



Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – December 2024 / January 2025

Mme Elizabeth Bernasconi

On Saturday, 14th December we held the funeral service at All Saints' of Elizabeth Bernasconi, a deeply loved member of our congregation for over six decades, who had died at the end of November after a short illness. It was a privilege to welcome her children, grandchildren, wider family and many friends to a packed church as we said our farewells.

In 1958, Elizabeth came from Northumberland as a *jeune fille au pair* to Marseille, where she met and later married Francis Bernasconi. She was a tireless supporter of the church, where she was treasurer for many years, and of the wider British community. She served as President of the Queen Alexandra Benevolent Association, a charity supporting British subjects in need, for which she was awarded the MBE. Elizabeth was renowned for her hospitality and welcome of new church members. Many have commented how hard it will be to imagine life at All Saints' without her. We are deeply in her debt, but we carry in our hearts the memory of a wonderful friend. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



Christmas Services

Our services during Advent and Christmas were well-attended, including carol services in Marseille, Aix, Goult and Manosque, followed by quantities of mulled wine and mince pies. On Christmas Eve in Aix and Christmas Day in Marseille we were joined by visitors from different parts of the world.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday, 7th December, raising over €1,200 for the chaplaincy. Home-made cakes, jams and other produce were in great demand, and there were a number of new stallholders this year. Gaston's mulled wine kept everyone warm and most of the guests stayed on for the Carol Service afterwards. Thanks to all who took part in baking, brewing and hosting the event, all expertly coordinated by our Assistant Chaplain Roxana.



Birthday celebration

On Sunday, 29th December we celebrated Robin Razafintsambaina's 70th birthday at All Saints', where he and Harisoa were joined by their children and grandchildren. Special prayers were said at the end of the service and an apéro served afterwards.



On 5th January, Epiphany Sunday, a lunch was held in church for the congregation and guests, followed by carol singing and *galette des rois*.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th to 25th January)

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was kept from 18th to 25th January. As ever, it was an opportunity for us to deepen friendships among other Christian denominations in each of our four locations. Highlights this year included a service at the Eglise Sainte-Denis in Gargas (Luberon) in which members of our congregation and ministry team took part, a joint service at the Eglise Protestante Unie in Aix, taken by the Chaplain as their church is currently in a vacancy, two ecumenical lectures on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and a service of prayer in Marseille to support the recently launched *Unis pour Servir*, an ecumenical project for church communities to work together among the destitute in the city.



Gargas



Unis pour Servir



Aix-en-Provence



Lecture - Council of Nicaea

The week culminated in an ecumenical celebration at All Saints' on Saturday, 25th January, at which we welcomed members of many denominations across the city as Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Baptist, Evangelical and Anglicans joined in tea, cake, prayer and singing.



Ecumenical celebration at All Saints'

AMAM - News from Marseille Seamens' Club - 02/01/2025

Thanks to Gaston Roumieu,

At Marseille Seamens' Club, 2024 has been a good year in terms of attendance since we welcomed over 10,000 seafarers, and this for the first time since 2019.

As had been the case for last month, January looks likely to be fairly calm, at least until the return of some cruise ships in the 3 dry docks of the port.



Dates for diary – February Services

Sunday 2 nd Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 5 th Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 7 th Feb	Evening service with prayers for Healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 9 th Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 12 th Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 16 th Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque
Wednesday 19 th Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 23 rd Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 4 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 26 th Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom.

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Peter Smith at the address below.

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter –February 2025

As February has been a relatively quiet month in the chaplaincy, we will send out a fuller newsletter next month and meanwhile are circulating the list of services to come during March.

Dates for diary – March Services

Sunday 2 nd March	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 5 th March Ash Wednesday	Service of the Word with Ashing, 11.30 am at All Saints Marseille Holy Communion at 6 pm at All Saints' Marseille with Ashing (shared via Zoom) Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 7 th March	World Day of Prayer Services at 6 pm at the Temple Grignan, Marseille and at 6.30 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence (Please note that the Evening Service with prayers for healing will take place on Friday 14th March)
Sunday 9 th March 1 st Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 12 th March	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 14 th March	Evening service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 16 th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque

Wednesday 19 th March Joseph of Nazareth	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 23 rd March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 4 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 26 th March	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 30 th March 4 th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – March 2025

Lent 2025

Our Lenten journey this year began with two services at All Saints on Ash Wednesday. As in previous years we are studying a Lent course, which this year has been provided by the Diocese to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. We are being joined by chaplains and congregation members from Nice, Monaco, Beaulieu, St Raphael and Lyon, as well as friends from the UK, US and Canada – in all, 47 people have signed up, which has made for some very interesting sharing of reflections and experience. Our Assistant Chaplain Roxana Teleman has also been leading a discussion group on the same material in Marseille after church on Sundays, conducted in French for our francophone members.

Bishop Robert has launched his usual Lent Appeal, which this year is to raise money for work with refugees across Europe. Details are set out on the attached sheet. Please do think about supporting this worthwhile initiative.

World Day of Prayer services

On Friday, 7th March we took part in ecumenical services in Marseille and Aix for the World Day of Prayer. This year's material was provided by Christians from the Cook Islands in the South Pacific. Thanks to Christine Portman for leading our involvement in Aix, and to Roxana Teleman for doing the same in Marseille.

International Women's Day

On 8th March we held a tea party at All Saints to mark International Women's Day, where we were joined by ecumenical friends from across the city.

Susan Stone

We were saddened to learn of the death on 8th March of a much-loved member of our congregation in Aix, Susan Stone.

Susan was born in Alabama and studied French literature at Tulane University in New Orleans. After a professional career spent mainly in Atlanta, Georgia she retired to Aix in 2002, where she joined a number of *associations* and made many friends. She was an active member of the Aix branch of AAGP (the Anglo-American Group of Provence) and of local book and poetry clubs. In her activities she was often accompanied by her Yorkshire terrier, Max.

Susan would have been 90 next year, but lived with the energy and enthusiasm of one much younger in years. In January this year she moved into a sheltered apartment, where she was enjoying getting to know a new community and the view from her window of the Montagne Sainte-Victoire.

A service was held for her on 25th March at the crematorium in Aix, led by our Chaplain Jamie Johnston, who reflected in his address: 'Susan was independent, courageous, thoughtful and above all fun. One always came away from an encounter with her feeling energised and better about the world.' May she (and Max) rest in peace and rise in glory.



New heaters at All Saints

Members of the congregation at All Saints have been enjoying a set of new heaters which were installed in February by Andrei Teleman, Gaston Roumieu and Gillian Ensor-Hofma (with a little help from the Chaplain).



The heaters use less than half the electricity of the old ones and can be adjusted individually. A grant for their purchase was provided by the Diocese as part of their encouragement to chaplaincies to save energy.



In the course of the grant application, we also joined the organisations Eglise Verte and 360Carbon, where we are now an accredited church member. Thanks to Roxana for her work in arranging this.

Archdeaconry of France Synod meetings

Our Archdeaconry Synod representatives Jane Quarmby and Christine Portman, along with Jamie and Roxana, represented us at three online meetings of the Synod in March. After a keynote speech by Bishop Robert, the agenda included items on mission, diocesan strategy, children and young people's ministry, the formation of new chaplaincies, Alpha courses in France, as well as the annual administrative business of the Archdeaconry. The meetings were well attended and, although limited to some extent by the online format, enabled us to make new connections.

Electoral Roll renewal

Every six years the Church of England requires all its parishes (and chaplaincies in Europe) to renew their membership roll. Thanks to Anne Roumieu, our Electoral Roll Officer, for her hard work in organising this. Even if you have been on the old roll, you need to apply to be a member of the new one. At the time of writing, a number of forms are still outstanding, so please return them to Anne before the deadline of 13th April.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Our services for Holy Week and Easter this year will be as follows:

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, shared on zoom

Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion at 6.00 pm at All Saints' Marseille, shared on zoom

Friday 18th April

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross at 1.30 pm at All Saints' Marseille, shared on zoom

Saturday 19th April

Easter Eve

Easter Vigil and Service of Light at 9.00 pm at All Saints' Marseille, shared on zoom

Sunday 20th April

Easter Day

Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, shared on zoom

Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque

Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède

And finally...

A young neighbour of All Saints' in Marseille, Emmanuel Giovannoni, has kindly offered to provide music after our services on some Sundays while our 'cellist Aidan Hamilton is away. He brought his harp to play for us on 23rd March.



Dates for diary – April Services

Wednesday 2 nd April	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 4 th April	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 6 th April 5 th Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 9 th April	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 13 th April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom)
Wednesday 16 th April	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Thursday 17 th April Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion at 6 pm at All Saints' Marseille
Friday 18 th April Good Friday	Stations of the Cross at 1.30 pm at All Saints Marseille (shared via zoom)
Saturday 19 th April Easter Eve	Easter Vigil and Service of Light at 9 pm at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom)
Sunday 20 th April Easter Day	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque
Wednesday 23 rd April	No Compline
Sunday 27 th April	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 5 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 30 th April	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – April 2025

Dates for diary – May Services

Friday 2 nd May	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 4 th May 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 7 th May	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 11 th May 4 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 14 th May	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 18 th May 5 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Annual meeting at 11.45 at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom)
Wednesday 21 st May	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 25 th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 5 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 28 th May	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – May 2025

Chaplain's retirement

Our Chaplain, Jamie Johnston, will be retiring at the end of July. A farewell service of Holy Communion is being arranged for Sunday, 20th July at All Saints' Marseille at 10.00 am, to which we hope as many as possible will be able to come from all our congregations in the chaplaincy.

The service will be followed by a lunch in church, and if you plan to come to the lunch please could you let Roxana Teleman, our Assistant Chaplain, know by email - assistant.chaplain.marseille@gmail.com.

Jamie writes:

It is hard to believe it is six years since I first visited the chaplaincy, arriving to take up the post in September 2019. In those days we hadn't heard of Covid-19, Zoom or any of the things that have become part of our lives since. This is a truly wonderful community, and after a deeply fulfilling six years I will be sad to leave so many friends and colleagues in Marseille, Aix, the Luberon and Manosque.

I will be retiring to the south west of France, near Toulouse, where I have a house and friends, with family not far away in Spain. Bishop Robert has kindly offered to give me permission to officiate at services in the Diocese, so there will no doubt be some part time ministry as well. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are ever in the area.

There will be more news in due course about arrangements during the vacancy in the chaplaincy. Meanwhile you are in my prayers as I begin the process of handover to my colleagues in the ministry team, to whom I am grateful as ever for all that they do.

Easter 2025

We had joyful celebrations on Easter morning in Marseille, the Luberon and Manosque, with large congregations including a number of visitors.

In the afternoon we took part in an ecumenical celebration organised on the Vieux-Port in Marseille, attended by over 1,000 people. The Cardinal Archbishop of Marseille, Jean-Marc Aveline, arrived on board ship surrounded by leaders of other Christian communities in Marseille, who together proclaimed the resurrection.



Annual Meeting / Elections

On Sunday, 18th May we held our annual meeting at All Saints, with others joining online via Zoom. The annual report, accounts for 2024 and budget for 2025 were adopted. Thanks were expressed to our Treasurer, Gray Walker, for his work in preparing them and throughout the year. It was noted that the chaplaincy is just covering its costs but, taking into account inflation, will need to encourage more regular giving and fundraising.

Elections were held for the role of Churchwardens. Jane Quarmby and Peter Smith had kindly agreed to stand again and were duly elected. Jane will not be standing next year, so if anyone is interested (or can be persuaded) to take over from her please contact her.

During the meeting, Jamie thanked the Churchwardens and all who had served on the Council over the previous year for their commitment and dedication, particularly Ronnie Ogier and Dimby Razafintsambaina who were retiring from the Council at the meeting, adding –

I would like to express our gratitude to Ronnie Ogier for all her work as Secretary to our Chaplaincy Council over the last few years. She has been a huge help to us and a great pleasure to work with.

Also to Dimby Razafintsambaina for his work as a Council member, for which he has somehow found time despite his many professional and family commitments. We are very grateful to him.

Thanks were in turn expressed to Jamie for all his work and commitment over the past six years and all good wishes for his impending retirement.

After the meeting the Chaplaincy Council met to elect officers for the coming year, with the following results:

Lay Vice-Chair	Jane Quarmby
Treasurer	Gray Walker
Secretary	Linda Pillière
Electoral Roll Officer	Anne Roumieu

In addition, Emily Roberts kindly agreed to become Safeguarding Officer from September 2025, when Christine Portman will be retiring from the role.

The new Council will be meeting again in July.

Summer Services

On Saturday, 14th June we will be celebrating the wedding blessings of Luke Burton and Emma Gatinel in St Rémy-de-Provence, and of Jack Hull and Scarlett Harris in Oppède. Please remember them in your prayers.

By way of advance notice, as in previous summers when we reduce some activity while people are away, we will **not** be holding a service in Aix in August, or services in Manosque in June, July and August. There will be informal events in Manosque over the summer to bring the congregation together – Jane Quarmby will be in touch with members about this.

There will also not be any Sunday Zoom services between 27th July and 31st August.

Diocesan Service of Prayer

On 28th May our Diocese held a zoom service to mark the 20th anniversary of the International Day against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination. Our Bishops, Robert and Andrew, led the service and participants from across the Diocese took part, including our Chaplain. The Very Revd Jeffrey John, former Dean of St Albans and currently on the staff of St George's Paris, gave the address. If you missed the service and would like to watch a recording, it can be found on the Diocese in Europe website at this link -

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/diocesan-service-prayer>

AMAM - Seamen's Club

Thanks to Gaston Roumieu, who writes:

Once again we recently received not one but two parcels containing lots of woolly hats, from our two regular sources in the Anglican chaplaincies of Midi Pyrénées & Aude (Peter Snow) and Aquitaine (June Hutchinson); in addition to these, and at the request of one of our parishioners, we also received from Peter a knitting pattern which is attached to the newsletter. On behalf of sailors, a big « Thank you » for these generous donations !



Bobble Hats

A very simple 'Seafarer' inspired Bobble Hat



Dates for diary – June Services

Sunday 1 st June	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom)
Wednesday 4 th June	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 6 th June	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 8 th June	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 11 th June	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 15 th June	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 18 th June	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 22 nd June	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 5 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 25 th June	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 29th June	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)

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Roof works at All Saints'/Fundraising

We have recently had a significant amount of work done on the church roof at All Saints' Marseille. The structure is nearly 125 years old and is subjected to the extremes of temperature and weather that are all too familiar to us.

Over the winter of 2024-25 a series of leaks, gradually increasing in intensity, revealed that areas of the zinc flashing (metal joins between different areas of the roof and the church walls) had begun to perish with age and urgently needed replacing. Other areas of the roof that had been patched up over the years also needed recovering. While the work was in progress, we were advised that some roof timbers near the chimney from the old heating system had become rotten through invisible water penetration, so there was an additional invoice to pay on top of the one we were expecting!

As a result, we are launching a fundraising campaign to meet these costs and bolster our reserves for the future. If you have ideas for fundraising, please contact one of our churchwardens Jane Quarmby (janequarmby0430@gmail.com) or Peter Smith (psmith207@gmail.com) to discuss them. For example -

Could you organise or help with a cake or produce sale?

Could you organise or help with a book sale?

Do you own something that might be auctioned for the benefit of the chaplaincy?

- If you can draw or paint, could you offer to draw/paint a picture of someone's house in return for them making a donation to the chaplaincy?
- If you own a holiday home, could you offer some free accommodation if the person taking it up makes a donation to the chaplaincy?
- Could you walk/run/ride/swim a distance in return for sponsorship to raise funds for the chaplaincy?
- Could you hold a party in your garden and offer people a glass or two of rosé in return for a donation to the chaplaincy of (say) € 10?

Could you donate some or all of the rosé for the event? or the nibbles?

These are just some ideas for starters. While the weather is good, let's get creative!

The Revd Scott MacSween



Many of you will remember Scott MacSween, who did a placement with us in 2022 while he was training for ordination in the Church of Scotland. Scott has since completed his training and curacy, and was ordained earlier this year as a minister in the Church of Scotland.

Scott and his wife Sasha live in Aix-en-Provence, from where he works full time for an international relief agency. Scott has kindly offered to help us with church services, which will be particularly welcome during the forthcoming vacancy. Under the ecumenical provisions of the Church of England, Bishop Robert has agreed that he may have permission to officiate in the chaplaincy at the invitation of Roxana, our Assistant Chaplain. The detail of the arrangements will be worked out over the summer. Meanwhile we much look forward to welcoming Scott back to the chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy Council 2025

Our new Chaplaincy Council is preparing for a busy year ahead. The Council members are now –

The Revd Jamie Johnston (Chaplain)
The Reverend Roxana Teleman (Assistant Chaplain)
Jane Quarmby (Lay Vice-Chair, churchwarden and Archdeaconry Synod representative)
Peter Smith (Churchwarden)
Gray Walker (Treasurer)
Linda Pillière (Secretary)
Christine Portman (Safeguarding Officer and Archdeaconry Synod representative)
Anne Roumieu (Electoral Roll Officer)
Gaston Roumieu (Liaison with AMAM, the Seamen's Club)
Aidan Hamilton
Emily Roberts

We welcome in particular Linda and Emily as new members of the Council. Linda lives in Aix and recently retired from teaching at the University of Aix-Marseille. Emily lives near Manosque and teaches at the International School in Manosque.

Please do support our Council members, sharing your views with them on any aspect of our ministry and mission so that they can feed in the views of those they represent. And please consider joining the Council yourself in the future when places become available!

AMAM – Seamen's club

Thanks to Gaston Roumieu, who writes:

The month of June is progressing peacefully, with attendance slowing but still higher than in 2024.

At the recent AGM, we considered organizing a musical evening at the Foyer, taking advantage of the talent and experience of many musical volunteers.

Our friend Aidan, a music teacher, came on Friday evening, June 27th, to perform blues pieces and songs by Bob Dylan, among others. He was accompanied by his brother Nick, also a musician.

The evening was open to all volunteers and Sailors.

Summer Services

By way of reminder, as in previous summers when we reduce some activity while people are away, we will **not** be holding a service in Aix in August, or services in Manosque in July and August. There will be informal events in Manosque over the summer to bring the congregation together – Jane Quarmby will be in touch with members about this.

There will also not be any Sunday Zoom services between 27th July and 31st August.

Dates for diary – July Services

Wednesday 2 nd July	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 4 th July	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 6 th July	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via zoom)
Wednesday 9 th July	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 13 th July	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 16 th July	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 20 th July	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 23 rd July	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

Sunday 27th July

Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille

(tbc) Holy Communion at 5.00 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – July 2025

July saw a number of bittersweet occasions for the chaplaincy as we said goodbye to our Chaplain Jamie as he takes a well-earned retirement. The congregation at Oppède provided a very convivial lunch after his last service there, and a week later, the congregation at Marseille also followed suit. He was presented with a silver chalice and paten, and an iPad with keyboard and pencil. We are all sad to see him go but wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.



The occasion was also used to bless a new organ, which was generously built and donated by Andrei Teleman for use in Marseille. Andrei's incredible talents and commitment to the Chaplaincy are a wonder to behold.



As usual there will be a gap between Jamie leaving and a new Chaplain being appointed. The process of recruitment should begin in September and will be directed by Peter Hooper the Archdeacon.

In the meantime, our Assistant Chaplain Roxana Teleman, based at Marseille, will take the lead on services, pastoral care and spirituality, whilst our church wardens Jane Quarmby and Peter Smith will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Chaplaincy. Jane will also chair the Chaplaincy Council as she was already the Lay Vice-Chair.



The good news is that John Smith has returned from his sojourn in England and whilst he has retired, he will be joining us again to lead services in Oppède. We look forward to welcoming him back at our next service on the 10th August.

Summer Services

By way of reminder, as in previous summers when we reduce some activity while people are away, we will **not** be holding a service in Aix and Manosque in August. There will be informal events in Manosque over the summer to bring the congregation together – Jane Quarmby will be in touch with members about this.

There will also not be any Sunday Zoom services during August.

Dates for diary – July Services

Friday 1 st August	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 3 rd August	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille
Wednesday 6 th August	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 10 th August	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Église du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 13 th August	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 17 th August	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille,
Sunday 24 th August	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille
Sunday 31 st August	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Peter Smith at the address below.

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – Sept 2025

Dear friends,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer months, managed to stay cool during the hotter days, and found time for rest and refreshment with family and friends.

I am grateful to Jane, Christine and David who kindly led the services in Marseille on 17th and 24th August, which allowed my husband and myself to go on a hiking holiday. It was also a joy to welcome John back in Oppède this summer—his presence and ministry continue to be much appreciated. Our ministry team has also grown, as Scott has joined us; we look forward to his contributions to our worship and beyond.

From September onwards, our usual rhythm of worship resumes: 10 o'clock Sunday services in Marseille (also on Zoom), monthly services in Luberon, Manosque and Aix following their normal pattern, Compline every Wednesday at 9.30 pm, and the Evening Service with prayers for healing on the first Friday of each month at 6.00 pm.

Are you ready for *la rentrée*? In France, it is such a multi-faceted moment: children going back to school, young people continuing their studies or beginning a new job, new books being published, even the political *rentrée*—though this year it does not promise much light or hope on the horizon.

For our church, this rentrée brings its own mixture of emotions. We look back with gratitude and a touch of nostalgia, as Jamie—who arrived as our chaplain six years ago—has now moved on to new horizons. His extraordinary commitment to serving our community has left deep marks. He laid many foundation stones for our life together, two of which are particularly close to my heart: building strong ecumenical ties in our different locations, and developing friendships with our sister churches in the deanery across the south-east of France. On these foundations, we are called to continue building.

This autumn, I hope that each of our five congregations—Marseille, Aix, Luberon, Manosque, and our online community—will take time to reflect on who we are as church, what lies at the heart of our ministry, and how we can best make a difference in the places where God has set us.

From 1st September to 4th October, many churches, including our own, observe the *Season of Creation*. It is a time to give thanks for God's gift of creation and to renew our commitment to caring for our planet. This year's theme is *peace with creation*. We will reflect together on how caring for creation and fostering peace belong together. I would love to hear your thoughts about what this means in your own context—whether in an apartment in the city, or in a garden surrounded by the countryside.

As Jane reminded us in her sermon in Marseille a few weeks ago, the time of interregnum began with Jamie's retirement. Though such a time brings challenges, it can also be rich and fruitful if we walk it together. Each of us is called to play our part in helping the church live and grow. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks, and to listening to how we can best serve your communities.



Photo : Cross near Tannalp at 2140 m on Via Alpina

Chères amies, chers amis,

J'espère que vous avez profité des mois d'été, que vous avez réussi à rester au frais pendant les journées les plus chaudes et que vous avez trouvé le temps de vous reposer et de vous ressourcer en famille et entre amis.

Je suis reconnaissante à Jane, Christine et David qui ont eu la gentillesse d'assurer les célébrations à Marseille les 17 et 24 août, ce qui a permis à mon mari et moi de partir en vacances. Ce fut également une joie d'accueillir John à Oppède cet été. Sa présence et son ministère continuent d'être très appréciés. Notre équipe pastorale s'est également agrandie avec l'arrivée de Scott. Nous nous réjouissons de sa contribution à nos célébrations et au-delà.

À partir du mois de septembre, notre rythme habituel de célébrations reprend : messes dominicales à 10 heures à Marseille (également sur Zoom), messes mensuelles dans le Luberon, à Manosque et à Aix selon leur programme habituel, complies tous les mercredis à 21h30, et la célébration du soir avec des prières pour la guérison le premier vendredi de chaque mois à 18h.

Êtes-vous prêts pour la rentrée ? En France, c'est un moment aux multiples facettes : les enfants retournent à l'école, les jeunes poursuivent leurs études ou commencent un nouvel emploi, de nouveaux livres sont publiés, et il y a même la rentrée politique, même si cette année, elle ne promet pas beaucoup de lumière ni d'espoir à l'horizon.

Pour notre église, cette rentrée apporte son lot d'émotions. Nous pensons avec reconnaissance et une pointe de nostalgie à Jamie, qui était arrivé comme notre curé il y a six ans et qui est maintenant parti vers de nouveaux horizons. Son engagement extraordinaire au service de notre communauté a laissé des traces profondes. Il a posé de nombreux jalons pour notre vie commune, dont deux me tiennent particulièrement à cœur : la construction de liens œcuméniques solides dans nos différents lieux d'implantation et le développement d'amitiés avec nos églises sœurs dans le sud-est de la France. Sur ces fondations, nous sommes appelés à continuer à construire.

Cet automne, j'espère que chacune de nos cinq congrégations – Marseille, Aix, Luberon, Manosque et notre communauté en ligne – prendra le temps de réfléchir à ce que nous sommes en tant qu'Église, à ce qui est au cœur de notre ministère et à la meilleure façon dont nous pouvons faire la différence là où Dieu nous a placés.

Du 1er septembre au 4 octobre, de nombreuses Églises, dont la nôtre, célèbrent le Temps de la Création. C'est le moment de rendre grâce à Dieu pour le don de la création et de renouveler notre engagement à prendre soin de notre planète. Le thème de cette année est « la paix avec la création ». Nous réfléchirons ensemble à la manière dont la protection de la création et la promotion de la paix vont de pair. J'aimerais connaître votre opinion sur ce que cela signifie dans votre propre contexte, que ce soit dans un appartement en ville ou dans un jardin entouré par la campagne.

Comme Jane nous l'a rappelé dans son sermon à Marseille il y a quelques semaines, la période d'interrègne a commencé avec le départ à la retraite de Jamie. Bien qu'une telle période comporte des défis, elle peut aussi être riche et fructueuse si nous la traversons ensemble. Chacun d'entre nous est appelé à jouer son rôle pour aider l'église à vivre et à grandir. J'ai hâte de rencontrer le plus grand nombre d'entre vous dans les semaines à venir et d'écouter comment nous pouvons servir au mieux vos communautés.

Yours in Christ,
Roxana
Assistant Chaplain

Message from Jamie

I just wanted to thank all those of you who so kindly contributed to the wonderful set of leaving gifts with which I was presented as I left the chaplaincy. I am enormously touched – indeed, embarrassed! - by your generosity.

It was all done with such discretion that I was actually unaware of what was going on, which also means I don't have details of those who donated, so I hope you will all accept this general thank you through the newsletter. The communities of Marseille, Aix, the Luberon, Manosque and online will always have a special place in my heart, and you will be in my prayers.

I write from the Gers, where I am happily settling in to life among sunflowers, vines and a distant view of mountains. It is a beautiful place, where I feel very blessed to be embarking on retirement. If any of you are ever visiting this part of France, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the chaplaincy.

With every blessing,
Jamie

Dates for diary – September Services

Wednesday 3 rd Sept	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 5 th Sept	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 7 th Sept	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
Wednesday 10 th Sept	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 14 th Sept	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Église du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 17 th Sept	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 21 st Sept	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (Shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Église Protestante Unie, Manosque
Wednesday 24 th Sept	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 28 th Sept	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 5 pm at the Église Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – October 2025

Dear friends,

It is a joy to see so many of you back in church after the summer break. Returning to our familiar rhythm of worship and fellowship, I am reminded how much we draw strength from one another, and how the life of our chaplaincy is sustained by these regular gatherings around Word and Sacrament.

In September, a small group from Marseille shared an Away Day at the Roucas Blanc centre in Marseille. We were warmly welcomed by the director, who introduced us to the Chemin Neuf community and their life at the Roucas Blanc. With music from Aidan, time in the park, and a shared lunch, it was a day of refreshment. We also took time to remember what All Saints was like when we first arrived, and to reflect on the changes that have taken place since then—signs, we trust, of God's faithfulness in our common journey.

Looking ahead, October will bring our **Harvest Thanksgiving** celebrations in each community. Once again, we will collect gifts for the food bank, a reminder that gratitude and generosity belong together, and that thanksgiving to God finds expression in care for our neighbours. More details will follow shortly.

Later this month, the city of Marseille will host the **Festival pour la paix en Méditerranée**, on **25–26 October**, marking the arrival of the sailing ship *Bel Espoir* at the end of its long voyage across the Mediterranean. On board, groups of young people from many nations, cultures, and religions have been working together for peace. Their journey is a sign of hope, reminding us that reconciliation and friendship across borders are possible. You can find further information, and register for the events (recommended), at:

<https://med25belespoir.org>

As the season turns, may we continue to walk together in gratitude, with open hearts to the gifts of God and the needs of the world.



View from the Roucas Blanc parc / Vue sur la mer du parc du Roucas Blanc

Chères amies, chers amis,

Quelle joie de vous retrouver nombreux à l'église après la pause estivale. En reprenant notre rythme habituel de célébration et de communion fraternelle, je me rappelle combien nous puisions notre force les uns des autres, et combien la vie de notre église se nourrit de ces rencontres régulières autour de la Parole et du Sacrement.

En septembre, un petit groupe de Marseille a partagé une journée de retraite au centre du Roucas Blanc à Marseille. Nous avons été chaleureusement accueillis par le directeur, qui nous a présenté la communauté du Chemin Neuf et leur vie au Roucas Blanc. Grâce à la musique d'Aidan, au temps passé dans le parc et au repas partagé, ce fut une journée de ressourcement. Nous avons également pris le temps de nous souvenir de ce qu'était All Saints quand nous y sommes arrivés, et de réfléchir aux changements survenus depuis — signes, nous l'espérons, de la fidélité de Dieu dans notre cheminement commun.

En octobre, nous célébrerons la **Fête des moissons** dans chacune de nos communautés. Comme les années précédentes, des dons seront collectés pour une banque alimentaire. C'est pour nous un rappel que gratitude et générosité vont de pair, et que notre action de grâce envers Dieu s'exprime aussi dans l'attention portée à nos prochains. Plus de détails suivront prochainement

À la fin du mois, la ville de Marseille accueillera le **Festival pour la paix en Méditerranée**, les **25–26 octobre**, à l'occasion de l'arrivée du voilier *Bel Espoir* au terme de sa longue traversée de la Méditerranée. À bord, des groupes de jeunes de nombreuses nations, cultures et religions ont travaillé ensemble pour la paix. Leur voyage est un signe d'espérance, qui nous rappelle que la réconciliation et l'amitié au-delà des frontières sont possibles. Vous trouverez plus d'informations, ainsi que les inscriptions (recommandées), à l'adresse suivante :

<https://med25belespoir.org>

Alors que la saison change, marchons ensemble dans la gratitude, le cœur ouvert aux dons de Dieu et aux besoins du monde.

Yours in Christ,
Roxana
Assistant Chaplain

Celebrations at the Seamen's Club (Foyer des Marins)

On Tuesday, September 23rd, the AMAM (L'Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins) celebrated the 400 000th sailor welcomed to the club.

About fifty people were present. All registered members of the association were invited, together with the shipping line agents. Our assistant chaplain Roxana was also present to introduce herself to AMAM and discover the place. The sailor himself - a citizen of Madagascar - i.e. French speaking - is a waiter on board the Renaissance cruise ship which belongs to a recently created French company: CCF (Compagnie de Française de Croisières), sailing under the French flag. The ship's captain was accompanied by two of his officers. Gérard Pelen – AMAM's honorary chairman - asked me to provide a simultaneous translation of his speech to the captain, as well as a few words of thanks from the captain.

It was then the sailor's turn to say a few words, to thank AMAM. He was quite visibly moved by the occasion and not accustomed to speaking to such a large audience. Afterwards, a splendid buffet was served on the terrace of the foyer, since the weather was dry and sunny.

We now await for the next big event in the life of the foyer: to celebrate the 500 000th sailor. At the current rate, we should not have too long to wait.

PS : Once again, two faithful volunteers from All Saints' were present...



A note from our Reader Christine Portman

Last week we found two large packages in our post box: one contained a pair of sandals, the other a set of visiting cards, written in Italian. Two days later Philip knocked on our door: he badly needed those new sandals, and the cards would help him on his onward journey too.

The Via Domitia runs just below our house and for much of its way shares its path with one of the many ways to St Jacques de Compostelle. We were on his route, so a good friend had put us in touch with this very hardy pilgrim.

On his ten-year sabbatical, Philip had already walked the 1,500 kilometres from his parish in Chepstow - destination not Spain, but Rome. He was glad to put his feet up for a couple of days in Céreste!

Fr. Philip writes, "This is a Pilgrimage of Hope and in order to live out this hope for a better and more just world we need to learn to trust in the goodness of others".

He is strongly committed to the work of the Amos Trust, engaged in excellent practical projects worldwide. Please have a look at their website, and if you feel able to support them with even a small donation, this will not only help them to continue their work, but it will also underline Philip's message that hope, kindness and goodness still run strong in our world.

Revd Philip Avery's Pilgrim of Hope website:

<https://www.pilgrimofhope.co.uk/>

The Amos Trust:

<https://www.amostrust.org/>

New Chaplain

Following on from Jamie's retirement we are actively preparing documentation for submission to the Archdeacon to enable him to post an advert for applicants for the vacant position. To assist in the preparation we propose to hold informal meetings with our various congregations to hear their point of view and suggestions. Details of the meetings will be sent out in due course. In addition, Revd John Smith has proposed that we pray for guidance in our search for a new Chaplain and has prepared the following

Chaplaincy Prayer for the Vacancy

Heavenly Father, I/we pray for your guidance in the search for a chaplain for our chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon. I/we ask that those who participate in the process be guided by your wisdom and courage in their discernment and decisions. I/we ask that even now, your Holy Spirit will be stirring the hearts of potential candidates.

I/we pray that this vacancy may be a time when we are drawn closer to you, both personally and together as a chaplaincy, and that it may bring renewal of spirit.

Please bless those that serve and minister to us.

I/we ask these things in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Dates for diary – October Services

Wednesday 1 st Oct	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 3 rd Oct	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 5 th Oct	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
Wednesday 8 th Oct	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 12 th Oct	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
	Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Église du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède - Harvest Thanksgiving
Wednesday 15 th Oct	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 19 th Oct	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (Shared via zoom)
	Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Église Protestante Unie, Manosque - Harvest Thanksgiving
Wednesday 22 nd Oct	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 26 th Oct	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
	Holy Communion at 5 pm at the Église Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence - Harvest Thanksgiving
Wednesday 29 th Oct	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – November 2025

November: A Time for Remembrance and Hope

Dear friends,

October was our *month of gratefulness*. In each of our communities, the Harvest Thanksgiving brought us together in joy and gratitude — for the abundance of the earth, for those whose labour brings food to our tables, and for God's unfailing generosity. Gratitude also awakens awareness: awareness of the needs of others and of our shared responsibility for the care and preservation of Creation.

On the last Sunday of October, we also marked **Bible Sunday** in Marseille — a special occasion to give thanks for the gift of Holy Scripture, for those who translated, preserved, and shared it through the ages, and for the place it holds in our daily lives. God's Word nourishes our faith, guides our prayer, and inspires our service. Members of the congregation brought along Bibles that are dear to them — some received from family members, others given on important occasions such as baptism, First Communion, or confirmation. Some spoke of Bibles that had travelled with them far from home, or that had been their companions through times of change and challenge. Together we shared favourite verses and stories — moments when the Word of God became light and strength for the journey.

Now November invites us to remember.

At our service on **All Saints' Sunday**, we will recall with fondness and thanksgiving members of our families, friends, and members of All Saints' who have gone before us. Their faith and love continue to shape our life together.

On **Sunday 9th November**, we shall gather again to mark **Remembrance Sunday**, with services in Oppède and in Marseille. The Marseille service will be followed by an *Act of Remembrance* at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery — a solemn moment to honour all who gave their lives in the cause of peace.

This autumn has also brought an event of special significance for the Church of England and for the wider Christian family: the **State Visit of King Charles III to the Vatican**. For the first time since the Reformation, a British Monarch — the Supreme Governor of the Church of England — prayed together with the Pope. This gesture of shared prayer, held in the Sistine Chapel, was a powerful sign of friendship and dialogue between Anglicans and Roman Catholics. It reminded us that ecumenism begins in prayer: we, too, can share in the *Liturgy*

of the Hours — Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer — with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers.

And there is another joyful event to enrich our conversations across traditions: on **1st November**, Pope Leo will declare **John Henry Newman** a *Doctor of the Church*. This title, bestowed on those whose teaching has deeply nourished the faith, is welcomed by both Anglicans and Catholics. Newman, once a priest of the Church of England and a leader of the Oxford Movement before entering the Roman Catholic Church, remains a bridge between our communities — a teacher, spiritual guide, and model of holiness.

If you have ever found Newman's writings daunting, his poem *Lead, Kindly Light* may speak directly to your heart. He wrote it as a young priest, stranded by illness in Italy, longing to return home. When at last he boarded a small boat in Palermo bound for Marseille, he composed these lines on the voyage:

*Lead, Kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.*

Set to music, the poem became a beloved hymn. It is said to have been sung aboard a lifeboat of the *Titanic* when a rescue ship appeared on the horizon; by British soldiers in the trenches of the First World War; by women led to Ravensbrück concentration camp; and it was among the favourites of Mahatma Gandhi.

In this season of remembrance, Newman's words still offer comfort and hope. When the night feels dark and the way uncertain, we, too, may pray: *Lead, kindly light — one step enough for me.*



Novembre : un mois dédié au souvenir et à l'espérance

Chères amies, chers amis,

Octobre fut notre mois de reconnaissance. Dans chacune de nos communautés, la fête des récoltes nous a réunis dans la joie et la gratitude — pour l'abondance de la terre, pour ceux dont le travail nous permet de nous nourrir, et pour la générosité sans faille de Dieu. La gratitude éveille également la conscience : la prise de conscience des besoins des autres et de notre responsabilité commune dans la protection et la préservation de la Création.

Le dernier dimanche d'octobre, nous avons également célébré le **Dimanche de la Bible** à Marseille, une occasion spéciale pour rendre grâce pour le don des Saintes Écritures, pour ceux qui les ont traduites, préservées et partagées à travers les âges, et pour la place qu'elles occupent dans notre vie quotidienne. La Parole de Dieu nourrit notre foi, guide notre prière et inspire notre service. Les membres de la congrégation ont apporté les Bibles qui leur sont chères, certaines reçues de membres de leur famille, d'autres offertes lors d'occasions importantes telles que le baptême, la première communion ou la confirmation. Certains ont parlé de Bibles qu'ils n'ont pas quittées quand ils étaient loin de chez eux, ou qui les ont accompagnés dans des moments de changement et de défis. Ensemble, nous avons partagé nos versets et nos récits préférés, ces moments où la Parole de Dieu est devenue lumière et force pour notre cheminement.

Le mois de novembre nous invite à nous souvenir.

Lors de notre office du **dimanche de la Toussaint**, nous nous souviendrons avec affection et gratitude des membres de nos familles, de nos amis et des membres de notre église qui nous ont quittés. Leur foi et leur amour continuent de façonnner notre vie commune.

Le **dimanche 9 novembre**, nous nous réunirons à nouveau pour célébrer le **dimanche du Souvenir**, avec des offices à Oppède et à Marseille. L'office de Marseille sera suivi d'une *cérémonie du Souvenir* au cimetière militaire du Commonwealth, un moment solennel pour honorer tous ceux qui ont donné leur vie pour la paix.

Cet automne a également été marqué par un événement particulièrement important pour l'Église d'Angleterre et pour la famille chrétienne au sens large : **la visite d'État du roi Charles III au Vatican**. Pour la première fois depuis la Réforme, un monarque britannique – le gouverneur suprême de l'Église d'Angleterre – a prié avec le pape. Ce geste de prière commune, qui s'est déroulé dans la chapelle Sixtine, a été un signe fort d'amitié et de dialogue entre anglicans et catholiques romains. Il nous a rappelé que l'œcuménisme commence par la prière : nous aussi, nous pouvons partager la *liturgie des heures* – prière du matin, du soir et de la nuit – avec nos sœurs et frères catholiques romains.

Et il y a un autre événement réjouissant qui enrichira nos conversations entre traditions : **le 1er novembre**, le pape Léon déclarera **John Henry Newman** docteur de l'Église. Ce titre, décerné à ceux dont l'enseignement a profondément nourri la foi, est salué tant par les anglicans que par les catholiques. Newman, qui fut prêtre de l'Église d'Angleterre et membre éminent du Mouvement d'Oxford avant d'entrer dans l'Église catholique romaine, reste un pont entre nos communautés : un enseignant, un guide spirituel et un modèle de sainteté.

Si vous avez toujours trouvé les écrits de Newman intimidants, son poème *Lead, Kindly Light* (Guide-moi, lumière bienveillante) pourrait vous toucher droit au cœur. Il l'a écrit alors qu'il était un jeune prêtre, retenu en Italie par la maladie, et qui se languissait de rentrer chez lui. Lorsqu'il embarqua enfin à Palerme sur un petit bateau à destination de Marseille, il composa ces vers pendant le voyage :

*Guide-moi, lumière bienveillante, au milieu de l'obscurité qui m'entoure,
Guide-moi !*

*La nuit est sombre, et je suis loin de chez moi,
Guide-moi !
Soutiens mes pas ; je ne demande pas à voir
Le paysage lointain ; un pas me suffit.*

Mis en musique, le poème est devenu un hymne très apprécié. On raconte qu'il a été chanté à bord d'un canot de sauvetage du Titanic lorsqu'un navire de secours est apparu à l'horizon, par les soldats britanniques dans les tranchées de la Première Guerre mondiale, par les femmes conduites au camp de concentration de Ravensbrück, et qu'il figurait parmi les préférés du Mahatma Gandhi.

En cette période de souvenir et commémoration, les paroles de Newman continuent d'apporter réconfort et espérance. Lorsque la nuit semble sombre et le chemin incertain, nous aussi, nous pouvons prier : « Guide-moi, douce lumière, un pas à la fois me suffit. »

Yours in Christ,
Roxana, Assistant Chaplain

Recruitment of a new Chaplain

A questionnaire regarding the future of our chaplaincy will be sent out shortly to all church members asking for your thoughts to assist us in preparing the application for the appointment of our future Chaplain.

Chaplaincy Briefing

Please find below a link to October's Diocesan Chaplaincy briefing which includes details of Bishop Robert's recent visit to the Vatican where he was present when King Charles and the Pope prayed together.

<https://mailchi.mp/19dbe72071ea/chaplaincy-briefing-12881370?e=7176fefc3f>

Jane Quarmby writes:

On the 25th October the bakers in our Manosque congregation had a busy week culmination in running a cake stall on the Saturday market in Manosque. We raised 200 euros and highlighted our church presence in the area. Grateful thanks to Irene, Emily, Nicolette and Jane



Harvest festival has been celebrated across the chaplaincy with decorations, special services and generous donations to local foodbanks.



Manosque



Oppède



Aix-en-Provence

Our new secretary Linda Pilliere writes:

This October, my husband Jean-Marc and I set out on a pilgrimage to Assisi, organised by our local Catholic church—aptly named Saint François d'Assise. As we clambered aboard the coach at the crack of dawn, I couldn't help but think of Chaucer's pilgrims—an equally colourful company. We were a tapestry of lives and stories: from cleaner to retired ambassador, from collège-age children to those well into their eighties, from lifelong Aixois to those born in Vietnam, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Algeria—and, in my case, the UK. Yet for all our differences, we shared a single purpose, a single road—both outward and inward.



At first, I felt a little apart from it all. The rosary was not something I could easily join in; the lavish Baroque interiors sometimes left me uneasy; and the souvenir shops crowded with images of St Carlo seemed to blur the sacred with the commercial. But as the days wore on, I began to see things differently. I was touched by the quiet faith that surrounded me—the bowed heads at the saints' tombs, the fellow pilgrim who delayed the coach to finish her rosary, the lines of young people waiting silently to enter each church.

Each holy place offered its own voice and atmosphere: the frescoed majesty of the Basilica of St Francis; the vast embrace of the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in



Porziuncola, guarding the tiny chapel where Francis founded his order; the bareness of San Damiano; the wild solitude of the Eremo delle Carceri, reached only after an hour's climb through the woods. As I moved from one to the next, I began to see that there are as



many ways of worshipping as there are hearts to pray—yet all are bound by one faith, one Lord, one baptism.



We set out as a loose gathering of individuals. We returned as something more: a parish, a community, a small reflection of the wider Church—united by shared laughter, shared silence, and a shared desire to come closer to God.

Linda informs us about ecumenical activities in Aix-en-Provence

All are warmly invited to take part in the **Monthly Ecumenical Bible Study**, held in French at the Protestant Temple, 4 rue Villars, Aix-en-Provence, from **2:30 to 4:00 p.m.** This year's theme is "*And you, who do you say that I am?*" (Matthew 16:13–16). On **Monday, November 3**, the group will explore the "*I am*" sayings of Jesus in the Gospels. On **Monday, December 1**, the study will focus on Jesus as the Messiah.

The next **Taizé Prayer** will take place on **Saturday, November 29**, at **6:00 p.m.**, also at the Protestant Temple, 4 rue Villars.

Dates for your diary – November Services

Sunday 2 nd Nov	Patronal Festival - Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
Wednesday 5 th Nov	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 7 th Nov	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 9 th Nov	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)

Act of Remembrance at 11:30 at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Marseille

Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Église du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède - Remembrance Day service

Wednesday 12th Nov Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

Sunday 16th Nov Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (Shared via zoom)

Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Église Protestante Unie, Manosque

Wednesday 19th Nov Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

Sunday 23rd Nov Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)

Guest preacher: Fr Laurent Notareschi, Archbishop of Marseille's representative for ecumenism

Holy Communion at 4 pm at the Église Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence

Wednesday 26th Nov Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom

Sunday 30th Nov Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
First Sunday of Advent

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Peter Smith at the address below.

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Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – December 2025

From Fellowship to Advent Light



All Saints' Sunday in Marseille

As we turn toward Advent and the light of Christmas, it is good to look back on all that November has held for our church family.

We began the month with the joyful celebration of our Patronal Festival in Marseille. Nearly the whole Ministry Team was present to lead a festive Eucharist, followed by a generous shared lunch. It was a warm moment of fellowship, bringing together members from across our congregations and reminding us how life-giving it is simply to be together.

Remembrance Sunday then gave us the space to pause with solemnity and care. Services were held in both Oppède and Marseille, and in Marseille we also gathered at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery for a ceremony organised with *Le Souvenir Français* and attended by the British Consul. This annual act of remembrance remains a powerful witness to our shared longing for peace and reconciliation in a troubled world.

We also give thanks this month for the ministry of my colleague, the Revd Scott Mac Sween, who has been nominated to serve as Presbytery Clerk for the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland. This is a significant role, supporting twelve congregations across several countries. From Christmas onward, Scott will need to step back temporarily from our Ministry Team, though we hope to continue benefiting from his gifts whenever possible. Please keep him in your prayers as he takes up this new responsibility.

Another joy of the month was an *échange de chaire* with Fr Laurent Notareschi, the Roman Catholic diocesan representative for ecumenical dialogue in Marseille. I was welcomed to preach in his parish, and he joined us at All Saints as guest preacher for the Feast of Christ the King. Encounters like these are gentle signs of the unity Christ desires for his people and a reminder that the Holy Spirit often works through friendship.

Following Bible Sunday, several in our congregations have begun the *Creation Care Bible Challenge*—a fifty-day journey of Scripture, reflection, prayer, and practical engagement. It is already proving a rich way to deepen our spiritual commitment to caring for God's creation.

At the end of the month we were delighted to welcome Bishop Robert to Marseille. He led a time of prayer at All Saints, followed by a shared lunch filled with conversation and laughter. We hope he left with a vivid sense of the diversity of our community and the many ministries that quietly flourish among us.

And now December awaits. Carol services, the Christmas Fair, and the Christmas services in both Aix and Marseille will offer many opportunities to welcome newcomers, strengthen our common life, and share the joy and hope at the heart of the season. May these coming weeks draw us gently toward the manger, where God meets us once again with wonder, peace, and the promise of new beginning.



*The visit of Bishop Robert to Marseille
De la fraternité à la lumière de l'Avent*

Alors que nous nous tournons vers l'Avent et la lumière de Noël, il est bon de revenir sur tout ce que le mois de novembre a apporté à notre église.

Nous avons commencé le mois par la joyeuse célébration de notre fête patronale à Marseille. Presque toute l'équipe ministérielle était présente pour une eucharistie festive, suivie d'un généreux déjeuner partagé. Ce fut un moment chaleureux de fraternité, qui a réuni des membres de toutes nos congrégations et nous a rappelé à quel point il est vivifiant de simplement être ensemble.

Le Dimanche du Souvenir nous a ensuite donné l'occasion de faire une pause solennelle. Des cérémonies ont été organisées à Oppède et à Marseille, et à Marseille, nous nous sommes également réunis au cimetière militaire du Commonwealth pour une cérémonie organisée avec Le Souvenir Français et à laquelle a assisté le consul britannique. Cet acte annuel de commémoration reste un témoignage puissant de notre désir commun de paix et de réconciliation dans un monde troublé.

Un autre moment de joie ce mois-ci a été l'échange de chaire avec le père Laurent Notareschi, représentant diocésain catholique romain pour le dialogue œcuménique à Marseille. J'ai été invité à prêcher dans sa paroisse, et il s'est joint à nous à All Saints en tant que prédicateur invité pour la fête du Christ-Roi. De telles rencontres sont de petits signes de l'unité que le Christ désire pour son peuple et nous rappellent que le Saint-Esprit agit souvent à travers l'amitié.

À la suite du Dimanche de la Bible, plusieurs membres de nos congrégations ont relevé le défi biblique « Creation Care Bible Challenge » (Prendre soin de la création), un parcours de cinquante jours consacrés à l'étude des Écritures, à la réflexion, à la prière et à l'engagement pratique. Ce défi s'avère déjà être un moyen enrichissant d'approfondir notre engagement spirituel à prendre soin de la création de Dieu.

À la fin du mois, nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir à Marseille notre Évêque Robert Innes, Mme Helen Innes et le Vicaire Général pour la France Peter Hooper. L'Évêque Robert a animé un moment de prière à All Saints, suivi d'un déjeuner partagé et de conversations enrichissantes. Nous espérons que nos visiteurs sont repartis avec une impression vivante de la diversité de notre communauté et des nombreux ministères qui s'épanouissent discrètement parmi nous.

Et maintenant, décembre nous attend. Les chants de Noël, la foire de Noël et les offices de Noël à Aix et à Marseille nous offriront de nombreuses occasions d'accueillir les nouveaux venus, de renforcer notre vie commune et de partager la joie et l'espoir qui sont au cœur de cette saison. Puissent ces prochaines semaines nous attirer doucement vers la crèche, où Dieu nous rencontre à nouveau avec émerveillement, paix et la promesse d'un nouveau départ.

Yours in Christ,
Roxana, Assistant Chaplain

Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal 2025

This Advent, Bishop Robert invites us to support the work of one of our close mission partners, USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel), whose longstanding partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem helps sustain Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza. Through this appeal we are offered a concrete way to stand alongside our sisters and brothers who continue to live through immense hardship.

Our gifts will help ensure that Al-Ahli can remain open and equipped to serve those who need it most—not only in moments of immediate crisis, but also in the long and difficult years of recovery that lie ahead. It is a simple yet profound expression of Christian hope: to bring healing, dignity, and compassion where they are most urgently required.

Collections for the Advent Appeal will take place throughout the season in all our congregations. For members of our online community, details for making donations by bank transfer will be communicated separately.

May our generosity this Advent be a sign of Christ's light in places of deep shadow, and a reminder that, together, we can help bear one another's burdens.

Preparing the Ground for New Chaplaincy Leadership

We hope that you have had an opportunity to review and complete the questionnaire sent out by Roxana on your thoughts for the future ministry and mission of our chaplaincy, your thoughts and needs are important to us.

Chaplaincy Briefing

Please find attached a link to November's Chaplaincy briefing

<https://mailchi.mp/aeddbba76bb5/chaplaincy-briefing-12881556?e=2db567c979>

AMAM - Seamen's Club

Thanks to Gaston Roumieu, who writes:

Attendance has been high since last month, largely due to up to 3 ships in local dry dock, with some crew members staying on board and contractors (recently the ex « Napoléon Bonaparte » ferry boat has been used as floating hotel for these people). There are still plans to host a dance evening soon, with musicians provided by one of the ships in dry dock. Cruise ships in operation i.e with passengers, continue to supply the usual flow of off duty crew members, of some passengers together with taxi drivers. After 15 years of use, the building provided to the seamen's club by the Port Authorities is beginning to show signs of wear. When « we » (Amam) took possession, we were told that the life span of this sort of premises was 10 years. For instance, this afternoon I took some time extracting 2 blown light bulbs in the men's toilets 😊 More importantly, the aluminium structure of the building is suffering from the proximity of the sea, with wind and salt taking their toll. As regards All Saints' commitment, Marc, the general manager, is processing two applications for port access cards, for Roxana and Anisha.

PS : an international table football tournament took place at the club this afternoon, involving port security officers and some Filipino sailors.



In addition Gaston sent us his picture of Anne explaining a few things to Scott MacSween prior to the service in November and Andrei briefing Marie, his new high tech assistant.



Linda Pilliere writes:

One of my husband's (Jean-Marc) favourite bible verses is the final verse of Psalm 150 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord". As a keen naturalist, he feels closest to God when observing the creation. And in that respect we have been truly blessed since moving to Aix- from watching the antics of the nuthatches in the olive trees, listening to the nightingale in summer and discovering butterflies that didn't exist in the Pas-de-Calais, to our very much loved summer visitor Alice, the praying mantis, (so-named by a UK visitor). But even well-loved Bible texts can still surprise us.



During our October UK road-trip we caught up with several Christian friends and attended services in several different Anglican churches – most were full of enthusiastic young people or families and the music was invariably electric guitars and drums. This was all a bit too loud for Jean-Marc – he actually covered his ears at one point! But God has a sense of humour and our return home one of the readings in the Roman Catholic lectionary was Psalm 150 – where the other verses read:

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,



praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

In fact, several psalms talk about making a glad noise to the Lord! And if you feed those verses into ChatGPT and ask it to replace those instruments with more modern ones, you get this:

Praise him with the shout of the brass,
praise him with guitars and keyboards,
praise him with drums and dancing,
praise him with basslines and flowing melodies,
praise him with crashing cymbals,
praise him with thunderous percussion.

Which proves, once again, that worship—like nature, like travel, like praying mantises named Alice—comes in all kinds of delightful (and occasionally noisy) forms.

Emily Roberts our new Safeguarding officer writes:

Safeguarding in our Chaplaincy



Christine Portman, who has done a fantastic job as Safeguarding Officer over several years, stepped down in October and Emily Roberts (from the Manosque congregation) took over the role.

Safeguarding is a process that occurs in any organisation that has regular contact with children and vulnerable adults - including hospitals, schools, youth movements and churches. These organisations should provide safe spaces for people but sadly, as we see in the news, that has not always been the case. Safeguarding is a way of changing the culture of these organisations and communities, to ensure we are all better at looking after each other and providing a safer space for everyone.



A graphic featuring a colorful, abstract background with a yellow cross. Overlaid text reads: "Speak for those who can not speak for themselves. defend the rights of the poor and the needy. PROVERB 31:8-9".

In recent years, many churches have made real progress, working to improve safeguarding and foster safer cultures. Unfortunately, much of this work goes unnoticed. Safeguarding Sunday (this year, November 16th) is a moment marked in churches throughout the UK and Europe where we take a moment to reflect on how we are making our churches safe, supportive environments for everyone. As part of this reflection, Emily has been going around the different congregations talking about Safeguarding within our chaplaincy and giving congregations a chance to meet her and put a face to a name.

The Chaplaincy supports Safeguarding in a number of different ways. We have a designated Safeguarding Officer to ensure Safeguarding is regularly discussed and policies are renewed and implemented. The Chaplaincy Safeguarding Policy Statement and the Promoting a Safer Church document are available in each of our places of worship for consultation. Safeguarding Sunday is

observed. The Chaplaincy Council discusses Safeguarding issues at every meeting. Every church volunteer receives Safeguarding training, which is regularly renewed. Our Chaplaincy will continue to reflect on how we can better promote Safeguarding within our community.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, let's keep doing what we can to keep each other safe.



If you have any safeguarding issues or concerns, please contact the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer, Emily Roberts, via the dedicated email: safeguarding.anglican.marseille@gmail.com

Finally we felt it important for you to know where your generous donations go by way of the Charities that we support.

From Manosque:

- Every Harvest Festival a collection is held for food stuffs for the Restos du Coeur.
- At Christmas, our congregation joins with the Reformed church in Manosque to create Christmas boxes for distribution via Les Restos du Coeur - including something warm, something fun, something to eat etc...
- We hold one or two cake sales a year on the Manosque market to raise money for our Chaplaincy.

From Oppède:

- Every Harvest Festival donations of food are given to the Restos du Coeur.
- A Christmas Carol service is held each year in the nearby village of Goult, the proceeds of which are given to the Restos du Coeur.

From Aix:

- Harvest Festival donations of food were given this year to the Restos du Coeur.

From Marseille:

- Harvest Festival donations of food and money were given this year to the Banque Alimentaire des Bouches du Rhône
- Donations of clothing, small appliances and kitchenware were given to Emmaus

Dates for diary – December Services

Wednesday 3 rd Dec	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 5 th Dec	Evening Service with prayers for healing at 6 pm via zoom
Saturday 6 th Dec	Christmas Fair (2.00 – 4.00 pm) followed by Carol Service at 5 pm at All Saints' Marseille
Sunday 7 th Dec	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
Wednesday 10 th Dec	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 14 th Dec	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
	Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Église du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 17 th Dec	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Saturday 20 th Dec	Carol service at 3 pm at Église Saint-Sebastien Goult
Sunday 21 st Dec	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (Shared via zoom)
	Carol Service organised by the Église Protestante Unie, Manosque at 2 pm
Wednesday 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve service at 4 pm at the Église Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Thursday 25 th Dec	Christmas Day service (Holy Communion) at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)
Sunday 28 th Dec	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (Shared via zoom)
Wednesday 31st Dec	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 30 th Dec	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (Shared via zoom)

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Peter Smith at the address below.

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