**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, NICE**

**REPORT FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE & MONACO SYNOD (May 2022)**

Brief report on the chaplaincy and its activities focusing essentially on 2021.

**Council meetings**

The council met regularly via teleconferencing (zoom) in 2021.

**Finance**

The council has received regular reports and updates from the treasurer regarding the financial situation of the church. The church is most grateful to our Treasurer Gerard  Jordan for his management of the finances during the challenging times of the last few years.

**Bicentenary**

The original church was opened in 1822  with the first service taking place on Advent Sunday in November. A sub-committee has planned  events to celebrate this bicentenary.

**English American Library**

Discussion about the library arose in the context of a finance report last November and a special meeting was convened to take matters further. A joint committee has been set up to consider the future of the library.

**Re-opening of the church**

The issue of re-opening the church for public access arose at several meetings but was postponed because of the vagaries of the Covid pandemic. Security issues figured prominently in discussion as greater accessibility to both church and churchyard also exposes them to abuse and vandalism. Additionally Holy Trinity’s status as a monument historique requires us to be open to the public.

**Broadcasting of services**

Although this was first introduced in the context of the confinement,  council  agreed to support the continuation of broadcast services given the positive feedback especially from those housebound and those living abroad. It is hoped to enhance the quality of the broadcasts by improving the internet link and acquiring more sophisticated audio-visual equipment.

**Maintenance**

Issues over the main gate have been a recurrent item on the agenda. Repairs have had to be carried out. Consideration was given to installing an electronic lock on the gate but its cost effectiveness  is questionable.

The only other significant maintenance issue to arise concerned a problem with the drains which has been resolved.

**Parking**

It was reported on several occasions that some car-parkers had failed to cooperate over closing the gate and, in one case, a final warning had to be issued. Michael Killbourn carried out a survey of parking charges in central Nice, in the wake of which it was decided to increase our charges.

Fr Peter’s retirement

Fr Peter informed the council that he anticipated retiring in late 2022. In this connection a working party has been formed to consider procedures, chaplaincy profile and needs.

**Hall**

The hall has been refurbished and now, with an overhaul of the booking system, is  in regular use.

**Episcopal convention**

The annual Convention of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe was successfully hosted by Holy Trinity in October 2021. Bishop Mark was in attendance.

**Children**

An increase in the number of children attending our church prompted discussion  on how  best to provide for them. Meeting with parents has taken place and further advice is being  sought from Caireen Stewart (Episcopal Church in Europe) which we hope will soon bear fruit.

**Safeguarding**

Concerning the 2016 guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults actions have been taken to ensure  that Holy Trinity now complies with these measures.

**Chaplaincy life generally**

Church services in 2021 continued to be impacted by the sanitary and related restrictions imposed by  the Covid pandemic -  mask-wearing and distancing in the pews continuing to be observed. October 2021 saw the first Vide grenier for over two years.In November, a service ‘Remembrance, Thanksgiving and Hope’ was held as part of a commitment to south-eastern France by Bishop Robert. During this service the new Archdeacon of France, the Reverend Canon Dr Peter Hooper, was formally licensed.The end of the month saw the resumption of Holy Trinty’s music concerts and of the Swedish Santa Lucia service. Christmas traditions were restored in December – Christmas lunch, carol service and the usual church services.

Ted Dexter, a former member of Holy Trinity,  died on 25 August and a November memorial service was held in the church on his behalf.

We continued to support the Nice operations of Fourneau Economique with monthly donations of food. Fund-raising for the Indian Arogya Agam charity run by the brother  of one of our churchwardens (Jill Pirdas) was also maintained.

Appreciation goes to all members of the council and others who have contributed towards the upkeep and activities of Holy Trinity: to our churchwardens (Jill and Richard Challoner )  who have worked tirelessly in their manifold duties; Bob Tonkiss for his exceptional secretarial support; Michael Killbourn for constant attention to maintenance matters; to Christine Harvey with her superb floral decorations; to Jean-Marie and Tony  Feltham for the high standard of music with which they enhance our worship; finally, we must express our thanks to Fr Peter for leading and teaching us over the past eight years and to Joe Voelker for supporting him by way of so many ‘backroom’ activities.