

Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

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News for Archdeaconry Synod 2022

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”
(JAMES 1.12)

We have been blessed. We have lived “under trials” of sorts that St James would have found hard to imagine, but we have persevered. And if the trials haven’t yet gone away, we know that the crown of life awaits us.

James adds two conditions to that great promise: (1) we persevere; and (2) we love the Lord. And through these difficult years, I hope we have fulfilled those conditions. We’ve kept going, and we’ve begun to see signs of a return to normal church life.

- We’re able to worship without the restraints of masks and social distance
- We’re able to resume acts of fellowship over coffee, church lunches and social gatherings
- We’ve seen numbers creeping up at our Sunday services
- We’ve welcomed new people to worship with us and join our electoral roll
- We’ve seen our folks being confirmed
- We praise God that no-one in our church community has died of the virus

We’re not back to normal yet: the pandemic isn’t over, and Brexit and travel bans have made it harder for our “faithful friends” to be with us; our attendances are still a third down on what we would normally have expected. Our church finances have taken a hit. So it falls to us who live here in France to persevere, and demonstrate our love for the Lord in worship and service. That way lies blessing!

And we *have* been blessed in our Sunday worship: we’ve prayed and seen those prayers answered. We’ve expressed our devotion through hymns and songs; we’ve been nourished at the Lord’s Table; and we’ve borne testimony to our living God. We’ve worked through the Nicene Creed, the SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY, the life of Abraham and JOHN’S GOSPEL.

Our Sunday worship has gone out live and recorded via YouTube and Facebook, and our streamed services are watched by many who can’t attend in person. The online offering is a very valuable supplement to our normal ministry — but it’s not a substitute!

As well as our Sunday teaching, we have continued working through the PSALMS in our monthly prayer breakfasts, and offered a variety of on-line midweek meetings, such as Compline and Wednesday Fellowship. We studied ROMANS, I CORINTHIANS, Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah, “Hope Explored”, PHILIPPIANS and our Lent course in I JOHN. As the pandemic wanes, we may return to our usual home groups, but the online format may be the way forward.

We ran the Alpha Course and Christianity Explored (in person) in the afternoon, and this worked well: something to consider for the future.

As for the future, who knows? Advance planning is still very difficult, but apart from the ongoing work and ministry of our church, September 2023 will mark 50 years since the opening of our present building. We hope to organise events to celebrate this Jubilee.

And by the grace of God we shall persevere under whatever trials and tests may come, firm in the hope of the his promises. And by the grace of God we shall be those who love him.