



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH  
4, RUE DE BELLOI  
13006, MARSEILLE, FRANCE

May 2018

## MARSEILLE with AIX-EN-PROVENCE and the LUBERON

### Chaplaincy Report to the Archdeanery Synod

2018 will be our 170<sup>th</sup> year being a Church of England presence to the visitors and residents of Marseille and Provence. Our Marseille congregation is quite diverse with members from countries in Europe, South East Asia, Africa, and North America. The Aix congregation is primarily drawn from the British and American expat community. The monthly Eucharist in Oppède in the Luberon is a new initiative in evangelism for us and is attracting about 20 to 50 persons, primarily from the UK and America.

#### MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS

We started in 1848 with a focus on ministry with sailors, ships crews, and visitors and ship passengers coming to the south of France from England. We were the major stopping place on the way to Casablanca, Monaco and the Riviera. And we still are. Our primary mission focus is with ship crews through the Missions to Seafarers.

Today we focus our seafarers support ministry through *l'Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins* (AMAM). One of our congregation members, Gaston Roumieu, is on the Board of Directors of and is also their webmaster.

Gaston and other congregation members volunteer regularly at the Seaman's Centre assisting, advising, and sharing with the ship crews. There is a "Tuck Shop", a Skype call centre, coffee, pool table, WIFI, fellowship,

along with scriptures and hospitality. On occasion the volunteers are alerted to problems or dangers facing the sailors and they work with the port authorities to arrange proper response or aid. Last year over a million passengers visited Marseille on cruise ships and this number is expected to double and then double again in the next five years. **Our church volunteers have interacted with ten thousand sailors in 2017.**



*Some international seafarers being welcomed for some brief R&R time at the Sailor's Centre in the port.*

#### DESCRIPTION OF ALL SAINTS MARSEILLE

All Saints' Marseille worships in three locations:

1. In our own building, built in 1905 in the Victorian neo-gothic style in Marseille: Eucharist on Sunday mornings and Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings.
2. In a rented chapel within the Oratoire of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Aix-en-Provence on the fourth Sunday morning of each month.
3. In the rented RC church in Oppède in the Luberon on the second Sunday morning of each month.

Our 'mother church' of All Saints' Marseille is also a space for fellowship after services, and we hold regular 'Bring and share' lunches following Sunday worship.



## INTERREGNUM

Sadly this year, our priest-in-charge ended his time with us and we are now in an interregnum. We are very lucky to have three retired priests and two Readers, all of whom are very active in assuring services at our three worship locations. The wardens have sourced locums to take us through to late July. During the heat of high summer we will be served by our retired clergy, and hope to have a new priest in view for the rentrée.

*Hospitality following worship in Marseille.*

## MAJOR EVENTS IN 2017

We are active in **local ecumenical events**. Our priest-in-charge was an active member of the *Comité Œcuménique Interconfessionnel de Marseille*, and our locum priests have engaged in ecumenical work. In January 2017 and again in 2018 we were present at the Marseille municipal **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** service led by the Archbishop of Marseille. In March 2017 we participated in the **Day of Prayer for Peace** at the Salvation Army Church, and in 2018 we were pleased to host this service, led primarily by lay women. At Easter each year we join with the various churches in Aix for the **Catholic Bishop's ecumenical Easter morning prayers** in the town square.

In May, we were pleased to host the **Anglican Churches of the Riviera Ascension Day noontime worship service**, with a communal lunch afterwards. Even though we couldn't offer the delights of a Riviera picnic there was a good turnout and the occasion was so successful that many people didn't leave until after 16h00.

At the end of June 2017, several of us participated in a **congregational pilgrimage to Salisbury**. This included a renewal of baptismal vows at Stonehenge, a visit to Old Sarum, and a tour of the cathedral, where on the Sunday the pilgrims from Marseille attended the **ordination of our Reader, Stéphane**, and his installation as assistant curate at the Salisbury Plains Benefice. We have been proud to support Stéphane through his long journey from Reader to the diaconate, and we look forward to his priesting in June 2018. We consider ourselves a crucible of vocations since **another ordinand**, Roxana Tenea Teleman, has arisen from our congregation and is now in her second year of studies by extension.



*Pilgrims to Salisbury with our Ordinand.*

In September we again opened the church for the two-day **Journées du Patrimoine** as we are considered an historic building of interest.



*The Ste Victoire Choir in concert*

## MUSIC AT ALL SAINTS

We have a small core of active and dedicated musicians who accompany the worship in Marseille. This year the *Ste Victoire Choir* has used our church in Marseille for their weekly rehearsals and they have performed two concerts. The Celtic duet *Arwen*, the trio *Clef des Fées* and the *Double Croches choir* have also held concerts there.

**COMMUNICATIONS** We have an active **Facebook** group page, a detailed **Chaplaincy Website** and an ongoing presence on the Church of

England's website, *A Church Near You*, through which visitors often find us, including many of the 30 people worshipping in Aix on Christmas Eve.