

AN ALL SAINTS' ORDINATION

08 July 2017

On Sunday, 2 July, five members of the All Saints' congregation gathered with our Stéphane Javelle and hundreds, perhaps thousands of others for the ordination service at Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury Wiltshire England. After twelve years as a Reader, the last two years as a theological student, our Stéphane Javelle was making clerical vows, being ordained as a deacon of the Church, and in doing so was resigning as a Reader within the Diocese of Europe and transferring away from us in All Saints' Marseille and into the care and custody of the Benefice of Salisbury Plain in the Diocese of Salisbury.



James Holden is ordained by the prayers and laying on of hands of the Rt. Rev'd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury. Stephane kneels to the left, waiting to be the next ordained.

It was a glorious and bittersweet day for us proud fellow congregational friends of Stéphane.

Aidan Hamilton, one of our All Saints' musicians, Helen Brooking, our All Saints' Representative to the Archdeaconry of France's Synod and a former Warden of the church, Amanda Haste and Olivier Garcin, our current Wardens, and Father David Greenwood our Priest-in-Charge were all at the ordination to support our brother in Christ.

Before the ordination service began the five All Saints' members gathered in the cathedral and sought out Stéphane who was cloistered in a side chapel along with the other 10 diaconal

candidates. The cathedral is amazing. The first cathedral in Salisbury, then known as Sarum was built in 1092, so it is quite a bit newer (500 years younger) than our local Marseille's Saint Victor. That first Sarum Cathedral proved unpractical and so a second, the one we were now in, was built in 1220. It has the tallest spire in England and houses a copy of the Magna Carta.

The ordination service was amazing. Eleven deacons were ordained, including our Stéphane. The primary theme of diaconal ministry is service and the ordination took place in the centre of the gospel... half of the gospel was read before and the other half read after the ordination... and the gospel was of Jesus telling the disciples to love one another and to focus on "service". To press his point, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Following the ordination, the bishops took off their lavish episcopal vestments, took towels, and washed the feet of the newly ordained deacons. It was a powerful outward and visible sign of the commission for servant ministry.

The music was grand, the organ was loud, the clergy were many, the congregation was numerous, the sacraments were a blessing, the sun was shining, and the newly ordained were beaming. It was a grand day.



Stéphane, newly ordained, at the passing of the peace.



The Rt. Rev'd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, gathers with the 11 newly ordained deacons on the cathedral steps immediately following the ordination on 2 July, 2017. Stéphane is on the far left of the photo. (All photos courtesy of the Diocese of Salisbury.)