



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

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

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