

CHAPLAINCY REPORT 2018 BIARRITZ, FRANCE

Biarritz Anglican Church

General

The chaplaincy of Biarritz continues to be a small but close-knit community of people from all over the world covering a number of Christian denominations. Our average congregation for the year was 16 people per service. We organize a service virtually every Sunday. In 2018 we held 8 Eucharists and 42 services of Morning Prayer. Our churchwardens hold Morning Prayers and only the 8 Eucharists are celebrated by visiting priests (locums). Morning Prayer necessitates a considerable amount of work each week for the person holding the service and the organist. Services are held in a chapel which seats about 40 people behind the main altar of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in the centre of Biarritz.

Our activities over 2018 include the following:

Spiritual help to all those in need of support whether or not they are members of our church;

Participation in the organization of the Womens' World Day of Prayer;

A special Easter Day service with prayers and scripture readings interspersed with hymns modelled on an Easter equivalent of the Service of Nine Carols;

Participation in the Womens' Retreat in September organized by the Chaplaincy of Bordeaux;

Limited participation in Ecumenical events due to lack of resources;

Practical help for Nigerian asylum seekers in relation to obtaining papers allowing them to stay in France. Attempts to do so were ultimately unsuccessful;

The annual Carol Service of nine lessons which attracts more than 200 people, mostly French thanks to considerable efforts to publicize this major event.

During the year one of our new members who was a Presbyterian minister, now retired, has sought the necessary authorizations to take services at our church. He was for a number of years pastor at Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations in Canada as well as at Lutheran and Reformed churches in Belgium.

It is worth noting that since our church like many others in France is run by an Association, the legal responsibility for non-compliance with the law rests with the president who in our case is not the priest in charge because we do not have one.