

Grenoble Chaplain's Report 2017

'Tempus fugit', as they say, or rather don't, as not many people go round speaking Latin these days! However, the truth remains, that time has raced past. I can hardly believe that Jane and I have been in Grenoble for four years. Over this time, we have seen The Lord do many exciting things in his church: the congregation has changed, grown and stabilised. We now not only have around 80 adults in church each week, but also lots of children. What is more, this remains true throughout the summer months, when our numbers used to drop dramatically.



The services remain lively, informal and friendly, with newcomers made welcome and quickly integrated into the church family. The prayer ministry corner always has people queuing up for prayer after the service with lots of different people involved in the prayer team. It was great to have Meurig with us last month.

The Friday Fellowship, primarily for retired people, continues to be popular as does the Monday morning women's meeting. It has been great to have Tim with us his year, for his gap year. He has been living with us in our flat and helping with the students, youth and music.

New initiatives this year include the starting of 'teams', with a team leader taking charge of the area of ministry. We now have three worship teams, who provide us with a real variety of worship each Sunday. We also have three Sunday School teams, each overseeing a different age group. This seems to me to be a better and stronger way to build a church than to have everything fall on the shoulders of a couple of people. It has always been my vision to help people develop and grow in their ministries.

It has been another year that I have been paid a full time salary, which is a miracle, as initially I was only paid part time. Our money should have run out over two years ago ! God is good and some people have been very committed in both their giving and their external fund raising. (€12,000 of our annual income has come from outside St. Marc's). Not knowing if we are going to receive our stipend at the end of the month is an added stress.

The other area that we need to work on is getting more people involved in the ministries that need to happen on a Sunday. Although we have team leaders for the crèche and middle Sunday school group, they lack volunteers. This means that on some weeks they are very short handed indeed.



Jane and I are really grateful for the sabbatical, which we took at the end of last year. It has been a real life changer and we have come back refreshed in every way. It was a real privilege to share some of what I learnt about meditation and movement, on our Lent quiet day retreat. It was well attended and something that I would like to build on.

This year, we look forward to baptising our first people from Syria and China as well as our second year of Provence Praise.

God bless,

Bob