



# The Chaplaincy of Aquitaine

*La Paroisse Anglicane d'Aquitaine*

Chaplain: Rev'd Tony Lomas

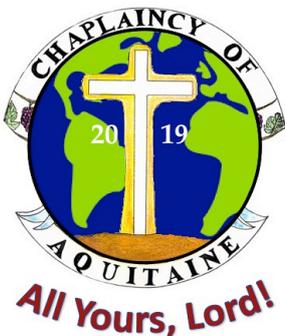
Assistant Chaplain: Rev'd Liz Morris

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Charlotte Sullivan

## Synod Report – May 2019

The past year has, perhaps unsurprisingly, seemed like a somewhat uncertain time. The continuing failure of the politicians to give a definitive answer on the post-Brexit status of healthcare, pensions and the rights of second-home owners has left many people in our congregations feeling unsure of the long-term viability of life in France. This sense of uncertainty has been further exacerbated by the fact that, at the end of 2018, our Bordeaux congregation were required to move away from their usual place of worship and to start the process of finding a new home. This was brought about by the expansion and development of the school whose chapel we had used for almost 30 years, meaning that the available facilities were no longer suitable to our needs. Sadly, the search for a new home has proved more difficult than we had hoped and so the Bordeaux church is currently meeting in temporary accommodation which is far from ideal. We are confident that God has a plan for us in the city and that alternative arrangements will soon be forthcoming.

However, despite this rather unpromising backdrop, the Church in Aquitaine continues to flourish. Regular services are held in 14 different locations across the region with almost 300 people worship together on an average Sunday morning. This number more or less doubles on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday and, over Advent and the Carol Service 'season' we were thrilled to be able to welcome almost 1400 people to our worship. We are constantly uplifted by the way that God brings our community together and gives us such wonderful opportunities to proclaim the Good News!



Each year we have an annual theme which, for 2019, is “All yours, Lord!” in recognition of the fact that everything we do and everything that we are comes from God and is, at the same time, our offering back to him. This has been particularly noticeable following highly successful stewardship campaigns in two of our worship centres which allowed us to stave off the forecast financial deficit in 2018. Further campaigns are planned for this year as we look to make further investment in the ministry of our churches and our Chaplaincy.

We have also continued to work with many of our ecumenical partners across the Chaplaincy. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity members of our ministry team participated in 15 ecumenical services and prayer meetings. Other ecumenical events were celebrated during Holy Week and Easter, most notably with Charlotte worshipping alongside the Cardinal Archbishop in Bordeaux! Next week, members of our churches in the Périgueux area will be participating in 'Les voix de la Bible', a week-long celebration of the Bible, largely organised by the Eglise Protestante Unie and taking place in and around the Roman Catholic cathedral.



Finally, we must mark our immense gratitude to the Intercontinental Church Society (ICS), the patron of our church in Bordeaux, and in particular Richard Bromley, their Mission Director, for the support and encouragement that they have given us over the last year.

See further information at:



[www.churchinaquitaine.org](http://www.churchinaquitaine.org)



English Anglican Church Aquitaine