



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH  
4, RUE DE BELLOI  
13006, MARSEILLE, FRANCE

May 2017

## MARSEILLE AND AIX-EN-PROVENCE CHAPLAINCY REPORT TO THE ARCHDEANERY SYNOD

All Saints Marseille with Aix-en-Provence is an amazing chaplaincy. This year, 2017, we will celebrate our 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary and so we are older than many chaplaincies and indeed predate the origins of our diocese. We are a chaplaincy that has deeply planted feet in our past, a body that is active, active, active in the present, and also with eyes for the future.

**MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS** In 1848 we were created with the sole purpose of being a chaplaincy to the shipping industries based in Marseille and so we have always had a focus on Mission to Seafarers – whether that be the elegant passengers on the way to the Riviera, to Casablanca or Tangiers or for the commercial or naval ships' crews. And we are still active in this ministry. One of our congregation members, Gaston, is on the Board of Directors of *l'Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins* (AMAM) and is also their webmaster. Gaston and several congregation members volunteer regularly (often weekly) at the Seaman's Centre assisting, advising, and sharing with the ship crews. There is a "Tuck Shop", a Skype call centre, coffee, card tables, WIFI, fellowship, along with scriptures and hospitality. On occasion the volunteers are alerted to problems or dangers facing the sailors and they work with the port authorities to arrange proper response or aid. Last year over a million passengers visited Marseille on cruise ships and this number is expected to double and



*Sailors at the Seamen's Centre.*

then double again in the next five years. **Our church volunteers have interacted with ten thousand sailors in 2016**; most of whom have only four hours in port before they are back at sea. Our Seamen's Centre is well placed right alongside the pier and we can provide peace of mind though family contact back home. In June we celebrated "Sea Sunday" with Mr Gérard Pelen, the President of AMAM, as our speaker. Our gospel was about "Who is our neighbour" and "Who do we see as those requiring our charitable love and response" and Mr Pelen reminded us that in 2016, the global population is "our neighbour" as our sailor guests arrive from Indonesia, India, Ukraine and 49 other countries. Our Reader, Jane Quamby led us in extensive prayers for all those who work on the sea and in maritime industries including fishers, dockyard workers, and the crews of commercial tankers, cruise ships, and naval vessels.

**EXCITING ANNIVERSARY** During our Patronal Festival on All Saints' Sunday 2016, we recognized the **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of and rededicated the Beaumont Hawkins chalice. Our third chaplain was the Rev'd James Beaumont Hawkins who arrived in 1865. Unfortunately after only six months with us, Mrs Emma Charlotte Hawkins died. In her memory a silver chalice was dedicated on All Saints' Day 1866 and we repeated this event this past year in memory of her. We are built on such adventurous, courageous, and faithful people.



*The Beaumont Hawkins chalice  
150 years old.*

This past year we also celebrated the **90<sup>th</sup> birthday** of our adventurous, courageous, and faithful **Queen Elizabeth**. One of our Wardens, Dr Amanda Haste, developed a timeline of our chaplaincy events over the past 90 years and large panels were placed along the side of the church. Another timeline allowed parishioners and guests to write significant faith events in their own lives: baptism, confirmation, marriage, and in some cases ordination. On 10 June, we held a large evening cocktail party with local clergy and guests in attendance. Archdeacon Ian Naylor led us in the official prayer, the UK Pro- Consul proposed a loyal toast, and Fr David, our chaplain, led us in three verses of the robust singing of *God Save the Queen*.



Last September we held a **Chaplaincy Away day** at the home of Jane and Gary Quarmby. Fifteen of us gathered for outdoor Morning Prayer, meditation, readings, two prayer trails, garden walks, and swimming, and also for indoor lectures on healing prayer and meditation and we closed with Holy Eucharist. And there was much food too.



*Clergy holding the numbers of years ordained and the new C of E members holding a "0".*

Also in September we had a fully-packed weekend with the **official visit of the Archdeacon**, a special **PCC meeting**, a Sunday morning Eucharist with the **reception of two persons into the Church of England**, the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination** of two of our retired clergy (Fr Patrick Cassidy and Canon David Pickering), the September *Reentrée*, the civic open-house *Journées du Patrimoine*, and a well-attended **chaplaincy potluck lunch**.

In November we held an extensive **500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Continental Reformation** service with Pastor Riitta Granroth (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) celebrating and preaching on Luther. Later that month she returned to Finland to take up a new parish and we commiserated with cake and presents.

We are an exciting and dynamic chaplaincy. The presence of the Anglo-American Group of Provence allows them to organize many social events and we to focus on being "church". Their members come to our Jumble Sales and concerts and many of our church members also belong to the AAGP.

All Saint's Marseille with Aix **has a part-time chaplain** (part-time stipend with full housing and utilities) and **four retired honorary assistant clergy**. We have **three Readers** and **two theology Students**. We have the most dedicated and loyal PCC Secretary/administrator/keyboardist in Christendom. With the essential help of an annual Missions to Seafarers grant and faithful and generous congregation members, we pay all of our bills and this year we even came in slightly in the black!

We are currently exploring the need for worship in the far north west of our chaplaincy – in the Luberon. With the help of two faithful families near Avignon and the support of the Roman Catholic Church, we have held our first service in Goult in a rented 900 year old church. Our first worship was on Palm Sunday with 38 in attendance including an 8 person choir. This endeavour may lead to new and exciting times in the future for All Saints Marseille with Aix-en-Provence... and possibly now with the Luberon.