

HOLY TRINITY NICE

Father Peter Jackson writes:



Easter Day at Holy Trinity Nice

I have just completed my fourth Holy Week and Easter. Easter is the most important festival of the Christian calendar and it is pleasing that it attracts the largest congregation at Holy Trinity. We always have over 200 in church for the Sung Eucharist on Easter Day (the influx of visitors doubles our usual numbers.)

We need to have booklets for the Easter and Christmas services, partly because we have fewer hymn books than people but also to help everyone to follow the service easily. Since last summer we have extended this practice to every Sunday. This has proved very popular. Instead of having a pewsheet, service book and hymn book, everyone has just one booklet, containing all the words *and* music for the service. We have also been able to introduce new music, as having the score makes it much easier for people to learn.

We continue to keep the church open every day. There is a steady flow of visitors who come to look at the historic building but also to pray. They also come to see our churchyard and the grave of H.F. Lyte, the author of *Abide with me, Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*, etc.

During the week, there are many activities, some in the church and others in the Hall building which also houses The English-American Library (open every day except Sunday). We host cultural organisations: France Etats-Unis, Oecumenia (the ecumenical choir), France Grande-Bretagne, and the English/French Conversation Tea. We also provide a meeting place for various self-help groups: Alcooliques Anonymes, Narcotiques Anonymes, and Outremangeurs Anonymes. We also have an extensive concert programme; almost twenty this year.

I send a weekly newsletter by email to all members of Holy Trinity Nice and a slightly different one to members of St Hugh's, Vence. The newsletter combines some information about forthcoming events with a preview of the topic of the sermon for the Sunday following. I am glad to say that this appears to be successful and well-appreciated and there are now 150 on the mailing list.

After the attentat on July 14, 2016, security was substantially enhanced in Nice. The Promenade where the attack occurred has security barriers along much of its length. Soldiers and police patrol continuously. The church has a system of

security cameras. Police patrol through the churchyard regularly during the day. At night, the church property, which has two points of access and is otherwise walled and fenced, is locked. It is good that the church and hall building are very accessible during the day, but the enhanced security is a continuous reminder of what happened and the possibility of further attacks.

For those of us who are British nationals, Brexit has introduced an unwelcome element of uncertainty. The question 'will we be allowed to remain and on what terms?' has not been finally resolved. There is the further complication of volatile currency markets and a pound worth less than last year, which affects those receiving pensions paid in sterling and the extent to which residents can support the church's mission financially. However, we have experienced a moderate growth in resident parishioners.