

A SPECIAL DAY OF WORSHIP AT ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE

6 September 2015

Well today was certainly an exciting day for the congregation of All Saints, Marseille as we celebrated 10 years of licensed Lay Ministry of our Reader Stéphane Javelle and also bid him farewell as he heads off to Ripon College Cuddesdon at Oxford to study theology and to discern his calling as an ordained minister - a priest of the Church of God.

Our service started with a warm welcome from our celebrant, the Rev Riitta Granroth, and then our worship leaders processed down the aisle to the singing of "Glorious things of thee are spoken" sung to Joseph Haydn's stirring march, "Gotterhalte Franz den Kaiser" also known as "Austria" in most Church of England hymnbooks.



Father David and Stéphane Javelle gather at the church doors at the start of the morning's worship.

Another of our Readers, Jane Quarmby read the Old Testament lesson and our new priest, Father David Greenwood read the Epistle from James. Stéphane read the gospel in French and then preached a longer than normal homily also in French. Pastor Riitta delivered the sermon in English. Near the end of the service, Father David invited Stéphane to come forward and kneel at the chancel steps. Our Reader, Wardens and Honorary Assistant priests were invited to come and lay hands upon



Stéphane preaching at All Saints on the occasion of his 10th anniversary as a Reader and licensed Lay Minister of the Church of England.

Stéphane while Father David asked for God's blessing upon him as he transitions from our place of worship into the new unknown of residential theological education at Oxford. The worship service ended with the singing of the rousing Welsh hymn, "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer"



Father David asks for God's blessings upon Stéphane along with Pastor Riitta Granroth, Father Patrick Cassidy, the Wardens and our Reader Jane Quarmby.

followed by Pastor Riitta giving the final blessing and all the ministers recessing to meet the congregation and share in lunch together.

And what a lunch it was. Trestle tables were run across the church to seat two dozen persons and yet that was not enough.

Another line of trestle tables were laid out to accommodate all those who stayed to join into parish fellowship. And still a third line of trestle tables were required to hold all the buffet food. Before grace, the lunch started with the assembly singing a happy farewell song in Stéphane's honour...

*"One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me traveling along with you:*

Refrain:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.*



Parishioners enjoy the parish pot-luck lunch along one of the long trestle tables.

Then Father David prayed our thanksgiving for the meal and chaos ensued as congregation dissolved into community. There were plates and plates of good things for feasting.



Stéphane (far right) with his father, Claude (seated) and his step-mother, Bernadette (standing far left).

Midway through the meal Father David again called the room to attention and invited the wardens to say a few words. Of course Stéphane was lauded again and a card was presented to him which was signed by most, if not all present, and Warden Amanda Haste presented a more substantial gift of a purse of over 400 pounds sterling to enable Stéphane to purchase books for his studies. Following this the group called out for Stéphane to give a speech which he did in moving words. Then, it being a special occasion for all the people of the UK, the loyal toast was proposed to the Queen on the occasion of her long reign becoming the longest in English history. We all then drank another

toast to Stéphane in honour of him and the occasion of his 10th anniversary as Reader and licenced Lay Minister.

Along with the usual congregation, we were delighted to have in church today members of Stéphane's family, his father and step-mother and several of his work colleagues and friends.

A good day of faith, parish family and food. To the glory of God.