

Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

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Report for France Archdeaconry Synod May 2019

Our church has a three-fold mission statement:

Giving glory to God ~ Sharing his unchanging Word ~ Serving English-speakers on the Riviera

1. Giving glory to God: Sunday worship

Our Sunday services are our spiritual heart-beat and also our vital shop-window, so we encourage our members and friends to attend faithfully. Recently we've been mailing everyone on our list on Friday, with the newsletter, any last-minute news, and little tasters to encourage them not to miss Sunday! Likewise we keep our website and Facebook page up to date, and publicise our services on "A Church Near You", and locally on radio and the internet.

St Paul may have written "*endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*" (1 TIMOTHY 2.3 KJV), but we've re-upholstered our pews (and treated some woodworm).

2. Sharing his unchanging word

Teaching. This year we've had sermons on JOHN'S GOSPEL, *Good news to share*; the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES; HAGGAI; *Jesus' teaching on prayer*; Advent themes in ROMANS; and MATTHEW'S GOSPEL. We've also run teaching mornings; a retreat on St Honorat, a weekend away on 1 PETER; an *Alpha* Course, and *Christianity Explored*. Meanwhile the Sunday Club team have been passing on the faith to the next generation. Our teenagers are currently doing *Youth Alpha*.

Outreach and evangelism. The Church of England is laying great stress on the importance of outreach and evangelism, and we've been delighted to play our part. So we invited our folks to pray for their friends in the *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative. We've equipped them with sermons on faith-sharing, the excellent *Talking Jesus* course, and flyers and posters to invite their friends.

3. Serving English-speakers on the Riviera... and the wider community

Socials. There are a lot of lonely people out there, and we organise social events and Friday lunches as a gentle introduction to our church and our Lord.

We're involved in the British Association and we're the local point of reference of the British Embassy in Paris: we hosted two meetings about Brexit in January.

We provide a venue for large numbers of concerts, usually in aid of local charitable causes.

We help to feed the homeless and destitute via *J'avais faim* and *Bras Ouverts*, with financial support and in person. We raise awareness about the migrants in Ventimiglia, and serve on the *Conseil Chrétien de Solidarité à Cannes*.

Environment. We have signed up as an Eco Church, and continue to support *A Rocha*.

The wider community. Holy Trinity is present at various civic functions, and thanks to our representations to the Mayor, we now get 3 hours of free parking on Sundays.

We take part in the interfaith group, *Vivre Ensemble à Cannes*.

4. The wider Church

We take part in all levels of synodical life, and were part of the GAFCON conference in Jerusalem; and the *Forum Chrétien Francophone* in Lyon.

We maintain friendly links with the Catholic and Protestant churches in Cannes.

We provided a 3-week placement for a Church of England ordinand.

6. Future plans

The big excitement this year is the youth volunteer trip, taking 9 teenagers to Uganda in July.

There will be a retreat in June

We host this year's *Jury Oecuménique* service during the Cannes Film Festival

At the time of writing this, we're none the wiser how Brexit will affect us. But

"I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day." (2 TIMOTHY 1.12)