

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

**Lent**

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

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

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

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

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



## Chaplaincy news

### Candlemas and Cleaning

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



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

### Lent study course

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

### Bishop's Lent Appeal 2020

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

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

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

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

## Choir visit

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

## Dates for your Diary

### ***Wednesday, 26th February – Ash Wednesday***

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

### ***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent***

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

### ***Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent***

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

### ***Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent***

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

### ***Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday***

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

### ***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Passion Sunday***

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

With every blessing,  
The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain

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