



THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF MIDI-PYRENEES & AUDE

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The past 12 months have proven very difficult for our Chaplaincy.

In January 2021 we bade farewell to our Chaplain, Rev Dan Langdon-Griffiths. As a result of what has been described by Bishop Trevor Wilmott as “unacceptable behaviour” from “some individuals”, he decided to offer his resignation after an extended period of sick leave. (Bishop Trevor has been conducting an enquiry on behalf of Bishop Robert). Dan will be greatly missed by us all in this Chaplaincy.

The Chaplaincy has been supported by the diocese through Bishop Trevor's listening exercise conducted through the last quarter of 2020. The outputs from this are ongoing under the guidance and with the support of Archdeacon Peter and the diocesan staff. It is hoped that reconciliation and healing will be achieved during the coming year, although there are many matters still to be resolved, some of which may impact Chaplaincies throughout the Archdeaconry.



In common with most other Chaplaincies, the Covid crisis has largely prevented us from coming together for physical worship, with many of our worship centres being unusable. We have, however, been very creative in arranging outdoor worship using private gardens, open air restaurant premises and even a large, well-ventilated barn to gather in safety for worship.



During this period we have focused on providing online worship, using YouTube, Facebook and Zoom to provide a wide mixture of frequent and regular services, some of which were filmed live worship and some of which were entirely filmed in closed premises or, by the use of video green screen technology, in all sorts of other settings. Our Chaplaincy has become quite expert at broadcasting worship, with access to 3 dedicated studios (2 in France and 1 in the UK) and has even included two services filmed in an Episcopal church in Palm Springs, California, where one of our clergy is currently confined !



We have also had the benefit of the musical talents of a “Virtual Choir” drawn from all over our Chaplaincy who have regularly provided choral music for our larger services.

We are very grateful to our PTO Clergy, Readers, Worship Leaders, Wardens, technicians and many others for all their hard work which has enabled us to provide such fulfilling worship.

In the past 12 months we have broadcast over 150 acts of worship and have made connections to worshippers old and new all over the world.

We are now considering how to maintain our global ‘virtual’ connections as well as our local ones as we look forward to returning to physical worship, hopefully later in the summer.

