



St. Mark's Versailles and St. Paul's Gif sur Yvette.

This Spring offers signs of hope as we long to move beyond the pandemic which still rages here in France as I write these words. We have got used to services initially online only and have now moved to "hybrid" services where participants on Zoom can interact with those of us in our building - huge thanks to our Wardens and many others who have made this technological leap forward possible. Our plan is that this mixed mode of service will continue for the long term as it offers access to our



services from others who would otherwise be separated from us.

Numbers worshipping have remained steady or increased slightly; roughly one third of the congregation come in person and two thirds remain on line. Our youth and children's ministry volunteers have been wonderfully creative to sustain effective ministry online. Worshiping numbers have held up and overall our giving has dropped by about ten percent. Small group meetings continue online and while we miss meeting in person no one is missing the journey to and from a meeting in the often congested traffic in our area. We joined an online Alpha that is an opportunity to meet and share in a manner not defined by our physical location. Our two congregations at St Mark's and St. Paul's met together online for a while but now meet separately online so they can keep their established identities.



The most recent excitement involved the trees on our property that are very close to the adjoining rail line. SNCF informed us in no uncertain manner that they had to be severely pruned or removed. Signs of disease meant that removal is the only option. Such work is carefully monitored (at our cost!) by the SNCF and we are delighted to see the work done safely and effectively.

We await our exit from various forms of confinements and are praying that God will show us the right next steps in mission and ministry.

