

Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

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Chaplain's report to France Archdeaconry Synod May 2017

1. Good News!

In general the church is in good heart, and there's a warm sense of fellowship amongst us. People have come to faith through our Sunday services, and *Christianity Explored* and the *Alpha Course*, and we hope to be presenting several adults and young people for confirmation in September.

Our Sunday sermons have covered the book of RUTH; the middle chapters of THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES; an overview of EZEKIEL; Key Theological Words; The LETTER OF JAMES; LUKE'S GOSPEL and HABAKKUK; as well as teaching mornings on Science and faith, Women in Scripture, Jesus' parables and the Atonement. We also provide daily Bible reading notes and a daily prayer diary; home groups and prayer breakfasts. We've trialled the new "*Life Explored*" course.

We continue to welcome newcomers, especially more young families. Our children's and youth work is modest but showing clear signs of growth. We held a well-attended Holiday Club last May; and our teen group is growing.

We are constantly reviewing our Safeguarding Protocol, and have arranged for two levels of safeguarding training for our Sunday Club leaders and helpers, and others in positions of responsibility in our church.

We are trying to make our church better known, have set up a new Facebook page, and are revamping our web-site.

We have organised a number of social events, like a *boules* competition, September Weekend Away, a Harvest Supper Barn Dance; a Christmas Fair and Christmas lunch, and a pancake party. We refurbished the sanctuary area of the church last summer: a great improvement for our own purposes and also for the increasing number of concerts for which we let out the building.

As part of our commitment to caring for the environment (and saving money), we've installed low-energy lighting in many parts of the building, electric hand-driers, etc.

2. Challenges

The wider context of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion are a cause for concern amongst our congregation, particularly over the vexed issue of human sexuality. Giles has been active in his role on General Synod.

Last summer's terror attacks in Nice and St Etienne du Rouvrai caused the Council to review security, and a number of precautions were put in place to ensure a measured response to a threat which is fairly minimal, but potentially real. We organised a security audit with the police, and they were impressed and satisfied with what we have put in place. We've displayed security instructions around the church, and on the scrolling Powerpoint notices before and after our services.

Less seriously, we had a break-in in May: a certain amount of damage was done and a number of items were stolen.

Many of our congregation have little or no connection with the United Kingdom, but of course "Brexit" is likely to have a considerable effect on many of our people ... and our finances.

Chaos, war and oppression far afield are still producing a massive problem of migration, and directly or indirectly this affects us here.

Giles Williams, Chaplain
May 2017