



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

**Vision and Mission Plan 2021-2024**

**Introduction**

The context of the chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille, Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon offers both opportunity and challenge.

Covering the area that surrounds France's second city, with its own church building and good networks including a long-standing presence within the seafaring community of Marseille, there are many potential opportunities for the chaplaincy to expand its mission and ministry. On the other hand, it covers a large area with differing English-speaking populations who have correspondingly differing needs and expectations. It also has few financial resources and currently no direct source of funding other than what it is able to generate through collections and donations. In recent years it has relied substantially on the award of a grant by the Diocese in Europe from its fund for ministry to seafarers. As the future of this grant is not guaranteed, there is a need for fundraising and financial planning in order to place the chaplaincy on a more stable financial footing.

In addition, the impact of the Covid pandemic since March 2020 has altered church practice in many ways, making it harder to expand our mission

through events that involve physical presence, whilst at the same time creating possibilities through an online community that did not exist before 2020, the boundaries of which stretch beyond the chaplaincy's geographical area. Looking ahead, it is likely that our worship will remain 'hybrid' – a mixture of physical and online services - for some time to come. This is also consistent with our commitment to increased sustainability and the reduction of long-distance travel within the chaplaincy where this can realistically be avoided.

## **Structure**

The items below are grouped into four headings: congregations, community, charity and sustainability.

### **1 Congregations**

Overall aim:

*To open all people's hearts to God through worship and prayer, inviting them to explore and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and offering opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship.*

In doing this we will:

- (a) offer diversity of experience in worship, whilst maintaining a weekly Eucharist
- (b) offer preaching that is thoughtful, rooted in the Gospel and connected to people's lives
- (c) offer opportunities for exploring and deepening faith through study, house groups and other events (away days, retreats, pilgrimages)
- (d) offer midweek services with a variety of styles, including compline and prayers for healing
- (e) introduce a new monthly evening service in Aix-en-Provence, particularly with a view to attracting younger worshippers

- (f) explore the possibility of meeting in other locations in response to need
- (g) be open to the possibility of increasing French-speaking services (e.g. for Malagasy members)
- (h) continue the use of technology in order to reach the wider chaplaincy community

## **2 Community**

Overall aim:

*To be a place of community and hospitality, meeting people where they are*

In doing this we will:

- (a) celebrate human diversity as an open and welcoming community
- (b) offer pastoral care, particularly to English-speaking people in the area, working in partnership with consulates, hospitals, prisons, other faith communities and charities, including those connected with seafarers
- (c) encourage the three congregations and the online community to feel more connected to one another by increasing opportunities for joint events
- (d) continue to foster ecumenical partnerships, including those with the community at Berdine and the International Seafarers' Mass in Marseille

## **3 Charity**

Overall aim:

*To respond to human need within the chaplaincy area and beyond*

In doing this we will:

- (a) continue our involvement with the *Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins (AMAM)*
- (b) develop partnerships with organisations caring for migrants in the chaplaincy area
- (c) work with local and international agencies to identify projects with which the chaplaincy can become involved

#### **4 Sustainability**

Overall aim:

*To embrace the concept of 'eco-church' promoted by the Diocese*

In doing this we will:

- (a) endeavour to meet diocesan targets for sustainability
- (b) commit to reducing travel within the chaplaincy (by, for example, favouring online meetings where possible)
- (c) exploring possibilities for carbon offset

#### **Mission Statement**

Taking into account these different strands of opportunity, the following mission statement has been adopted for the chaplaincy:

*The Chaplaincy seeks to honour God by being a place of inclusive welcome in this area of Provence, where all are invited to explore and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ, serving the community in faith, hope and love.*

The Revd James Johnston, Chaplain

October 2021

*Photo: A Camargue Cross, examples of which are often seen in the area of the chaplaincy. The Camargue Cross consists of the three intertwined images of cross, anchor and heart, symbolising Faith, Hope and Love.*