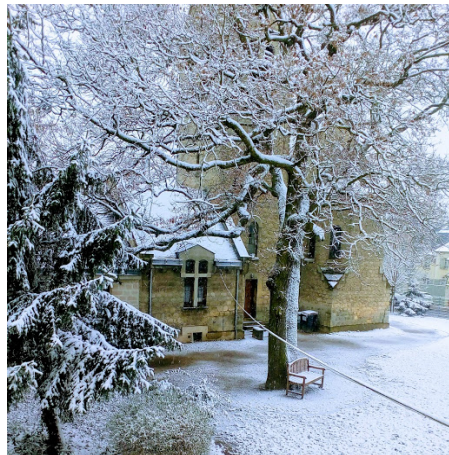


Holy Trinity Gould Memorial Church in Maisons Laffitte has since 1920 worshipped on premises belonging to ICS, beautifully located a few hundred yards from the Château. The church was built thanks to a generous donation from Frank Jay Gould, an American millionaire, racing enthusiast and Francophile, whose biography and personality might have contributed the portrait of the Great Gatsby in F Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel - rumour has it the two had met.



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Fast forward to today, and only a few features remind us a more extravagant past: stained glass windows in the sanctuary dedicated to Jay and Helen Gould, a red carpet running down the aisle, donated by a grateful man who had won a substantial amount at the races(!), a plaque at the gate telling the story of our beginnings.

Last year we suffered the blow of seeing 6-7 of our wonderful families relocate, either to the UK, or to other areas in the European Union. Gradually, new people have come to take their place, a process which has added a more international flavour to the community. Today we have an electoral roll of 117 adults, 14 of whom have joined us in latter years, and in addition, we recently had the joy of baptising a family of four.



Holy Trinity has gained a reputation for attracting families with younger children and has a lively youth programme (offering Youth Alpha this year to the delight of post 11s).

At the same time, there are two thriving Bible study groups for mid-lifers and above, one of which is held in a local care home. Once a month, our early BCP service is followed by tea and cake for those who might be feeling the social pull of friendly fellowship after a week of relative isolation and overabundant quiet. This group, called 'Bridging the Gap', does a wonderful job of gently encouraging an ongoing relationship with the Church, not only as an institution, but with its members, who show genuine caring. Bridging the gap has the relaxing feel of a busy café and continues to be a draw to our older members.

In 2017, our church council decided, after a period of careful deliberation led by one of our Readers, Richard Medcalf, to emphasise the theme of Prayerful Hospitality. This has contributed to a more accessible and open community; may God grant us wisdom and strength to continue our journey in this direction, with the express goal that our beloved church and community can one day be called 'a house of prayer for all nations'.

Some of our most faithful members have now reached an age where mobility may become an issue. Therefore, in 2018, our ACCESS Project team, led by Francis Titley and steering group, will oversee the installation of a ramp, a stairlift, and a disability toilet to the existing facility. The cost is substantial, which is why, in addition to an ongoing appeal, we have a series of musical performances and an auction planned for May, June and July, making church even busier than usual.

During the last 4 years, we have been praying and knocking on doors in search of a part-time Youth worker. We were delighted that a recent applicant accepted the post following a successful weekend visit, and can announce that Kirstin Taylor will be joining us in June. We hope and pray that her time with us will prove to be a profound blessing to her, her husband Eliot and our church family in equal measure.