

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

NEWSLETTER 9TH JULY 2020

Coming out of Lockdown

Our Chaplain, Jamie Johnston, read this recently about the Lord's Prayer, in the context of the apprehension people may be feeling as they start to come out of lockdown:

"We can easily feel at the mercy of events, constantly anxious and tending to blame others for difficulties we find ourselves in.

The simplest way to restore equilibrium in the day is to say the Lord's Prayer. The three central petitions are about the present, past and future. 'Give us' is a request that we have enough for today; we may want answers and certainties, but if we have wise friends, abiding companions and humble faith, we can face adversity with courage.

'Forgive us' is an entreaty to let go of the past – especially the wrongs done to us – so we can truly live in the present.

'Deliver us' is an appeal to God to spare us situations and temptations that will be too much for us; again it's a request that we can bring all our energies to the present and not lose them on anxiety about the future."

Worship in church at Oppède

Good news – we have been given permission by the local Roman Catholic priest to use the church in Oppède for our monthly worship. From this Sunday, the 14th July, we will once again be meeting for worship at 10.30a.m., at the Eglise Sacré-Coeur in Oppède. Revd John Smith will be presiding.

Diocesan Service

The Diocese of Europe has taken to having diocesan wide services using Zoom "like a duck to water" and on 7th July held another, on the theme of a 'Service to Mark our Pilgrimage through Lockdown". It can be viewed on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGJCIP-qZ1YGN_4CUhlqi4g/videos

It's a great opportunity to see people like our Bishops David and Robert and to feel a part of our geographically vast diocese.

Speaking of Technology

We are continuing to hold services live via Zoom for all those who are, for whatever reason, not able to get to a physical church building. On Sundays we have the Eucharist at 11.30 am CET, and on Wednesday evenings we have Compline at 10.00 pm CET. Please join us online

and enjoy these services. As one cartoonist had it during the “confinement” “God is making house calls” - and still is!

We are now feeling a little under equipped, however, and are actively looking for donations for a decent laptop and a camera, to enable us to provide a better quality service. Anyone feeling they can donate towards this please contact Jamie or Jane who will be delighted to help.

170 YEARS OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS...BUT WE'RE STILL HERE!

Amanda Haste writes:

It was 170 years ago this month that our new Anglican chaplaincy held its first service, and as we can't exactly celebrate this anniversary together as we had hoped, we thought you might like a glimpse of the various ways in which the chaplaincy has been challenged in the past...and survived.

Part 1 - Our chaplaincy: The debut

The early nineteenth century was a time of growing affluence and trade between the British and French empires, and the port of Marseille was a major hub for the trade routes between Britain, France, and their respective colonies. Inevitably, this led to a demand for an Anglican/Episcopalian presence, and by the 1840s “The English Church Service” was sometimes performed on Sundays at the French Protestant Church in the Rue Grignan. However, there was no resident Anglican clergyman, and being restricted to an afternoon service was problematic for many. So a group of prominent British businessmen, with the support and guidance of the British Consul, established a “British Episcopal Church Establishment” as a consular chaplaincy. A chaplain was soon appointed, and the first service was held in a spacious rented upper room at 100 Rue Sylvabelle.



100 rue Sylvabelle, home of the ‘English Church’ in Marseille from 1849 to 1902

This temporary ‘chapel’ was fitted out with benches, lectern, pulpit, and a seraphine (a type of harmonium), and services were held twice on Sundays, afternoon and evening. Or at least they were until the summer months, when the afternoon service was suspended during June,

July, August and September on account of the heat. The services were attended by three main groups: the British Colony of long-term residents who lived and worked in Marseille; British and American sailors and their families; and those British and American travellers 'resorting to' Marseilles, including soldiers, civil servants and missionaries passing through the port en route to far-flung outposts of the Empire.

The first consular chaplain, who conducted our first ever service in June 1850, was the Revd. Michael John Mayers. He was actually born into a Jewish family in Great Yarmouth and subsequently converted to the Christian faith; he was probably the 'Yarmouth Rabbi' whose baptism in Berlin (in about 1824) was much advertised in the press at the time. (According to Cecil Roth's account in *The Rise of Provincial Jewry* (1950) Mayers was "a memorable character," having published in 1824 a "500-page work, *The History of the Jews, from their Origin to their Ultimate Dispersion* – the first work of this nature written by an English Jew – which displays a warm Jewish feeling," and another of his works "is clearly the work of one who had embraced Christianity".) Having entered the Anglican Church, the Revd. Mayers became colonial chaplain in Tasmania in 1831, then consular chaplain in Marseille in 1850. As well as conducting services and ministering to his flock, Mayers worked hard to minister to seamen putting into port, and he quickly founded the Seamen's Club in La Joliette. However, while Mayers served the chaplaincy for fifteen years, and clearly did much good work in Marseille, it seems he departed under something of a cloud. On 16 July 1863 the trustees sent Mayers a letter asking him for information on the following points:

- 1) Has any money ever been collected for the purpose of building a church at Marseilles?
- 2) If so, what is the amount, and where is the list of contributors?
- 3) Where is the money lodged, and in whose name?

Mayers promptly resigned. Frustratingly, there is no reply on file – just his letter of resignation – and the matter is not mentioned in the trustees' annual reports. We can only assume that no case was ever answered, as Mayers subsequently held benefices in different parts of England; he died at Winchester in 1881. So it may have been the tensions that had clearly arisen between the chaplain and trustees that led him to leave Marseille.

Over the next 21 years (1864-1885) the chaplaincy was served by no fewer than eight chaplains – conditions were hard, and the post was not well paid (especially for those young clergymen with wives and children) – but the chaplaincy flourished and the seamen's mission proved to be essential work.

Next time we'll look at the conditions in Marseille in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which offer a useful perspective on the current pandemic.

Thanks to Amanda for her research and writing on this.

Dates for Diary

12 July 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Eglise Sacré-Coeur at Oppède
11.30 a.m. Holy Communion via Zoom

15th July at 10.00 p.m. Compline via Zoom

19th July at 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

22nd July at 10.00 p.m. Compline via Zoom

Brexit

A note for expats – if you need to apply for residence in France, the portal which was due to open for applications on 1st July will now be opening on 1st October. For full details of this, what to do about driving licences and health cover, please log onto the British Government website GOV.UK (Living in France).

Prayer

Un sourire ne coute rien et apporte beaucoup. Il enrichit celui qui le reçoit sans appauvrir celui qui le donne.

Il ne dure qu'un instant mais son souvenir est parfois immortel.

Et pourtant il ne peut ni s'acheter, ni se prêter, ni se voler, car il n'a de valeur qu'à partir du moment où il se donne.

Et si on vous refuse le sourire que vous méritez, soyez généreux, donnez-lui le vôtre – pour l'amour de Dieu.

Jane Quarmby
Chaplaincy Warden