



CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

(Ploërmel, Huelgoat, Rostrenen)

Report for Archdeaconry Synod 2018



Huelgoat



Rostrenen



Ploërmel



Revd Jeremy Cross and his
wife Suzanne

Throughout 2017 Christ Church was in a period of vacancy during which the Revd Jeremy Cross gave freely of his time as our Interim Minister. We are most grateful to him and his wife Suzanne for once again coming out of retirement to enable all three centres to enjoy regular worship despite the considerable travelling involved. With the dedication of our Churchwardens and the help of Readers and Lay Worship Leaders the Chaplaincy

has remained in good heart with services every Sunday at Ploërmel and twice a month at Huelgoat and Rostrenen: an average of over 100 attend when services are held at all three. In October we heard that the Revd Robin Adams had been appointed to become our Chaplain in February 2018. We are grateful to Archdeacon Meurig for his visit to guide us through the the appointment process. In the autumn we also welcomed the Revd Joy Dale who has recently retired to live in Brittany: she has obtained PTO and is helping out at Huelgoat and Rostrenen.

At Ploërmel the chapel has been refurbished with new paintwork, carpet and chairs, which makes for a more welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. A full programme of social events has been maintained and these bring in people who are not necessarily churchgoers although some become so later. The La Source Singers directed by Suzanne Cross have given their first public concert. Others come for the Ladies' Salsasize keep-fit class run by Elaine Wilson or the well-stocked library of English books looked after by Lena Linton. At Huelgoat and Rostrenen the local RC clergy have been very generous in allowing us to use their parish rooms for meetings and social events.





Quiet Day tutorial



Rostrenen lunch party



Quiet Day assembly



Revd Robin Adams and his wife Donna

Steps are being taken at both these centres to improve audibility during services with the acquisition of portable microphones. All three centres followed the Lent Course *Living Faith: Invitations from the cross* by Krish Kandia. In November an Away Day led by the Revd Jeremy Cross on the theme of the Holy Spirit was held at the Abbey of Timadeuc. As usual the four carol services were well attended by over 500 people in all. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Christ Church was represented at services in Gouarec, Lorient, Ploërmel and St Brieuc. Every month an excellent Newsletter is produced by Alfred Adgey. With the help of his wife, Pam, it is distributed to over 300 people on-line and a further 60-70 paper copies are produced. Safeguarding is taken seriously: over 30 have completed Level One Training and two people Level Two. However there is a reluctance on the part of some to undertake what they wrongly see as an intrusion into their personal lives and this has led to a few resignations of mainly sidespersons.

Our charitable Association *Les Mains Ouvertes* has channelled monies given for the Bishop's Lent and Advent Appeals, TREAD in India and the outreach work of the Frères de La Mennais who own the chapel we use at Ploërmel. Our finances are in good shape although there will inevitably be a need for increased giving now that we have a new Chaplain appointed on a half-time basis. In February 2018 we were pleased to welcome the Revd Robin Adams and his wife Donna who come to us from the USA although they are originally from N Ireland. They are living in Malestroit and have quickly set about getting to know the three congregations. A welcome lunch was held in a restaurant near Rostrenen and a bring-and-share event is being planned by the Huelgoat congregation. New initiatives are being planned for more informal services and a possible fourth congregation at Redon. We look forward to working together with them as they settle into a Europe with an uncertain future at least as far as Brexit is concerned.



La Source singers



Garden Party Rostrenen



Lent lunch Huelgoat