



CHAPLAINCY OF MARSEILLE, AIX EN PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON

ADVENT NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018

Greetings everyone

As we approach the season of Advent we thought it might be a good time to review our first two months here in the chaplaincy. We began in October with 3 Harvest Festivals in a row! Food gifts were given to the Restos du Coeur and they were extremely grateful to be remembered. We also collected 100 euros to go towards the Indonesian Tsunami Appeal. This will be forwarded to that cause via the Médecins sans Frontières group. Thanks so much to all of you who contributed.

We set aside Wednesday the 17th October as a Day of Prayer for the Brexit negotiations, and opened up All Saints for the day. 5 people came to pray, along with a few visitors (one with a dog!) who popped their heads around the door to have a look at the church.

All Saints was invited to take part in the 10th November Remembrance Ceremony at Mazargues Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, organised by the French group Souvenir Français. This was attended by several local dignitaries from both the political and military spheres, as well as the British Vice Consul Michèle Solari, and Lt Col Paul Harrison on behalf of the British Army. Stephen led the prayers in both French and English, and several chaplaincy members were also in attendance.

On Sunday 11th November we gathered at All Saints for a service of Holy Communion which ended at 11 a.m. with an Act of Remembrance in church, which was well received. John Smith led a similar service in the church at Oppede that morning too.

We attended a meeting in Aix on 15th November organised by the British Embassy in Paris to explain the up to date information on the Brexit negotiations, and to field questions from the 50 plus people who were there. They produced a very helpful list of contact addresses for websites with useful information. In a nutshell, they said that nothing will change overnight and that it is in the interests of both the French and British authorities for things to continue as smoothly as possible, both for British citizens living here and for French citizens living in the UK. The French Government are saying that the Carte de Séjour system will be the key to addressing the four main issues that people are concerned about, namely residency, the right to work, healthcare and pensions. The Embassy are aware that there are those currently having problems getting access to the Carte de Séjour, and they encourage people to contact the Embassy with details of problems encountered so that they can raise it with the French Interior Ministry, who are doing their best to iron out the problems. The main thing to remember is that you cannot be refused a request for a Carte de Séjour.

On 17th November we attended an apéro reception for the Synode Régional de L'Eglise Protestante Unie. It was good to meet and make contact with a number of people, including the Protestant chaplain to the Marseille hospitals, and we will be going to meet up with him and attend the hospital

ecumenical celebration for Advent on the 6th December at the Hôpital la Timone. Various representatives of the Roman Catholic Church were also at the apéro, including the Archbishop of Marseille. As well as this we have been trying to meet as many people from the chaplaincy as possible, and we are so grateful for the warm and friendly welcome we have received. We already feel at home!

Here is a precis of the various services coming up in December:

Sunday 2nd December

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

17.00: Deanery Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity Cannes, followed by refreshments

Sunday 9th December

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

10.30: Holy Communion at Oppede RC church

15.15 for 15.30 : ICCM Carol Service at the Basilique du Sacré Coeur, 81 Avenue du Prado, Marseille

Sunday 16th December

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

16.00: Carol Service at All Saints Marseille

Saturday 22nd December

15.00: Carol Service at Goult RC church organised by the English Community in the Luberon

Sunday 23rd December

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve

16.00: Holy Communion at The Oratory, Aix en Provence Cathedral

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints, Marseille

Sunday 30th December

10.00: Holy Communion at All Saints Marseille

We wish you all a very blessed and fruitful Advent, a Happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Stephen and Sue

Revs Sue and Stephen Goodwin can be contacted on 0767098771. Happily, thanks to Roxana the chaplaincy phone has been continued so the number hasn't changed.