



CHAPLAINCY OF ALL SAINTS' MARSEILLE WITH AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE LUBERON Archdeaconry Synod Report 2021

2021 was once more dominated by the Covid pandemic, but our congregations in Marseille, Aix and the Luberon were able to continue worshipping throughout. It was encouraging to see growth and development in the chaplaincy notwithstanding the restrictions in force.

A highlight of the year was the ordination to the priesthood of our Curate, The Revd Roxana Telean, by Bishop David at All Saints' Milan on 4th July. On the following Sunday Roxana celebrated her first Eucharist at All Saints' Marseille. In September we launched a new monthly evening service in Aix, and in October a similar one in Manosque, each based at the local Eglise Protestante Unie. Our churches are pleased to be sharing premises as a tangible sign of the Reuilly Agreement.

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate baptisms and wedding blessings again after so many postponements. Online services continued as well, some livestreamed and the rest on zoom. We continue to explore how best to balance these different forms of worship. For many, it has been a relief to be able to gather in church again, sing hymns and share fellowship after services. Others have described our online presence as a spiritual lifeline. So we continue for now with 'hybrid' worship. Our education programme included a Lent course studying Rowan Williams's reflections on the pandemic, *Candles in the Dark*, and an autumn course on the *Living in Love and Faith* materials.

In October our Chaplaincy Council approved a new Vision and Mission Plan for 2021-2024, grouped under four headings of congregations, community, charity and sustainability. The Plan includes developing our ecumenical partnerships and outreach work. As members of the ecumenical committee in Marseille, we helped organize a number of joint services during the year. Our outreach included work with migrants and refugees, as well as those recovering from addiction. In addition, our longstanding work with seafarers evolved in 2021: whilst the pandemic meant that the Seafarers' Club remained closed for much of the year, we continued to take part in a monthly English Mass streamed from the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde in Marseille, including a live broadcast on Sea Sunday in July. At Christmas we were able to hold services on board ships docked in Marseille and to keep up the supply of gifts to seafarers.

In November we held an Act of Remembrance at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Marseille, attended by the British Consul and members of the UK armed forces stationed in France. Later in the month we were delighted to meet Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Peter during their visit to south east France. Over lunch at All Saints' we presented to them the current work and plans of the chaplaincy, and that evening one of our congregation members was confirmed by Bishop Robert at St John the Evangelist, St Raphael.

December brought the news that significant works will soon be needed to our church building in Marseille, but a joyful celebration of Christ's birth at the end of the year helped us look ahead, trusting in the knowledge that God is with us always, our lives lived under his providence.

The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain

Jane Quarmby and Christine Portman, Archdeaconry Synod Representatives