

# CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE WITH AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022



### **Happy New Year to all from our chaplaincy!**

Christmas was a busy time on the church front, with carol services in Marseille, Aix and via zoom. A Christmas Eve service was held in Aix at the Temple of the Eglise Protestante Unie, and from four people arriving at 3.55 pm the congregation rapidly grew to 26, from all ages and nationalities. The Christmas morning service at Marseille was well attended and was followed by a lunch in the church. Jamie, our Chaplain, also preached twice in the afternoon on board ships under repair in the Port of Marseille, at Masses taken by the local parish priest and attended by the crew members. He was also invited back to one of the ships in the New Year to take a memorial Eucharist for a young seafarer, which was attended by over 110 of his fellow crew members.

### **Christmas Fair**

The virtual Christmas Fair, organised to raise funds for the Chaplaincy by members based in Marseille, raised over 800 euros - a real success. Thanks to our Curate Roxana for coordinating the event, and to all who helped prepare items for sale and those who supported the Fair by buying them. The challenge now is for the other congregations to match the result!

### **Seamen's Club**

The AMAM Seamen's Club in Marseille is open again two evenings a week. Anyone willing to volunteer in welcoming seafarers and helping with tasks at the Club, please contact Gaston Roumieu (via our main email address – [anglican.marseille@gmail.com](mailto:anglican.marseille@gmail.com)). This is an important part of our chaplaincy's outreach. No previous experience needed.

### **Repairs to All Saints' Church**

Our church building in Marseille has had problems with damp and leaks, so some works are now in hand to repair and renew parts of it, particularly the roof and the cellar area which was becoming unstable. Emergency repairs have been done to make the latter safe and a ventilator installed to reduce the humidity. More still needs to be done and we are awaiting more detailed information from the architect. Thanks to Gaston Roumieu for all his help in organising the works.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

We have been busy with a number of events marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) in Marseille, Goult and Aix. (The event planned for Manosque unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to high levels of Covid locally.) This year the theme for the Week, chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches, was 'We have seen his star in the East and have come to pay him homage'. The services in which members of the chaplaincy took part were well attended, and friendships were forged and deepened with members of other church denominations across the area.

On Wednesday, at a service in the beautiful Sanctuaire de Notre-Dame de Lumière near Goult, Jamie was invited to preach and members of the Luberon congregation took part in reading lessons and leading the prayers. John Smith and Jamie also took turns in playing the organ.

On Sunday morning in Aix we held a joint service of Holy Communion with the Eglise Protestante Unie, in their church at which our monthly evening services are now held. Pasteur Gill Daudé extended a warm welcome to Anglicans, Protestants and Catholics alike, and he and Jamie then led the service together.

In Marseille it was our turn to host the main ecumenical service at All Saints' this year, which took place on the Sunday evening attended by representatives of seven different denominations.



Finally, on 21<sup>st</sup> January the Chaplain was interviewed about the Anglican Church on Dialogue RCF, the ecumenical Christian radio station in Marseille – there's a link to the recording below:

<https://rcf.fr/articles/actualite/spuc-loecumenisme-vu-par-les-anglicans-de-provence>

### **Recruitment**

We are looking for a volunteer to replace Muriel Teusink who has done a great job as Chaplaincy Council Secretary but is moving back to the USA on her retirement this spring. It involves organising the meetings, taking notes and sending out documents. Anyone who feels they could spare the time to do this please contact our Chaplain Jamie or our Churchwarden Jane.

We are also still looking to recruit another Churchwarden, preferably based in Marseille so that they can be on hand to oversee events in the church and works to the fabric and the building. Again, anyone who is interested please contact Jamie or Jane. A full job description can be found on the Diocesan website.

Lastly, we are keen to recruit volunteers to help keep our communications up to date – particularly our Facebook page and the Church of England online directory. If anyone could spare the odd half hour to do this, please contact Jamie or Jane.

### **Eco Church**

As churches, we are just as involved as everyone else in counteracting climate change and putting right the damage we humans have done to our beautiful planet. This year we will be focusing on how we as church communities can do more.

The following poem gives food for thought – try reading it in from the top down, then reading it again from the bottom up!

*Every day the planet burns a little more* by Brian Bilston

We only have a short while  
So quick, let me tell you  
We're too far gone to turn this around  
I can't believe  
We have it in us to put this world right  
It's all too late, too late  
How can you say  
*But do not give up hope*  
Every day the planet burns a little more  
And hot air rises  
While governments pump out empty promises  
We are powerless  
Don't be so foolish as to imagine that  
Together we have a voice  
Big enough to change the world  
The decisions we make each day are  
Unimportant  
The food we eat, the things we buy,  
How we get around  
How naïve to think  
The destruction of centuries could be undone  
In a few decades  
If we could just find reverse

If anyone would like to help us do our bit – we need an eco-Champion – please contact Jamie.

## Dates for Diary

2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Compline service via zoom at 10 pm
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Evening service with prayers for healing via zoom at 6 pm
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion at All Saints' <u>Marseille</u> at 10 am Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30 am
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Compline service via zoom at 10 pm
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion at All Saints' <u>Marseille</u> at 10 am Holy Communion at Eglise du Sacré-Cœur, <u>Oppède</u> at 10.30 am Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30 am
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Compline service via zoom at 10 pm
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion at All Saints' <u>Marseille</u> at 10 am Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30 am Holy Communion at Eglise Protestante Unie, <u>Manosque</u> at 4 pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Compline via zoom at 10 pm
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion at All Saints' <u>Marseille</u> at 10 am Holy Communion via zoom at 11.30 am Holy Communion at Eglise Protestante Unie, <u>Aix-en-Provence</u> at 4 pm

**Editor**            **Jane Quarmby**

### Contacts:

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Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Jane as above