

# Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

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## Report to Archdeaconry Synod 2021

Forgive me for stating the obvious, but the Covid pandemic has had a massive impact on our church, just as in so many other areas of life. In March-May 2020 and again in November, we were unable to hold public worship (though we never closed our doors on Sundays). Last May's confirmations were put on hold, our home groups ceased to meet, and pastoral "visiting" mainly happened on the telephone! Our church lunches and after-service refreshments seem like a distant memory.

But we adapted to these unprecedented circumstances, and brought in measures to keep everyone safe. One aspect of that has been air-conditioning, generously funded by the British Association de Cannes and installed by a brilliant team of men from the church.

We presented our Sunday worship on YouTube and Facebook; and since the summer of 2020, we have been streaming our services live (and available to watch the recordings later). This has been a huge boon: we extend our thanks to all who have made this possible and kept it happening.

Although our Sunday attendances have suffered, our streamed services regularly reach more people than attend on Sundays in "normal" times. We thank God for all who preach, lead worship and Sunday Club; those who operate the computer and streaming and sound-desk; for our sidespersons and our pianist.

We have also offered Night Prayer (Compline) throughout the year, encouraging godliness, expounding the Scriptures, and reaching far more people than would normally attend our home groups.

We have preached the word, in season and out of season, and the Gospel has shone forth from Holy Trinity, Cannes! New people have found us and joined us: on-line and in person.

So although Covid has been a great challenge to our church, God has also blessed and protected us.

One of our members is in the discernment process with a view to ordination. As she stands down from coordinating or youth work, someone else has stepped up. Our children's work has arguably been the hardest-hit aspect of our church's life. We hope to create a crèche room for babies and toddlers in the coming weeks.

Financially we survived thanks to the wonderful generosity of our members and friends, ending 2020 with a modest surplus.

In the midst of all these troubles, God has been faithful to us, and we praise him.

Sadly we aren't yet out of the pandemic: advance planning is still very difficult, but we shall keep going until we can begin to flourish once again.

We pray that there will be a wonderful harvest to be reaped once people venture out to be with us in person. We fully intend to keep streaming our Sunday services ... but we worship an incarnate Saviour, and being physically present and together is part of what it means to be his Church.

Christians meet and pray together, serve one another, and join in Christ's great project: "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"

Giles Williams, Chaplain

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