

A ROOM FILLED WITH SAINTS

5 November, 2105

On Sunday 1 November the congregation of All Saints' Marseille along with her sister congregation of Aix-en-Provence met for a most unusual All Saints' holy day Eucharist.

Yes it was a Sunday morning and yes the worship started at the usual time of 10:00am... but there were many differences. First of all, at the front of the church near the pulpit, over the month of October, the congregation has been assembling the "Wall of Saints". This is a collection of photos of prior congregation members, special family members who have been responsible for the transition and mentoring of the faith, and also icons of particular church saints who have a special meaning for congregation members. This assembly of photographs was compiled so we could surround ourselves, on All Saints' Day, with the past saints of our community. Second of all, the church was resplendent with large bouquets of fresh flowers brought from the garden of Jane and Gary Quarmby.



Two four foot high bouquets of flowers from the Quarmby's garden.

This All Saints Sunday was filled with other special events. Our Archdeacon, the Venerable Ian Naylor presided at the service. He brought with him greetings from our diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Robert Innes, and our Suffragan bishop, the Right Reverend David Hamid.

Before our worship started, a trio of musicians, Roxanna on keyboard, Aidan on cello and Amanda on flute shared with us *a Largo from Sonata in G major* by J. S. Bach. The archdeacon opened the worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and a ten-person procession began. Our two Wardens led off carrying their warden's wands which Helen had polished until the brass diocesan crests gleamed. Tony followed as the official representative of the Aix-en-Provence community. Christine Portman and Jane Quarmby are our two parish Readers and Pastor Riita Granroth and Fr David Pickering are two of our honorary assistant priests. Fr Patrick Cassidy is a former chaplain of All Saints and of course there was the Archdeacon and our Fr David Greenwood.



Archdeacon, the Venerable Ian Naylor preaching at All Saints' Church 1 November, 2015.

Roxanna Tenea Teleman, Christine Portman and the Rev Riitta Granroth read our scriptural readings. The archdeacon preached on how we are all commissioned to be saints through our baptisms.

Then our archdeacon began a portion of the service to install Fr David as our new Priest-in-Charge. The congregation was asked to make a number of vows of support and recommit to a focus on Christian ministry. Fr David was asked vows too – to lead and share in parish ministry and to be loyal to diocesan and governmental authorities. Fr Naylor then “Installed” Fr David into his chair.



Archdeacon, the Venerable Ian Naylor receiving the vows from the Reverend Canon David Greenwood.

In an interesting moment of the service, several people presented our new priest with symbolic gifts of his ministry. Mr Gaston Roumieu presented Fr David with his dockyard access pass to participate in All Saints’ special focus on missions to seafarers. Two youths of the congregation, Miss Julia and Miss Anna Hilton, presented the blessed oil used for anointing and asked Fr David to be our leader in the sacraments. Sr. Monique Delubac, of the Communauté du Chemin neuf, presented a beautifully hand-calligraphied ecumenical prayer used by her community to signify the desire for church unity felt by all churches in Marseille. Finally the two Wardens presented him with the All Saint’s Marseille’s rector’s ring and asked him to wear it to represent the congregations in the courts and synods of our church.



Sister Monique Delubac, of the Communauté du Chemin neuf, presented a beautifully hand-calligraphied ecumenical prayer used by her community

Mrs Helen Brooking and Dr Amanda Haste present the rector’s ring to Fr David upon his institution as the new priest-in-charge of All Saints, Marseille with Aix-en-Provence.



All five clergy co-celebrated the Eucharistic Prayer and participated in the final blessing. During Holy Communion Amanda and Aidan played a flute and cello duet, *Sarabande* from *Partita in A minor* by Bach which had been arranged (musically adapted for the two instruments) by Amanda.

Throughout the service the congregation sang hymns in both English and French to recognize the holy holiday of All Saints. The monetary offering, received by Robin, will be forwarded to Bishop Robert for the Diocesan Ordination Fund.

But, with all this, this was just the first half of the morning. Following formal worship the nave of the church was transformed by Tony and Gaston via the addition of lunch tables for a crowd of 30 who remained for great potluck feast coordinated by Roxana and set-up on two long tables by her and Cynthia.

It was quite a festival and quite a community!



Five clergy lead in the Eucharistic Prayer, Fr Patrick Cassidy, Fr David Greenwood, Fr Ian Naylor, Fr David Pickering and Pastor Riita Granroth at All Saints' Church 1 November, 2015.



A splendid community potluck lunch was held to celebrate all the events during the holy day of All Saints.