



Christ Church Lille

Report for Archdeaconry Synod 2022

A year of waiting

We're waiting for the Town Hall to agree with the building promoters who pays for the damage to our church caused by the new building next door.

That means that some of the church building is in a sad state. We can't go ahead with our project for a glass porch either until we know what's planned, in particular because we still don't know where the new disabled access is going to go.

A year of transition

Last year the church opened again for weekly services, but our videos have proved popular so we are continuing them, as well as podcasts.



We're so glad to see people coming back to church and new groups and activities are starting up too.

There's no going back, things have changed.

Moving onwards

Even if some of our plans are on hold, we're still moving forward. Online Bible study has proved very successful and has attracted people from near and far, who couldn't attend in person. We have a new prayer group for professional people and there are plans to start up the church café once more which will incorporate an urban market stall.

Sunday Club is running again, with new enthusiasm from the children and from the leaders.

Grateful

We have much to be grateful for, not least a large, unexpected and most welcome gift last year which saved our year-end result.

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We are grateful for all the helpers and volunteers, all the people who support the church whether with their time, efforts or their giving. We couldn't manage without them.

We are grateful to have a chaplain to lead us forward.

The Future

We're going to have to learn to live without some of our major fund-raising activities, like the Braderie de Lille. Even if such huge gatherings can take place once more, it's not certain that people will be willing to take part. That means looking at our finances in a new



way, because our income has been hit hard by the loss of this and by the reduced numbers of people attending church.

We'll be looking at the use of the church building too, perhaps it can be used in a more imaginative way as well as for services.

But we're optimistic; we don't know what the future will look like but we're ready to embrace it.