



## CHAPLAINCY OF MARSEILLE, AIX EN PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

### LENT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

Greetings everyone

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Ash Wednesday, we enter the penitential season of Lent and we begin the journey towards Holy Week and Easter (21<sup>st</sup> April). We mark the start with a special service, a solemn Eucharist with the imposition of ashes. The Common Worship Prayer Book says this about Lent.

“Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus’ sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church’s fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed  
for sins of heart and word and deed,  
when we in humble fear record  
the wrong that we have done the Lord. *(Latin, before 12th century)*

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.”

Traditionally people have been encouraged to give something up for Lent perhaps abstaining from rich food or alcohol the practice of self-denial being good for the soul as well as the body! In more recent times people have been encouraged to do something positive such as a daily act of kindness. This year the Archbishop of Canterbury has invited us to give up cynicism for Lent! However you choose to observe Lent I would suggest setting aside more time to read your bible and pray. We will be writing weekly reflections on the Cross during Lent which will go on our church website and our Facebook page. Copies will be available in church too but if you would like an email copy please let us know.

At the beginning of April we have our Chaplaincy AGM, which is particularly important this year. Not only is this when we appoint a new Chaplaincy Council, but this year both churchwardens and our Treasurer are all stepping down to focus on their families and work. All three, Amanda, Janet and Michael, have served the chaplaincy well and will be hard to replace. An outline of the duties of Chaplaincy Council members, Churchwardens and Treasurer are given below. Do have a look and see if God may be calling you to any of those tasks, through which you can serve – and have a say in – the life of the chaplaincy. If you would like to serve in any of these capacities, please tell Amanda (Warden) on [amanda.haste@sfr.fr](mailto:amanda.haste@sfr.fr) or Revd. Sue Goodwin [revsueg@gmail.com](mailto:revsueg@gmail.com) as soon as possible, so your name can be included on the list to be circulated in advance of the AGM.



**ELECTORAL ROLL**

We have been making a new Electoral Roll and to have a say in the ministry and mission of the Chaplaincy you need to be on the roll. The deadline for signing up is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March so please grab a form and fill it in and return it to church or a Chaplain as soon as possible. Thank you.

**WHAT CAN YOU OFFER THE CHAPLAINCY?**

Our congregations are full of many gifted people with a multitude of life skills and professional expertise. We all have something to offer, whether it is a gift for flower arranging, experience in management, running our own business, or hosting social events. Please do consider taking on one of these roles.

The **Chaplaincy Council** meets 4-6 times a year, after a Sunday service, and discusses and makes decisions about chaplaincy life. The CC recently resolved to rotate the meetings around the congregations, with at least one meeting a year to be held in Aix and another in the Luberon. The CC comprises Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Aix Representative, Luberon Representative and Archdeaconry Synod Reps, as well as other lay congregation members who each contribute in their own way.

***Essential requirements: A firm commitment to attend meetings, ability to speak and understand English well enough to participate in the discussion and voting, a willingness to further and nourish the life of our three congregations.***

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The **Churchwardens** are essential to the functioning of the chaplaincy, and are answerable not to the chaplain but to the Bishop of Gibraltar (Diocese in Europe) through his intermediary the Archdeacon of France. They are thus considered the leading lay members of the congregation, and are responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the whole chaplaincy, not just the maintenance of buildings, contents, contracts for usage of other worship venues, insurances, clergy accommodation etc, but also ensuring the smooth running of the church services, events, personnel etc. A general description of their duties can be found at <http://www.churchwardens.com/duties.html>, while terms specific to the Diocese in Europe are given at <https://europe.anglican.org/diocesan-policies-and-guidelines/the-lay-officers-of-the-church>

Please note that Churchwardens, while having the responsibility for the good functioning of the Chaplaincy, can delegate many of the tasks to others in the Chaplaincy.

***Essential requirements: Faith, management skills, people skills, energy, willingness to work as part of a team, ability to communicate well in both French and English.***

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The **Treasurer** is of course responsible for the chaplaincy finances, including banking cash and cheques, paying bills, ensuring insurances etc are in place, accounting, filing returns to Diocese, providing regular financial reports to Chaplaincy Council.

***Essential requirements: Secure grasp of financial matters, accounting practices, French law regarding associations culturelles, tax requirements etc. And of course honesty!***

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NB The outgoing officers will be available to support their successors during the transition period.



**Here are the services coming up in March and April:**

**Ash Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

19.30 Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes at All Saints.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – The First Sunday of Lent. Electoral Roll Forms in by today please.**

10.00: Holy Baptism of Akila Elisabeth Saint-Fleur-Felicin with Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

10.30: Holy Communion at Oppede RC church

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – The Second Sunday of Lent.**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

11.30: PCC Meeting in church.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent.**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

11.00: Holy Communion at The Oratory, Aix-en-Provence Cathedral.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Mothering Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Lent.**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April – The Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints.

**11.30 Annual General Meeting of the Marseille Chaplaincy – Everybody Welcome.**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday – the beginning of Holy Week.**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints.

10.30: Holy Communion at Oppede RC church.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Holy Communion of the Last Supper at All Saints.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday**

12.00-15.00 The Church in Marseille will be open for quiet reflection and at

14.00-15.00: Meditation on the Last Hour at the Cross at All Saints.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Holy Saturday**

4pm Easter Eucharist at The Oratory, Aix-en-Provence Cathedral.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Day**

10.00: Sung Eucharist at All Saints.

12 noon Ecumenical Easter Service outside the Cathedral at Aix-en-Provence.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – The Second Sunday of Easter.**

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints.

11.00: Holy Communion at The Oratory, Aix-en-Provence Cathedral (To be confirmed.)



**Social Events coming up:**

27<sup>th</sup> April : Concert in All Saints (details to follow).

12<sup>th</sup> May : BBQ in Oppede.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

Please pray for our three congregations and for our clergy and readers, please also pray for willing candidates to step forward for our Chaplaincy Council and for our church officers.

Also pray for the search for a new Chaplain. It is now being advertised and we hope to interview candidates in May for appointment in September. The post is now a House for Duty post and so may be more difficult to fill so if you know of any recently retired French-speaking clergy you might encourage them to apply!!

Please pray for the Brexit votes in the UK Parliament this month and for all the EU nations.

**Stephen and Sue**

*Revs Sue and Stephen Goodwin can be contacted by phone on 0767098771. Or by email on [goodwinstephen22@googlemail.com](mailto:goodwinstephen22@googlemail.com) or [revsueg@gmail.com](mailto:revsueg@gmail.com)*