newsletter please send to anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Editor: Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon

4, rue de Belloi, 13006 Marseille

Tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email : anglican.marseille@gmail.com



CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE WITH AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

Newsletter – December 2020

Reflection from our Chaplain

A Christmas not like the others. We keep hearing those words - in news bulletins, on the lips of politicians, in conversations we have and messages we exchange. It won't be normal, it won't be the same, it won't be ... Around nine months ago, almost to the day, we stepped off the scale of anything we knew.

The strangeness of this time of pandemic has got to most of us at one time or another. Sometimes, for a few minutes or a few hours, we are able to forget what is going on. But then reality returns and there are times when, quite simply, it hurts. Separation, loneliness, aching loss - of loved ones, livelihoods, security, confidence - fear, illness, death. We switch on the news and wish we hadn't. Sometimes we switch it off.

Into all this comes a baby. Nine months, almost to the day, since his mother was told something extraordinary. That this birth would not be like the others. Stepping off the scale of anything she knew. Yet she did something equally extraordinary in return. She said yes. Let it be. And she moved forward in trust. She let the revelation of God within her become a source of hope, facing down everything that was strange. And she told her cousin, in words we recite in church two thousand years on, each day as evening falls: My soul magnifies the Lord. My deepest being proclaims trust in God.

Last week I was given a piece of yellowing paper, neatly typed. On the front cover it says: 'ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (Church of England) – CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS December 25, 1944.' It's an order of service, led by two US Army Chaplains, from the first Christmas after the liberation of Marseille at the end of the War (which was the last time All Saints had to close because of events beyond anyone's control). It speaks of the hope of Christmas in the middle of disruption, the eternal message of peace in the middle of war. Reading it offers a timely reminder that there have been many Christmases not like the others, that each generation faces times of testing, in which a choice is given: to switch off, or to move forward in trust. As I looked at the piece of paper, it occurred to me that probably no one who took

part in that service was alive today. Yet their message of faith has been handed on to us. In the words of Thomas Cranmer's prayer, they 'so passed through things temporal that they finally lost not the things eternal'. When the strangeness and sadness of this year are gone, the faith and the hope and the love will remain.

As I write this, the wind is gusting down the valley, battering doors and windows. The candle in front of me flickers but does not go out. Another timely reminder. We carry the flame of faith into the future, perhaps especially in times of darkness. In our Christmas Gospel, we will hear again the assurance that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not and will not overcome it. And, despite everything that is going on, it will be a source of deep joy. Our task is to keep the flame alive in our own generation, and to hand it on.

The piece of yellowing paper ends: 'The Chaplains who serve this Church wish each one of you a blessed Christmas and a joyous one in the Name of the Child Jesus of Bethlehem'.

You couldn't put it better than that. Happy Christmas.

The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain - December 2020

Chaplaincy Christmas Project

We are collecting donations to provide for 100 chickens for a food distribution project based near Grenfell Tower in London, through a charity with which a member of our chaplaincy works. The project has experienced a trebling of demand for its services during the pandemic. So far we have collected enough for 64 chickens (and therefore Christmas dinners) but we still need a few more. If you can donate, please:

- either send your gift via the JustGiving Page of the Diocese in Europe - <https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope> and add in where it says "message of support" that it is for the "Marseille Chaplaincy Christmas Project" (otherwise it'll head into the general coffers of the Diocese). If you can't find the place to put the message, please email us on anglican.marseille@gmail.com with details of your gift and we will make sure it is allocated to the Christmas project.

- or send your donation by bank transfer to:

Bank:	Barclays Bank plc
Sort Code:	20 06 13
Account number:	40317039
Account name:	Diocese in Europe Fund
Reference:	Marseille Xmas

Virtual Christmas Fair

Also we are still holding our annual Christmas Fair to raise funds for the ongoing work of the chaplaincy. As we are restricted by the Covid precautions and regulations, this year it's a virtual Fair, with a small but intrepid band of bakers, mulled wine makers, and jammers providing delicious products for Christmas. Last orders are now in but if you can get to church on Sunday in Marseille there will be some mince pies, cakes, jams, marmalades, mulled wine etc for you to buy and enjoy. So far we have raised over 500 euros so many thanks to all who are making or buying, and especially Gaston, Anne, Roxana, Elizabeth and Lydia for all their hard work in organising it.

Carol Service

Our carol service this year will be on-line, via zoom, at 4 pm French time on Sunday 20th December (3pm UK time) and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for Nine Lessons and Carols. You'll be able to sing as heartily or as quietly as you wish without the embarrassment of being over-heard as we are all muted on the screen! Whilst we wish we could be with friends and families but thanks to Covid restrictions are unable to meet up, we can at least join in with the millions of Christians world-wide in the much loved re-telling of the birth of Jesus in words and music.

Chaplaincy Council

The first meeting of the new Chaplaincy Council took place on 5th December and now comprises:

Chairman	Chaplain Jamie Johnston
Warden/Vice Chair	Jane Quarmby
Secretary	Muriel Teusink
Treasurer	Michael Annett
Safeguarding Officer	Christine Portman
Synod Reps	Christine Portman, Jane Quarmby
Electoral Roll Officer	Anne Roumieu
Seamen's mission	Gaston Roumieu
Oppède rep	Christopher Morgan
Marseille rep	Dimby Razafintsambaina
Curate (ex officio)	Roxana Tenea Teleman

Next meeting will be on 16th January 2021.

Brexit

The British Embassy in Paris have sent out a newsletter, *Voisins Voices*, containing useful information about the steps UK citizens need to take over the next few months in connection with Brexit. A copy is being circulated by email with this newsletter.

If you know of anyone who needs to take action about Brexit but may not have access to IT equipment, or may need help with the administrative steps involved, please let the Chaplain know so that we can arrange for them to receive appropriate assistance.

Dates for Diary

Sunday 20th December	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom 16.00 Nine Lessons and Carols via zoom
Wednesday 23rd December	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom
Thursday 24th December	23.30 Midnight Mass via zoom
Friday 25th December	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille and via zoom (time to be confirmed)
Sunday 27th December	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom
Wednesday 30th December	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom
Sunday 3rd January 2021	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom
Wednesday 6th January	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom
Sunday 10th January	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 10.30 Holy Communion at Oppede 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom
Wednesday 13th January	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom
Sunday 17th January 2021	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom
Wednesday 20th January	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom
Sunday 24th January 2021	10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille 11.30 Holy Communion via zoom
Wednesday 27th January	22.00 Compline/Night Prayer via zoom

Sunday 31st January 2021

10.00 Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

11.30 Holy Communion via zoom

We wish you all a happy Christmas, and a healthy and safe 2021.

Editor: Jane Quarmby, Chaplaincy Warden

All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon

4, rue de Belloj, 13006 Marseille

Tel: +33 (0)7 66 01 71 50

email : anglican.marseille@gmail.com