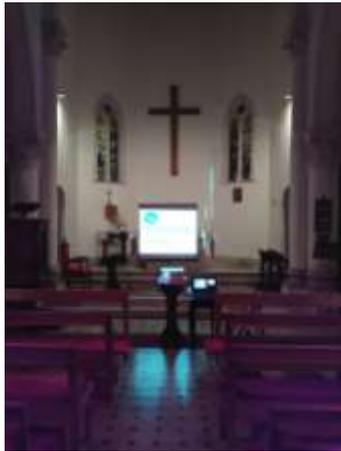


An example of cooperation between Marseille Seamen's Club and All Saints'



On February 14th 2018, an unusual congregation gathered inside the church : Amam (Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins) was holding its Annual General Meeting.

One of our parishioner is a member of Amam's board of directors and during a recent meeting, the question was raised regarding the choice of venue for the AGM. This used to be held at the town Seamen's club but the Hôtel des Gens de Mer which housed it closed down last February and all operations had to be transferred to the other Seamen's Club located at the Cruise ship terminal within the Port of Marseille. For security reasons, access to this location would have been somewhat difficult since not all members of Amam hold permanent entry passes. Our member then suggested that the AGM be held at the church and this was accepted.

About 35 people came and Amam's president Mr Gérard Pelen chaired the meeting with the presentation of various reports regarding the activities of the association during 2017. Some points led to quite animated discussions, such as the difficult current financial situation. One of the major grants was cancelled in 2017, representing 1/6 of the total budget. In order not to keep on drawing on reserves, drastic savings have been decided, including a reduction in the wages of the permanent staff. On the other hand, a new national regulation on the funding of Seamen's Clubs means that Marseille Port Authorities have agreed to let Amam share a small percentage of the port dues and this sum will make up for some of the loss of income.



After the official AGM , a cocktail was provided with the traditional pizzas from a local baker's.

At the end of the evening, our host member of the congregation had the pleasant surprise to find over 40€ in the "honesty box" : apart from discovering the church for the first time in their lives, some visitors decided to acquire our "All Saints' and Sailors" booklet.