



# Holy Trinity Church

## Maisons-Laffitte

Our church community, which has been present in Maisons-Laffitte for over a century, is open to people of every language, nationality, creed and colour. The great variety of cultures and backgrounds in our church family can sometimes cause struggles, but our differences are more often a great source of strength, and our faith in Jesus Christ keeps us united, even in times of global unrest. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the local French community and our ecumenical friends, both Catholic and



*Church Tidy (All-Age)*

Protestant. The worship and spirituality of Holy Trinity is firmly anchored in the Anglican and Episcopalian tradition, while remaining deeply conscious of our indebtedness to deeper and older streams of Christian experience. We are also learning new attitudes and habits of

the heart from contemporary forms of

Christian life. As T.S Eliot wrote in 'Choruses from the Rock': "What life have you if you have not life together? There is no life that is not in community, And no community not lived in praise of GOD".

Looking back at 2016, we do so with a mixture of gratitude and relief. A deep gratitude for the many good things that we experienced and achieved – through the grace of God – and a profound relief that all the challenges we faced were, in the end, surmountable, primarily through mutual forgiveness and a willingness to start afresh.

We remember with thankfulness some of our community events. The Scottish Dance in January; a sunny and happy Summer Fête in May; a great Welcome BBQ in September; our large Bonfire Night transforming into a smaller and cosier Fête Automnale in November; and a festively successful Christmas Fair in December.



*Fun and Games with the Brownies at our Summer Fete in 2016*



*Children's Concert in May 2016*

We also enjoyed various young people's and children's events. Our first Children's Epiphany Party in January 2016, which has now become a tradition; an Easter mini-Club, a real high point for the many families who remain in the area at Easter-time; two Fusion events for Anglophone youth in Ile-de-France; a delightful children's choral concert; a joyful "Guardians of Ancora" Holiday Club; and sixteen First Communicants on Palm Sunday, a joyful and blessed day for everyone involved.

Other events last year included four Opening Doors Saturday seminars, all very much appreciated, with themes like Grief and Bereavement, Science and Religion, Climate Change, and New Perspectives on Paul; the second part of our Pilgrim course during Lent; a Council Away-Day in Versailles; some lovely weddings and baptisms; a few fun Sunday lunches; a blessed Carol Service, and many people who benefited from attending our Yuletide services.



*Baptism in February 2016*

We have been blessed to be part of CIEL, an inter-church community project to find accommodation for refugees, primarily from Syria and Iraq. Several members of our congregation have given much of their time, energy and financial support to ensure that the welcome we offer is not just an apartment to live in, but a community to be a part of. Several members of our church family have been involved in helping prepare food for, serve at and entertain during the Secours Catholique annual Christmas party for

individuals and families who might otherwise be alone at Christmas. We have also been able to host two annual parties for families who are housed by a local charity, "Solidarité Logement". This opportunity has not only helped the charity, but has been a blessing to the parents and children from our own church family who attend the events, and a great reminder to us that we are all equal in Christ.



*Food preparation for Secours Catholique party*

As we look back with gratitude to another year of grace and faithfulness, let us also look forward with hope, to what God has prepared for us in the future!

**Romans 8.18-21**

*“In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God’s purpose it has been so limited—yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God!”*



**Sunday School (joint group session)**



**Christmas wreath-making workshop**



**1st Maisons-Laffitte Scouts at camp**