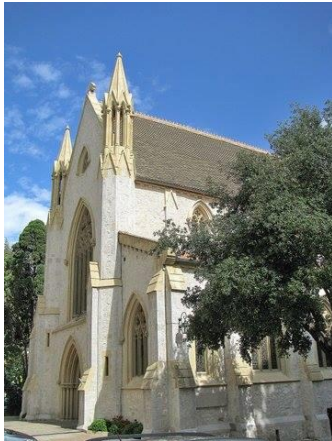


Chaplain's Report – Holy Trinity Nice



I have just completed my fifth Holy Week and Easter at Holy Trinity.

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian calendar and it is pleasing that it attracts the largest congregation at Holy Trinity (the influx of visitors doubles our usual numbers.)

I think that the Triduum, the three days before Easter Day, went particularly well this year. We were fortunate to have additional music (violin and organ, and a trio of violin, cello and organ – thanks to Margi MacDuffie, Zela Terry and Joe Voelker). For Easter itself, we also had the most arresting Easter flower arrangements provided by Christine Harvey and her equipe. As ever, I am grateful to Jean-Marie Foucard and Tony Feltham for their contributions to our music, and to Isabelle Dubard, Christian Leijohn and Michael Killbourn for their support as servers.

From what many of our visitors say, I think that we offer a genuinely warm welcome to everyone. I think this is helped on all the Sundays of the year by having just one booklet containing all the words and music for the service. It makes it easy for anyone to follow, even if English isn't their



first language – our congregation is truly international. The previous pattern – apart from festivals – of having hymn books, a service book and a pewsheet was confusing, often even for those who attended regularly.

I remarked last year about the effect that Brexit was having on our community.



For those with UK pensions, the weakness of the pound affects their quality of life. Fear of a -no-deal-Brexit makes those who have relied upon their EU citizenship, worry about their future status as residents in France. However, I'm glad to say that our congregation – which is diverse and not exclusively British – remains stable and has seen the welcome arrival of new members in the past year.

We have also begun *A-prayer-atif* (a Fresh Expression) from May – October on Friday evenings on the 'handiplage', which gives access to those in wheelchairs and parents with strollers. We gather for an aperitif but also for a time of prayer,

which is often very moving, and we have included some who would otherwise had no connection with the church; among these some have begun coming on Sundays.

We have continued to strengthen our ties with the Episcopal Church (the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, to give its formal title). They make generous grants towards our ministry and they invite me to attend two clergy retreats a year, which they fund. I also attend their annual Convention (for Church of England people, synod), to which partners are also invited. In 2020, we will host the Convention in Nice.



Last October, the Convention was held in Waterloo, near Brussels, and saw the election of the new bishop, Mark Edington. We went to his consecration by the presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, at the American Cathedral in Paris earlier this month.

I have several Diocese in Europe commitments. I am a member of the Diocese's Finance Committee. I am involved in the discernment of vocations in France, Bishop Robert's LGBT adviser, his nominee to Diocesan Synod, and a member of the Bishop's Council (the standing committee for the diocese).

All these responsibilities take me away from Nice from time to time, but they don't encroach on my ministry here. In fact, I believe that they strengthen our connection with the wider church.

I look back on the past year with gratitude for the wonderful support given by our wardens, Michael Killbourn and Jill Pirdas, and for the fulfillment that serving here has offered me in the past (almost) five years. I look forward to the next five years of being your priest.

Fr Peter Jackson