CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

This has been a good if sometimes difficult year for CCB.  We are without a chaplain, Rev. Robin Adams having completed his contract and left us to enjoy his retirement in the USA

As we in the Diocese of Europe and Monaco all know, it is impossible for us to recruit a replacement chaplain until the difficulties of getting residency and work permits post Brexit are resolved by the government and Church of England.  However we have been  supported by our archdeacon, Peter Hooper.  We hope and pray that, with God's and Peter's help, as soon as is feasible we will be able to welcome a new chaplain, who we hope will also work as Area Dean for the NW of France.

However God has blessed us with a sufficient team of retired clergy all working with a number of very experienced Readers, and lay worship leaders.

Our 4 churches throughout Brittany have worked hard and inventively to maintain church services and a strong feeling of family during the winter when many were unable to meet in person.  Our second home owners and members visiting family and friends elsewhere, as well as those with health concerns, enjoyed participating in our regular alternate Sunday Zoom services and live streamed services from our principal church at Ploermel.

In addition we have continued with a monthly chaplaincy wide Zoom service, a great aid to church unity in our chaplaincy where many members are several hours drive away from other churches in the chaplaincy.

We praise and thank God that we were able to resume some of our more special services, sometimes joining with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in joint services. We were especially happy that our Christmas carol services were very well attended.  We were even able to resume our outdoor carol singing event which attracted over 200 people, Bretons, French and British from the area, showing that outreach is still possible in difficult, challenging times.

We have found that our Zoom bible studies and prayer meetings have been well supported, often by members who had previously been unable to attend these because of living in remote and distant locations.

On a social level we have held various fun afternoons and evenings, including a regular Zoom quiz and Zoom film club.  And we are delighted that, taking suitable precautions, our choir and the bell ringing group have been able to resume meeting, and the choir has started to give concerts again.

All of this has meant that in a difficult time we have in a variety of ways been able to care for our church family and  support each other, and we praise God that our church family have all kept in close touch with each other.

Finally, we, the Church family of CCB, are very happy and grateful that the Rev Jeremy Cross has once again agreed to care for us, guiding and leading us through our vacancy.  He is an unpaid volunteer who pastors us and serves with consistent love and wisdom and unstinting generosity giving of his time and energy.