

Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

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France Archdeaconry Synod April 2018 Chaplaincy Report from Holy Trinity Cannes

What's been going on

God has (of course) been faithful to us, and the church is in good heart, with a sense of belonging together and working together. We've continued to see growing numbers of children and young families. Overall attendances, though are rather static: around 100 people on Sundays.

After a worrying forecast, we broke even financially, which is brilliant, especially as much of our income comes from British people who are feeling the pinch of Brexit.

Teaching, prayer and worship

St Paul tried to communicate the whole counsel of God to his people. And in a rather less grand way, that's what we've been trying to do. We've had sermon series on HABAKKUK; THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES; Living by Christian Values; David – the outlaw years; and JOHN'S GOSPEL. We've also run teaching mornings on Human Sexuality and THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS, and a Lent Course on COLOSSIANS. To mark 500 years since Luther posted his 95 Theses, our church weekend away thought about the great themes of the Reformation.

Holy Trinity is a prayerful church, and we're blessed to have a very reactive email prayer and prayer diary, monthly prayer breakfasts and an annual retreat.

Outreach and evangelism

We run the *Alpha* and *Christianity Explored* courses and have seen people grow into a deeper faith, leading to baptisms and confirmations.

We try to contact English-speakers in various ways, including a revamped website: launched with a fresher look last month, and accessible on phones and tablets as well.

When people make it through our doors, we try to give them a warm welcome, and have produced *Welcome* and *What's On* leaflets.

We've set up a "Growth Group" to beaver away on these issues.

Social events

With a far-flung congregation like ours, our fellowship lunches are a vital ministry of the church: every Friday and every other Sunday. Other events include a Boules Challenge, an International Bring and Share lunch; a Careers evening for the youth group; a Curry Night; and a Christmas Fair.

Environment

We've continued our programme of phasing in energy-efficient lighting; we're cutting down on throw-away plastic cups. We replaced the old chaplaincy car and we support *A Rocha*.

The wider Church and wider community

We enjoy good relations with our sister-churches in Cannes and with the Anglican churches of the Riviera. We seek to respond to the needs of migrants across the border in Ventimiglia, and to the destitute and homeless in Cannes (yes, there are quite a lot of them). We are involved with other faith communities through *Vivre Ensemble à Cannes*.

What's lined up

We want to raise the profile of our missionary links. We're planning a Summer Fair, and another Weekend away. An ordinand from the UK will spend a couple of weeks with us in October. We're thinking of taking our young people to meet the Church in Africa.

We also want to re-upholster our pews, install an induction loop, and make a better space for a crèche.

Giles Williams

April 2018