



## Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille with Aix-en-Provence and the Luberon Newsletter – December 2024 / January 2025

### Mme Elizabeth Bernasconi

On Saturday, 14th December we held the funeral service at All Saints' of Elizabeth Bernasconi, a deeply loved member of our congregation for over six decades, who had died at the end of November after a short illness. It was a privilege to welcome her children, grandchildren, wider family and many friends to a packed church as we said our farewells.

In 1958, Elizabeth came from Northumberland as a *jeune fille au pair* to Marseille, where she met and later married Francis Bernasconi. She was a tireless supporter of the church, where she was treasurer for many years, and of the wider British community. She served as President of the Queen Alexandra Benevolent Association, a charity supporting British subjects in need, for which she was awarded the MBE. Elizabeth was renowned for her hospitality and welcome of new church members. Many have commented how hard it will be to imagine life at All Saints' without her. We are deeply in her debt, but we carry in our hearts the memory of a wonderful friend. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



### Christmas Services

Our services during Advent and Christmas were well-attended, including carol services in Marseille, Aix, Goult and Manosque, followed by quantities of mulled wine and mince pies. On Christmas Eve in Aix and Christmas Day in Marseille we were joined by visitors from different parts of the world.

## Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, raising over €1,200 for the chaplaincy. Home-made cakes, jams and other produce were in great demand, and there were a number of new stallholders this year. Gaston's mulled wine kept everyone warm and most of the guests stayed on for the Carol Service afterwards. Thanks to all who took part in baking, brewing and hosting the event, all expertly coordinated by our Assistant Chaplain Roxana.



## Birthday celebration

On Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated Robin Razafintsambaina's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at All Saints', where he and Harisoa were joined by their children and grandchildren. Special prayers were said at the end of the service and an apéro served afterwards.



On 5<sup>th</sup> January, Epiphany Sunday, a lunch was held in church for the congregation and guests, followed by carol singing and *galette des rois*.



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January)

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was kept from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January. As ever, it was an opportunity for us to deepen friendships among other Christian denominations in each of our four locations. Highlights this year included a service at the Eglise Sainte-Denis in Gargas (Luberon) in which members of our congregation and ministry team took part, a joint service at the Eglise Protestante Unie in Aix, taken by the Chaplain as their church is currently in a vacancy, two ecumenical lectures on the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and a service of prayer in Marseille to support the recently launched *Unis pour Servir*, an ecumenical project for church communities to work together among the destitute in the city.



Gargas



Unis pour Servir



Aix-en-Provence



Lecture - Council of Nicaea

The week culminated in an ecumenical celebration at All Saints' on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, at which we welcomed members of many denominations across the city as Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Baptist, Evangelical and Anglicans joined in tea, cake, prayer and singing.



Ecumenical celebration at All Saints'

#### **AMAM** - News from Marseille Seamens' Club - 02/01/2025

Thanks to Gaston Roumieu,

At Marseille Seamens' Club, 2024 has been a good year in terms of attendance since we welcomed over 10,000 seafarers, and this for the first time since 2019.

As had been the case for last month, January looks likely to be fairly calm, at least until the return of some cruise ships in the 3 dry docks of the port.



## Dates for diary – February Services

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille (shared via Zoom)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Evening service with prayers for Healing at 6 pm via zoom
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 10.30 am at the Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Oppède
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via zoom) Holy Communion at 9.15 am at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Manosque
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Holy Communion at 10 am at All Saints' Marseille, (shared via Zoom) Holy Communion at 4 pm at the Eglise Protestante Unie, Aix-en-Provence
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Compline at 9.30 pm via zoom.

Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Please send to Peter Smith at the address below.

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