

St. Mark's Versailles and St. Paul's Gif sur Yvette

NASA engineers tell us that “re-entry is the most dangerous part of the mission”. While not an astronaut, this feels like a time of “re-entry”.

We are moving out of the Covid protocols and restrictions that we have grown used to over the last couple of years and re-entering a more familiar style of life and ministry. It was a great pleasure to meet in person again at Massabielle on Palm Sunday and our service on Easter Day felt encouragingly “normal” in terms of numbers, guests, singing, etc. St. Paul's has continued worshipping faithfully and meeting weekly online; on Easter day we enjoyed refreshments together (outside) for the first time in a long while.

St Paul's



Massabielle



After the hiatus of the pandemic it feels more like “starting again” in terms of ministry and volunteers. Every area, from refreshments after the service to “Operation Stephen” offering breakfast on a Saturday morning to the homeless needs volunteers in order to function again.

At Massabielle Richard Bromley from ICS invited us to consider the “angel” of St Mark's (our fundamental character) and who are the people God is calling us to reach out to. Great questions that we will seek answers to in the year ahead and as we face our future post-pandemic (we trust).

On a practical matter we have resolved the issue of the tottering wall on the boundary at the railway line. I have seen minutes from Council going back to 2009 about this so it feels like a genuine achievement!

The Wall - Before and After



Another blessing this year has been to welcome Sophie Manson, as a Licensed Lay Minister; a joy to have her, Jon and Maia join us and we appreciate the generous-hearted way that they have been able to move here from Saint Michael's in Paris (Sophie's Licensing with Archdeacon Peter)

