**St Luke’s, Fontainebleau 2020-21: Report for Archdeaconry Synod**

Like everywhere else our plans for the past year and for the immediate future have been in some disarray thanks to the pandemic. It has, however, been a period where we have been able to try out new forms of meeting together, of fundraising and, of course, worship. Hopefully when the pandemic is behind us we will not forget how to use the technology to keep in touch with, and encourage, people who are unable to be regular attenders at Sunday worship.

I was appointed Interim Chaplain in September last year to support and encourage the congregation as they move towards appointing a permanent chaplain. We are in the process of preparing the vacancy pack, with the very welcome assistance of our new Archdeacon. The original plan was that someone would come in immediately after I leave, but the unfortunate combination of post-Brexit regulations and covid means that we can no longer take anything for granted.

The past few months have not been easy as we have worked together to examine the past, learn lessons from it and begin to look realistically at the present and future. The chaplaincy is, however, blessed with excellent and committed churchwardens and Council members, who are not afraid to embrace change.

Thanks to zoom, our average congregation size has increased, despite the absence of visitors and short-term residents who would normally swell the ranks. One challenge will be to maintain that growth in more normal times, particularly since the chaplaincy lacks a physical building of its own and is dependent on the hospitality of a local school.

For the time being, however, please pray for St Luke’s, that we may heed the words of St Paul to “clothe yourselves with compassion … forgive one another … and above all clothe yourselves with love”.

Paula Clifford

Interim Chaplain