Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd,

Poitou-Charentes

Brief report prepared for the 2021 meeting of the

French Archdeaconry Meeting

The Chaplaincy has been through a very strange year, not simply because of the Covid pandemic which has affected everyone across the World, but also as we approached the year we were already into an Inter-regnum following the departure of the Rev. Adam Boulter who had taken a new post in Madagascar as Director of their theological training scheme.

Very early in 2020 it became obvious that it would not be possible to continue with our usual pattern of mostly monthly services at nearly a dozen locations across the Chaplaincy.

Almost as soon as the decision had been taken the Wardens accepted the offer of the Rev. Steven Abram to run a weekly on-line service which he and his wife Nicky would conduct from their home via Facebook. Apart from occasional technical problems these services continued throughout the year and were much appreciated by many of our regular worshippers. Steven’s offerings were encouraged and supported by the weekly emailed issue of our Chaplaincy newsletter, “Jubilate” which had previously been published on paper once a month. We have been very grateful to David Hawken the editor/publisher and distributor of this which has gone out to all previous subscribers.

With the savings being made as a result of the inter-regnum, and despite the lack of cash collections in our various worship centres or income from weddings, our Treasurer has been able to report that donations by standing order and prelevement have held up well and that the Chaplaincy had actually run at a small profit for the first time in several years.

It has obviously been difficult in this time of covid for very much progress to be made towards the appointment of a new Chaplain but our Council and Wardens look forward to forthcoming discussions with our new Archdeacon.

Geoffrey Cornwall

Reader and Lay Representative to Synod

April 2021