

2020 was a very eventful year for **Maisons Laffitte** in many ways !

New Chaplain

Our new Chaplain Rev'd Charlotte Sullivan joined us on the 1st June 2020. Charlotte moved from Bordeaux, in the Chaplaincy of Aquitaine.

Joining a new congregation in 2020 has had many challenges especially as normal church services have yet to resume, but Charlotte has settled in well and is enjoying the town and getting to know the congregation.

Services

Most of our services have been online using Youtube or Live Streaming. We are very grateful to Jenni Gibson (Chaplain's assistant), for working so hard every week to ensure that the weekly video's are edited and uploaded. Many of the congregation are now experienced in filming themselves, reading or leading the prayers, even the younger members of the church!

Following the online services there is an opportunity for fellowship via zoom. This is very popular and a great way to share personal news and prayer requests.

There were two significant services last year.

On July 5th the licensing service of Rev'd Charlotte Sullivan by the Archdeacon of France, the Venerable Meurig Williams. Unfortunately numbers had to be kept to a strict minimum, but the service was live streamed and a short reception followed the service.

On October 4th we held a service of celebration for 100 years of worship at Holy Trinity Church, with the Area Dean, Rev'd Canon Debbie Flach preaching and Bishop Robert encouraging us into the next 100 years via a video link! Again numbers had to be kept to a minimum which was a great shame as the event had been many months in the planning.



Zooming

Our church now uses zoom for almost everything ! Church council meetings, social events, quiz nights and our bible study groups. There are two groups meeting weekly, morning and evening, they are well attended and study a wide variety of material.

We also use zoom for keeping connected with our younger members. On Sunday mornings we hold "Den@10". A short service for the under 11's. This service includes songs, prayers and a short message. On Thursday evenings we meet with the older youth for a lively discussion and prayer.

Although most fundraising events were cancelled last year, we did hold a successful "Online Christmas Bazaar" which helped to raise funds in order to support our chosen charities.

Ecumenical

Ecumenical relations have been strengthened, particularly with Père Laurent de la Taille from the local Catholic community, who invited us to use the local Catholic Church for our Christmas and Easter day services. The church is much larger and so easier to maintain the social distancing rules.

Looking Forward

Holy Trinity Church is blessed with a really hands on and supportive community, last year was a difficult one in many ways, but they rose to the challenge, and reacted with generosity, good humour and creativity. As a church community we all look forward to the time when we can worship together side by side, when we can host events and when our outreach and missional activities can fully resume.