

AGM 2019

MINISTRY REPORTS

Chaplain's Report

I begin this report with a sincere "thank you" to everyone who has welcomed Pat and me so warmly to St. Mark's and St. Paul's. Geoff and Paul our Wardens and Elaine Labourel deserve special mention for all they have done to help during the transition. I am aware that with both Elaine and the Bodsworths moving on after many years of faithful ministry this is a time of significant change. I am aware of how disappointing the very short tenure of the previous Chaplain felt; I have never before moved to a church where the question of "how long are you staying" has been asked of me so often and with deep feeling from the moment I arrived!

I have not yet been Chaplain here for a complete calendar year. I am writing this report just over nine months since coming to Versailles. As such this report is a matter of seeing things with relatively fresh eyes and I offer some relatively naive reflections on my first few months.

Our building is in a challenging location; very few people find us on the first time of looking! However new people do manage to track us down and it is encouraging to meet new people at various stages of a journey of faith. We need discernment as to how we can be more "intentional" in our mission and not rely primarily on people simply turning up on a Sunday. In the Autumn I expect we will hold an Alpha course and it is not too early even for every one of us to be praying about who we can invite.

I am impressed by the desire and commitment of the church to share partnership with overseas mission through both prayer, financial giving and in some cases personal visits. Giving to mission is an encouraging sign of the Kingdom.

I am encouraged by all those who are committed deeply to serving in ministry here. Again as a newcomer I am impressed by the way people enable ministry to take place faithfully and regularly. The teams on Sunday, musicians, youth and children's leaders and many other serve week by week. I am struck particularly by the commitment of the team involved in Operation Stephen, a laudable piece of Christian service. I am aware, however, that almost every team functions with a "low margin" of extra capacity and is in need of more volunteers and runs the risk of the committed team members growing weary.

Overall my vision for St. Mark's is growth arising from health; we seek healthy church life and relationships and look to God to give growth.

St. Paul's.

In addition to the warm welcome Pat and I have received from the people of St. Paul's I would like to thank all those involved in sustaining the ministry there.

The relatively small numbers involved at St. Paul's means that it takes a high level of commitment to sustain worship and regular children's ministry. Elaine and Hervé moving on as well as one or two other families also moving on has made for extra challenges for volunteers. People have responded wonderfully and in addition to our regular services we hosted a highly successful Christmas Carol service with mulled wine and mince pies and an ecumenical service of evening prayer during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Special thanks are due to Gareth for his organisation of that service and his unstinting support for our worship throughout the year.

As I write this report I am hearing news of another vote in the UK Parliament on legislation relating to "Brexit". The uncertain process and even more uncertain outcome could discourage us but this is opportunity to demonstrate the security of our hope in Christ,

✠ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. +

(1 Peter 1:3. 4 NIV11) *Rev Dale Hanson*

Wardens Report

2018 was a year of significant change at St Mark's and St Paul's. We began the year in interregnum, continuing to welcome locums to conduct services. By the end of the year, we had said goodbye to Elaine Labourel, who had served faithfully as chaplain of St Paul's, and to Kevin and Carol Bodsworth, who had done great work in administrative and support roles at St Mark's for several years.

The recruitment process for a new chaplain was a key feature of the first 6 months of 2018, in line with the PCC's decision that the appointment of a full time chaplain was our strategic priority. Conscious of the weaknesses of this process in previous years, the PCC and ICS (our Patron, an Evangelical Anglican mission organisation with oversight of our recruitment process together with the Diocese) were able to put in place a more robust process in which candidates and their spouses were invited to spend two days at St Mark's to discover the situation of the church and get to know the team, as well as undertake a series of interviews.

The outcome of this process was the appointment of Dale Hanson as full time chaplain to St Mark's and St Paul's. Dale and his wife Pat moved into the chaplaincy house over the summer. The latter part of the year saw Dale beginning his ministry to the church and getting to know the congregation. We thank God for this very positive outcome for the church after many years of uncertainty.

Another significant consequence of the changes of 2018 is that the church office is now being run on a volunteer basis, with Christina Galley and Elizabeth Harper helping Dale to deal with the administrative side of Church life. We are extremely grateful for Christina and Elizabeth's service, and pray that others may feel called to join them in the coming months.

We very much appreciate all those who have helped in running services, childrens/youth activities and homegroups, organising and catering for events, maintaining the grounds and buildings, and generally making the church a welcoming and loving place.

The PCC continues to focus on a number of key issues, among which we might mention the following :

Maintaining a financial balance by planning for essential maintenance work, exploring opportunities to rent out rooms and seeking to reduce costs where possible.

Maintaining a constructive dialogue with the diocese on such issues as safeguarding.

Encouraging vocations as we look to the long term future of the church.

Taking an interest in the changes in the legal status of church associations in France and their consequences for the church.

We are thankful to God for His guidance through 2018 and continue to see Him at work in 2019. We are thankful to the members of St Mark's for their continued support through this period and look forward to healthy growth for St Mark's in the coming years.

St. Mark's Church Council report - AGM 2019

The church council met 11 times since the last AGM. This included 11 meetings of the church (1905) association and 4 of the cultural (1901) association.

Council Members:

- Geoff Sockett, Churchwarden, Chairman then Vice-Chair
- Paul Simmons, Churchwarden, Vice-Chair, Secretary
- Mark Harper, Treasurer
- Joshua Turnil, Deputy Warden St Mark's
- Sarah Thorley, Deputy Warden St Mark's
- Christina Galley, Deputy Warden St Paul's
- Peter Milner, Synod rep
- Marge Pavageau, Synod rep
- Janet Pham, Safeguarding officer
- Sarah Hartley, Diocese safeguarding contact
- Elaine Labourel, Assistant Chaplain (until August)
- Raymond Raphael, Assistant treasurer
- Annick Mortreux
- Dan Roulstone
- Catherine Fourel

From September:

- Rev. Dale Hanson, chaplain and council chairman from September

Others:

- Ben Johnson-Frow, Locum (Summer 2018)
- Richard Bromley, ICS

The main matter of the year was the appointment of Dale Hanson as chaplain; Dale was licensed as presbyter of St Mark's on July 22nd and has chaired the council meetings since the September meeting.

Some issues treated by the council this past year were:

- the church associations financial management, including
 - expenses approval process
 - approval of the budget
 - examination of the accounts
 - appointment of auditors and consequential need for changes to statutes
- establishing an office presence after the departure of Kevin Bodsworth
- management of cleaning the building, finally making a contract with Chantiers Yvelines
- appointment of a safeguarding officer (Janet Pham)
- appointment of a Facebook page editor (Sarah Thorley)
- establishing an end to an expensive photocopier contract
- to begin separation of the church and house utilities
- management of GDPR regulations
- getting a new communications package for the church
- deciding on our tithed giving and other giving (Madagascar, Bishop's advent appeal)
- consideration of the Diocese requests for funding
- management of users of building
- use of collection tokens+
- renewal of electoral roll and preparation for the AGM
- church weekend away

- various building/fabric problems:
 - cracked skylight
 - leaves on flat roof
 - water heater repair
 - crack in old chapel building
 - refixing a telephone cable
 - security lighting repair
 - water leak investigations
 - replacement of lift maintenance contract
 - replacement of service laptop computer
 - improving the sound system

The council approved a resolution supporting Vivian Sockett to test her vocation to the ordained ministry with the Diocese.

The council also met for a strategic retreat in November, kindly hosted by the Miltons.

Paul Simmons, Council secretary

Archdeaconry Synod Report

Hints, Hopes and Horizons: some reflections on a happy & hopeful 2018 French Archdeaconry Synod

The gloriously warm weather in Brittany in the third week of April ensured that the Archdeaconry Synod of France and Monaco began well at the Abbaye de St Jacut de la Mer, from 18th to 21st April. Members of the Synod enjoyed the generous hospitality of the community, which helped to mitigate against the emergency structural repairs taking place on the guest accommodation.

The warm sunshine was also welcome because so many dark clouds threatened to overshadow the opening of the Synod. Rising political tensions on the world stage had resulted in France, Britain and America carrying out bombing raids on Syria in the days before we met. The painful, but necessary, process of admitting how we have failed to make the Church a safe place for the vulnerable, and how the abuse of power went unchecked for so long, had been laid bare at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in London the previous month. We also knew that, by the time we meet as a Synod in 2019, those of us who possess only a British passport will have formally ceased to be full citizens of the European Union.

As we settled down to a varied pattern of worship, inspiring and informative presentations by our visiting speakers, and the delight of one another's company, it became clear that the sun was here to stay!

Our Bible studies (<http://northernambo.blogspot.be/2018/04/citizens-of-nowhere-citizens-of.html?spref=tw>) were led by one of the Church of England's passionate Europeans: Michael Sadgrove, Dean Emeritus of Durham. Taking two sections of the Passion narrative in John's Gospel, Michael spoke incisively on the theme of citizenship and identity, as we were invited to consider what it might mean to be citizens of nowhere, citizens of everywhere, and citizens of the kingdom of God. Combining deeply rooted scholarship with perceptive human insight, Michael illuminated the Gospel text with a keen awareness of our present context and our future. As he put it: "When we meet as friends of Jesus Christ and citizens of his kingdom, we always know that we are subjects of the same rule and authority, and this transcends all other kinds of belonging, whether it's the tribe, the race or the nation." Instead of pulling up drawbridges, we need to reach out to one another in truth and friendship, celebrating the citizenship we have in common both within the human family, and as brothers and sisters under God.

Grace Davie, Emeritus Professor of the Sociology of Religion at the University of Exeter, has a special place in the life of the Diocese, as one of our Lay Canons. Over many decades, her work has had a profound influence on our understanding of the place of religion in Europe, and has given us a memorable way of speaking about how many people do not worship regularly in churches but still describe themselves as "religious" in her phrase "believing without belonging." Grace's presentation helped us to understand the context of our mission and ministry "from within and from without." In particular, how the church grows where there are migrants; and that the decline in religious commitment we see around us is a European exception: "large parts of the world are as furiously religious as ever" she insisted. Grace also challenged some of the lazy assumptions that we encounter: "Don't ask if religion causes conflict" . ask under what circumstances religion becomes embroiled in conflict.

Knowing that Brexit, and the confusion it is producing, is causing worry for many people in our chaplaincies, I invited Matthew Lodge, Minister at the British Embassy in Paris (and a former Ambassador to Finland) to provide some clarity on the progress of the negotiations. He very helpfully disentangled fact from media hype; just as he was candid in saying there will be real changes after 23rd March next year, and that we still cannot fully know what they will look like. I am glad that the Bishop has committed to being with us when we meet as a Synod, and his two presentations were very well-received. The Bishop's first address, which explored future

strategy, including current financial challenges, for the Diocese, served to remind us that the Diocese in Europe is the European conscience of the Church of England. His second address, exploring how we minister to growing numbers of migrants in the Diocese, spoke with particular insight to the developments taking place in the Pas-de-Calais chaplaincy, and our partnership with the Diocese of Canterbury and USPG, as we recruit a new chaplain to serve this challenging context. The Bishop also presided and preached at the Synod Eucharist in the Parish Church of St Jacut on the final evening.

Mike Fegan, our Interim Diocesan Secretary, spoke candidly about the financial plan which will impinge on all of us throughout the Diocese, if we are to take our mission and ministry seriously. He answered the many questions with grace. In fact, the time we gave to the financial plan and to the daunting increase in Common Fund had a positive effect on proceedings: we face our financial challenges together, knowing that as fellow members of the Body of Christ, we belong together across many nations and will continue to cherish our common belonging in Christ. Our ecumenical calling as Anglicans in France is of the very essence of who we are. We were delighted to welcome Mgr Ginoux, Bishop of Mauntauhan on behalf of the French Conference of Catholic Bishops and Pasteur Emmanuelle Seyboldt, president of the national council of the Eglise Protestante Unie de France. Our relations with both churches go from strength to strength, as we seek new ways of expressing our common belonging, in the practical sharing of resources and by drawing from each other's well of spiritual resources.

It was good for me to share with Synod something of the shape of my diary since last year's synod at St Jacut. I hope it shows how more of you have seen more of me. Because this is the first time France has had an Archdeacon who, on being appointed, does not have chaplaincy responsibilities, it allows me to be out-and-about in a way that was simply not possible for my predecessors. Although I receive my stipend for being the Bishop's commissary and chaplain, and that's why my base is both in Brussels and in Limousin, I do enjoy travelling to chaplaincies throughout the Archdeaconry. and I am very grateful for the way our three Area Deans, Tony Lomas, Debbie Flach and Giles Williams support this ministry of oversight.

I left St Jacut on the Saturday morning, like so many others who had enjoyed the Synod, full of thanks and feeling thoroughly energized by our time together. Next year's Synod will be in Domaine Lyon St Joseph, just outside the center of Lyon from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th May. It may be a shorter synod but I promise it will be as full and as dynamic as this year's!

Meurig Williams, Archdeacon of France

Electoral Roll Officer's Report April 2019

The Electoral Roll is the register of electors of our two churches of St Mark's and St Paul's. For this year, it is the same as the list of the members of our church association, giving the list of those qualified to vote at the Annual General Meeting of St Mark's church association where elections may be held for membership of the Parochial Church Council and for representation on the Archdeaconry Synod. Your membership therefore has an influence on the work of the chaplaincy and helps make our voice heard at Archdeaconry and Diocesan level.

As required by church rules, the electoral roll is valid for 6 years after which time it must be rebuilt from scratch, which is the case this year. The new list contains 79 members, a reduction of 3 on last year, and will be valid until 2025. It should be noted that support for St Mark's and St Paul's cannot be solely based on the people included on the electoral roll. There are several who fairly regularly attend services and other events who do not wish to be included on the roll; and there are people who consider St Mark's (or St Paul's) to be 'their church' but may not come regularly and are not on the roll.

Membership is open to all who have been baptised and are over 16. If you would like to be added to the electoral roll or wish to discuss this, please speak to Mike Hudson or Maggie Simmons who will give you the necessary forms and be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Maggie Simmons

Saint Quentin housegroup report

The Saint Quentin housegroup meets fortnightly at the house of Christina and Philippe Galley in Voisins-le-Bretonneux, and it is open to anyone whether or not they live in Saint Quentin en Yvelines.

Our group had 8 regular participants last year. Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Karin and Tim Stahl in June 2018. At present we have 6 regular members, with a couple of occasional participants. We begin each meeting with a time of conversation, tea and cakes (often home-made!), then we move into the study, and finish with prayer. Sometimes we base our study on the Sunday sermons. Recently we have been using the Lifebuilders studies on Christian Disciplines. We value each person's contribution to the group and we are able to voice our doubts and opinions freely.

Our meetings are a valued source of support and fellowship, plus good fun, and we enjoy frequent socials (galette des rois, birthdays, end of year celebrations etc ..).

New members are always welcome! Do feel free to come along to a session and see how you like it.

Christina Galley

Oriental Home Group Report

This year sadly saw the departure of 5 regular members: Tracey & Raoul Fleming, Eva, Abbey and Ijeoma, to other countries or places (although Eva is coming back), but happily we gained one (Christine Milton). Otherwise our regulars are Phyllis, Paul, Maggie, Bunmi, Martin, Matt and Jenna, and less frequently Dan, Felicia, Joshua and Simon, as well as our locums and latterly Dale and Pat.

We currently meet in Chaville rive Droite on a Tuesday evening, hosted by Phyllis.

Our evenings generally start with a catch-up on the week with refreshments followed by singing in worship, Bible study and prayer. This year our Bible studies concerned the Psalms, Proverbs, Ephesians, Habakkuk, 1 John and Daniel. Threads of faith and prophecy through all. Several people take turns leading the Bible study. Besides our Tuesday evening meetings, we shared a summer barbeque and Christmas meal together and with the wider community.

Paul & Maggie Simmons

Versailles Home Group Report

The Versailles group continues to meet most Monday evenings in the church sanctuary. We have sadly lost 2 of our longest-standing members this year for reasons of health or decreased mobility. But we have been delighted to welcome Jenna Penski among us and have been greatly blessed by her contributions and her commitment. David Brown-Brulant has also joined us on a number of occasions and we have benefitted considerably from his enthusiasm and his excellent Bible knowledge.

The evenings follow the usual pattern of fellowship and refreshments, worship songs, intercessory prayer, focussing particularly on church and family issues, and Bible Study. We are at present studying the Book of Acts, using both Tom Wright's study guide and the LifeBuilder Study series as support material.

Our meetings are a valued source of friendship, support and encouragement, as well as good fun, with periodical convivial bring and share evenings and even the occasional restaurant meal (as on the eve of Shrove Tuesday this year).

If you are not already a member of a Home Group and are free on Monday evenings, please do come and join us!

Mike Hudson

Friday afternoon ladies group report

The Friday Ladies Bible study welcomes all who are free to join us in the afternoon for a time of Bible study plus personal sharing.

The size of the group varies depending on our busy lives but continually renews itself into new faces.

Over a cup of tea or coffee plus a cake or muffins or chocolate or other treats we dive into a study of the word through a themed study guide, currently right now ~~%~~Christian life+.

Together we have long discussions, deep reflections, intimate sharing and warmth and caring.

Elizabeth Harper

St Marks Youth Ministry Report

The Youth of St Mark's are a group of brilliant young people at an exciting phase of their lives.

They are also quite a diverse group each with their questions, doubts, strengths and challenges. The numbers of youth on a Sunday varies quite a bit with some very regular and others less so. We split into a College age group and a Lycée age group when we have enough youth and enough leaders.

The variability of numbers is a challenge, typically, we have around 5 to 7 youth, but it has been as many as 18 and as few as 1. This makes planning difficult and makes it hard to build friendships.

A highlight of the year was Easter Sunday 2018 when six of the youth (Emilie, Joanna, Julia, Zac, Ezra and Rassem) were baptised by immersion.

On Sunday mornings during the spring studied Luke together. We also had a couple of sleepovers and a joint event with Holy Trinity in Maisons Laffitte. There were some specific sessions for the Youth at the Church Weekend away.

During the summer of 2018 number of the youth attended the Something Else youth events as part of Lifestream Europe. We will be taking a group to Soul Survivor in the UK in August 2019.

In September we had an afternoon of paddle boarding at St Quentin which was an excellent time together. There was also a day of mince pie making together. The variable and relatively low numbers of youth has made it difficult to organise sleepovers or other social events.

During the Autumn we studied 1 Thessalonians in parallel with the adults (although we took more time).

The current pattern of Youth activities is 1st & 4th Sundays Bible study for all youth, 2nd Sunday activity based session for the College age youth, 3rd Sunday all age service with Youth Band.

It is worth noting that as well as there being a ministry to the youth there is also ministry by the youth. The youth of St Mark's minister to the rest of the congregation by leading worship, helping with tea and coffee and doing the projector amongst other jobs.

A Youth Policy is available to set out how we do things with the young people, if you want a copy of this let me know. If you want to know more about what we do with the youth talk to me, talk to one of the other leaders or talk to the youth.

The current youth leaders are myself, Vivian Socket and Karen Kendall. These people also have other responsibilities inside and outside the church hence have limited availability. Please pray that we might have the right mix of leaders for the future. If you think that you might be being called to help with the Youth please talk to one of the youth leaders.

Please pray for the youth, they are at a critical time in their lives as they move between childhood and adulthood and from following the faith of their parents to making decisions of their own. Pray for a continuation of their walk towards maturity in their faith and a deepening of their discipleship. Pray also for the leaders, that we may find the right ways to support and lead the youth, engaging effectively with all the youth and helping them to move on in their walk with the Lord. Pray also that the youth may be a good influence on each other, ministering to one another and bringing out the best in each other.

Alan Kendall

Galaxies Report

Galaxies is the children's ministry at St. Marks. We meet three Sundays a month for children aged between 3-11 years. The third Sunday of the month is an all-age service when the children stay in the main meeting. We aim to teach the children lessons from Bible Stories that can be applied to their lives through a variety of activities. For example, listening and role play of the stories, craft, games or DVD. We encourage the children to pray and grow their faith in the Lord Jesus. The children learn in a safe, fun environment with a great team of enthusiastic teachers and helpers.

There are two **classes**: **X-Streams** 7-11 year olds and **Sparklers** 3-6/7 year olds. Each class is led by a teacher and a helper.

Each week after registration we practice our memory verses as well as sing songs or play a game connected to the story we will be teaching later. We are thankful to Catherine Etienne for finding memory verses with music so that the children can sing along and help them remember. You can encourage the children to learn the memory verse which is printed on the notice sheet.

The lessons are prepared each week by the teachers using online **Lightlive** material from **Scripture Union**. Although attendance and numbers are irregular, on special holiday celebrations there is usually a good attendance. For instance in December the children sang a little town of Bethlehem during the **Carol Service** and enthusiastically took part in the craft activity making Christingles. On **Easter** Sunday the children enjoyed the annual Easter Egg hunt in the church garden. This year Catherine and Robin produced our first **Galaxies bulletin** so that parents can understand better what we are doing, and hopefully increase their participation in what has to be a co-operative project - the education of their children in God's ways.

We saw some teachers move away so I want to thank the team for their flexibility and especially Maggie for managing the (very dynamic) rota and often standing in the gaps. We welcome Kirsty, Margaret, Robin and Hélène to the team

The team at present is:

X-Streams Teachers: - Paul Simmons, Sarah Hartley

X-Stream Helpers: - Maggie Simmons, Delphine Turnil, Kirsty Castex, Robin Vogelsang

Sparklers Teachers: - Sandra Warner, Muriel Kom, Catherine Etienne

Sparklers Helpers:- Hiroko Schoch, Margaret Hancock, Hélène Wilkinson, Lucile Blangy

In November we organised a day **training workshop** with other English speaking churches in Paris, which was a very stimulating occasion for exchange of ideas (against the backdrop of the early gilet jaunes demonstrations).

We continue to sponsor a boy (Kenji) from the Philippines through SEL for whom Sarah Thorley handles the correspondence.

Finally **thank you** to all who give ongoing encouragement for the team. Please continue to **pray** for this precious work to the children of St. Marks.

Paul Simmons, Galaxies Leader

Operation Stephen Report

Operation Stephen was named after the man appointed by Jesus's disciples to help feed the needy in the early church. In offering a breakfast and welcome on Saturday mornings it is our aim to provide a similar service to those in need in Versailles: principally the homeless and those who live on the margins of established society. In this we complement other associations in the Versailles area, which provide basic needs for these people. Occasionally one of the leaders attends the regular meetings organised by social services for representatives of the Versailles associations which work with the homeless.

We can only hope to help our guests in a small way, but hopefully by providing a consistent service we provide a little stability and loving care to their lives. The numbers of guests fluctuates, from a handful to up to 15. Because of the small-scale format, meaningful contact with the guests is possible in a way that is not with the larger soup kitchen, and many volunteers have known the guests for several years now.

We held our first breakfast at St Marks in October 2002, and have been running continuously virtually every Saturday since then. Since 2006 we have had the additional support of volunteers from our neighbouring Roman Catholic churches Saint Michel in Porchefontaine and the Eglise du Nazaréen in rue du Peintre Lebrun, Versailles. It is a great pleasure to work with these people from other churches, and also those who do not attend any church.

Currently we have approximately 15 volunteers on our core roster, with several loyal and long-serving members stepping down from the team in 2018 and some newcomers joining. We have 10 from St Marks and St Pauls, 4 from Saint Michel, one from l'Eglise du Nazaréen. The Operation Stephen team is currently quite small and therefore there is a real need to ensure attract a few more volunteers so that we can continue to offer this breakfast every Saturday of the year. Various other members of the St Marks congregation have very generously kindly stepped in to help during holiday periods to ensure year-round continuity.

We have teams of 4 on duty every Saturday led by the chef who is responsible for unlocking and locking up, and buying the bread (or obtaining unsold bread from the previous day from a couple of local bakeries in Versailles Porchefontaine). Other team members often bring extra items such as croissants, cake or fruit. One volunteer, Laurence, has attended to cut guests hair. Our chefs begin the breakfast with a short prayer at the table. Guests, including non-Christians, respect this prayer time.

The summer of 2018 showed a high attendance at the breakfasts with close to 20 guests attending as other facilities within Versailles are closed. Since early 2019 the average number of guests has fallen from 8-10 per Saturday down to 6-8. This is in part down to a few regular guests moving on or deciding not to attend and also another breakfast offer opening on a Saturday in the centre of Versailles..

Over the past year there was one incident of violence with a guest being banned from Operation Stephen for a period of one year.

A meeting was held in November 2018 with some of the volunteers to review practices and identify areas of improvements. This led to a few small changes in rules, notably an explicit clarification that racist remarks were unacceptable during the breakfast and a more structured approach to managing any disciplinary actions.

It is planned to organise an annual BBQ with the Op Stephen guests on Saturday 29 June. A local scout group, led by the daughter of one our French volunteers, has offered to help organise this event.

Thank you to all these volunteers and especially Elizabeth Harper who does our shopping and keeps the kitchen in order.

Dan Roulstone

Fair Trade report

On 11th November 2018 we asked Artisans du Monde Versailles to come and do the Christmas sale for the second time. As in 2017, the sale was only one Sunday instead of two, because AdM couldn't leave their products with us from one Sunday to the next. They had more handicraft than food products this time, and made slightly less profits than last year.

Here is the post-sale letter from Artisans du Monde, to Dale Hanson:

Bonjour Pasteur,

Avec retard, certes, je tenais au nom de l'équipe Artisans du monde à vous remercier d'avoir permis, cette année encore, que le commerce équitable et éthique que nous défendons et représentons puissent être présent le 11 novembre dernier dans vos locaux.

Comme on dit "les petits ruisseaux font les grandes rivières" même si modeste que soit une vente elle nous permet de présenter au public que nous rencontrons qui nous sommes et les valeurs que nous défendons afin de permettre à des familles en grande difficulté de connaître une vie meilleure, d'être reconnues grâce à leur travail mieux rémunéré, et le soutien technique que nous leurs apportons également.

Je tiens aussi à remercier Auréa qui nous a accompagnés avec beaucoup de gentillesse.

Nous sommes presque à la fin de l'année et bientôt à l'aube de la nouvelle, moment tout indiqué pour vous souhaiter personnellement de belles fêtes ainsi qu'à toute votre communauté.

Avec nos remerciements.

Pour Artisans du Monde Versailles

Christiane Rousseau et Mireille Evin

S.E.L. (Service d'Entraide et de Liaison)

S.E.L. is the French equivalent of Tear Fund, and has similar activities, mainly to support producers in developing countries and give them correct remuneration for their products, in addition to giving them aid for projects.

Sponsorship

Various members of the congregation (as well as the Sunday School) support a child in a third world country, corresponding with, and praying for him or her. The money sent pays for a good meal at school, some medical treatment and something towards Christmas / birthday presents. Those not wanting a specific relationship with specific child may contribute toward the « *ticket repas* » system.

SEL also helps in disaster relief. SEL is also involved in more long-term projects, like construction or digging of wells. Remember that if you pay income tax in France, you get back 60% to 70% of what you pay to charities like SEL. These are extremely generous provisions, well worth taking advantage of.

Aurea LARANANG

Missions Report

As is our custom the church tithed our income from the previous year and donated it in seven equal parts to the eight organisations shown in the table below, with the last two organisations (RIVE and SU) sharing one part.

Organisation	People	Website	Focus Fr/Int	Focus E/A*	St Marks Champion(s)
CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)	Nabil and Sarah Shehadi	http://www.aandp.co.uk/beirut/index.htm .	I	E	Logans/Simmons
ICS	Richard Bromley	http://www.ics-uk.org/	I	E	(Richard Bromley)
JEWS FOR JESUS France	Joshua Turnil	http://www.jewsforjesus.org/	FI	E	Joshua Turnil
OPEN DOORS (Portes Ouvertes)	Vivian Sockett	https://www.opendoors.org	I	EA	Vivian Sockett
WEC France	Bodsworths	http://www.wec-france.org	F	E	Bodsworths
RIVE (Réseau Inter-partenarial de Versailles et ses Environs).	-	http://accueil-rive.fr/	F	A	Harpers
Scripture Union		https://scriptureunion.org/	I	E	Paul/Galaxies team
CNEF (Vaux sur seine)		http://lecnef.org/	F	E	Joshua Turnil

*E : Evangelism ; A : Action

We also gave a donation to the church in Sakahara, Madagascar, to complete the building of the wall started two years previously. We have also maintained other links with the Diocese of Toliara in Madagascar, and Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor, visited us again last Summer. The small local women's enterprise which Maggie and Sue Babbs helped start in Toliara in 2016, with help from donations from churches like ourselves seems to be doing well. See <http://www.peoplereaching.org/>

In addition, we supported a child in the Philippines, Kenje, via SEL
And of course our local Operation Stephen continues . see separate report.

Paul Simmons