



L'ÉGLISE ANGLICANE DE TOUS LES SAINTS DANS L'HÉRAULT

ALL SAINTS, HÉRAULT
(The English Church At Saint-Pargoire)

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS
OF THE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL**

for the year ending 31st December 2024

Chaplain

Revd Dr Roy Cole, 6 Place Henri Toulouse Lautrec, 34120 Pézenas

Churchwardens

Patricia Bigot and Nigel Summersall

HonTreasurer

Graham Gardner

Secretary

Nigel Summersall

Bankers

La Banque Postale, Centre Financier, 13900 Marseille Cédex 20

Independent Examiner

Robert Wilson

Annual Report 2024

All Saints Hérault Chaplaincy Council (CC) has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, spiritual, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for compliance with French Association Law as well as the Canon Law of the Church of England. The chaplaincy is part of the Church of England Diocese in Europe and is a regularly constituted and registered Association Culturelle (Law of 1901) and Association Culturelle (Law of 1905) under French law.

Membership

Members of the Chaplaincy Council (CC) are appointed ex officio (Chaplaincy Clergy, Churchwardens and Synod Representatives) or directly elected to the Council by the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting. Further members may be co-opted by the CC, in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

Following the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting held on 20th March the CC comprised the following members:

Chaplain	Revd Roger Smith	
Wardens	Patricia Bigot Nigel Summersall	
Representatives on the Archdeaconry Synod	Julie Johnson Jim Mallett	until 2026 until 2026
Elected CC Members	John Gifford Phyl Mallett Sue Robinson Ian Thomas Jac Phillips Graham Gardner Trevor Jones	until 2026 until 2026 until 2026 until 2025 until 2025 until 2027 until 2027

CC Officers (appointed by the Council, at the first meeting after the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting):

Chairman (ex-officio)	Revd Roger Smith
Vice-Chairman	Nigel Summersall
Secretary	Nigel Summersall
Treasurer	Graham Gardner assisted by Nigel Summersall
Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Bigot
Safeguarding Officer & ID Checker	Steven Hopkins
Environment Link & Youth Officer	Post not filled
Website Manager/Publicity	Delia Smith
Social Events Organiser	Jac Philips & John Gifford
Music Team Liaison	Sue Robinson
Setting-up Rota Organiser	John Gifford

The chairmanship of the Chaplaincy Council passed to the new Chaplain, Revd. Roy Cole after his installation on 8th October.

John Gifford resigned from the Council on health grounds in September

Standing Committee

This committee is required by Church law. Members are the clergy, the churchwardens and two other members of the CC. For 2024 these were Graham Gardner and Jim Mallett . The Standing Committee has power to transact the business of the CC between its meetings, subject to any discretion given by the Council. Given modern communications it is usually possible to consult all Council Members electronically before taking action on decisions required between meetings and this was the case in 2024.

Electoral Roll

As at 31st December 2024 there were 68 members on the Chaplaincy Electoral Roll, all of whom were full- or part-time residents in the Hérault. The Roll is due for renewal as of January 2025 using new enrolment forms prescribed by Diocese.

Review of the year

The CC held four formal meetings during the year, of which the latter three were of the members elected at the 2024 Chaplaincy Meeting. An additional, informal meeting was held in July to familiarise the incoming Chaplain with the members and work of the Council

Three Chaplaincies Project after the recruitment of Roger's successor

The recruitment of Roy was agreed between the three chaplaincies in January/February and formalities (terms of service, visa etc were put in hand. His emoluments (housing allowance, medical insurance, travel) had been agreed upon recruitment and the split of these costs between the three chaplaincies was agreed as All Saints' and Saint George's: 37.5% each, St Michael's: 25% corresponding to his officiation in the respective chaplaincies. A schedule of his Sundays in each of the chaplaincies has been agreed, with Roger and (when here) Gwilym substituting when schedules clash

Worship Leaders

The situation regarding our other worship leaders during 2024 is summarised below.

In 2023 Revd Gwilym Richards was granted PTO (Permission to Officiate) at All Saints and Gwilym has given valuable help during 2024. He and Sharon come to France on the 3-months here, 3 months there cycle permitted since Brexit. In 2024 Gwilym preached/officiated four times

Jane Griffin, a Reader from the Salisbury Diocese, who has worshipped with us for some years when in France, obtained PTO for All Saints in 2022. Jane did not lead our worship in 2024

Our resident Reader, Julie Johnson continues in poor health, alas, but was nonetheless able to preach On Ash Wednesday in 2024. We feel for her suffering and deeply appreciate what she continues to bring to our worship.

Worship

This year we celebrated 28 services of which 26 were Holy Communion. The service of the day was held on Good Friday and the Installation of our new chaplain was officiated in a successful and moving service for the occasion by our Archdeacon Revd Peter Hooper. Roy has celebrated communion for us at eight services since taking up his duties in July, the remainder being taken by Roger and Gwilym (as mentioned above).

Live music was again occasionally provided by Tim Newitt and Ian Thomas, who also continues to share the arrangement of recorded music for our services.

This year, alas, the service at Notre Dame de Roqueselles could not be held at Pentecost due to Simon Coulshaw's grave illness, from which, mercifully, he is now recovering.

Harvest Festival this year was celebrated at Saint-Pargoire on 6th October. Again, there was no raffle for Restos du Cœur; instead plentiful offerings in the form of provisions etc were laid at the altar.

Remembrance was celebrated on 17th November.

Lent Course and Prayer Group

Jenny Morgan writes:

Prayer Group.

The prayer group has continued to meet on the second Wednesday of each month except through the summer months of July and August and sometimes September when people are away on holiday. Usually, we meet in the Bethlehem Chapel at St. Joseph's de Mont Rouge in Puimisson and just occasionally in the Chapel of St. Giraud in Puissalicon, if Mont Rouge are unable to host us. The group varies in number from a maximum of about 10 when visitors arrive from UK to about 5-6 normally.

We spend time initially considering people we know, or know about, who need our prayers and the local and world situations that arise at the time and then we pray for them. After a short Bible reading there is a brief reflection prepared by a different member of the group each month. We then spend up to half an hour in silence before ending with a hymn and final prayer. All are welcome and please feel free to ask for the group to pray for you or others whom you know who would be grateful for prayer in their present circumstances.

Lent Course 2024.

The Lent course in 2024 was called , "Thoughts of God" by Andy Colebrooke and was based on the film " The man who knew Infinity". It explored the biblical theme of being at home and in exile and how science and religious faith interface with each other. It told the story of the Hindu mathematician Ramanujan and his life at Oxford university. The groups were held for 5 consecutive weeks in different homes, each lead by a different member and each session commenced with coffee and ended with a light lent lunch of soup , followed by fresh fruit. The sessions were well attended with 18 people taking part and an average of 12 to 13 at each meeting. Donations were accepted for charity on each occasion and this year the money raised was given to Bishop Robert's Appeal for the Anglican Centre in Rome € 100, and € 420 to Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees.

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month. We then spend up to half an hour in silence before ending with a hymn and final prayer.

Archdeaconry of France Synod Report 2024

Jim Mallett writes:

The spring Synod meeting was held by zoom in two sessions, on the 1st and 4th of June. During the first session, there was a review of 2023, and information about the 1901 and 1905 associations. It was reported that 16 new chaplains had been appointed and that 10 chaplaincy were currently recruiting or considering the matter. This was followed by Synod administrative and financial business. Finally, there were contributions by the Diocesan Net-Zero Officer and the Refugee Officer.

Safeguarding

Steven Hopkins writes:

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

This is my fourth and final annual report to the council, and I would like to thank Ian Thomas, first of all, for volunteering to take over my responsibilities and, then, completing the necessary safeguarding checks and training so quickly to be able to do so.

- What Safeguarding is (and is not)

The chaplaincy makes a distinction between pastoral care and safeguarding: **pastoral care** involves looking after members of the congregation in need of support (in the widest sense), **safeguarding** seeks to ensure that all relationships among church members, including, but not limited to, pastoral care, are held to strict deontological standards. The chaplaincy makes a further distinction, based on advice from the DST, between **safeguarding** and **health and safety issues** such as safe access, the accessibility/visibility of the first aid kit, and the publication of warnings and instructions regarding the use of electrical equipment, such as the coffee urn. The latter are the concern of everybody, of course, but ultimately the responsibility of the churchwardens,

- Safeguarding concerns

Since the last annual report, the chaplaincy has not had to deal with any safeguarding issues nor has it undertaken or initiated any formal activities which would have required people to go through safeguarding clearance procedures. The dashboard is a C of E tool which helps parishes to stay up to date with their administrative safeguarding obligations. Roger and I have access to modify information, and the Churchwardens have access to view it. I gave access to Ian to view as part of the handover, but once he takes over fully as safeguarding officer, **he must have access to modify, Roy should be given access to view, and Roger and I should have our respective accesses removed. I attach the latest Action Plan and the summary for the attention of the council.**

It documents what the chaplaincy council needs to do as of 12th. January, 2024. This mostly involves the review and re-approval of certain policy documents.

I ask the chaplaincy council to ensure that these actions are carried out before the end of February, 2025 and to inform Ian of the date when these actions are

completed along with any comments to allow him to update the dashboard. Pending this, certain previously green 'traffic lights' have been turned to amber.

- Chaplaincy commitment to safeguarding

The commitment of the chaplaincy council to safeguarding has been fairly reflected this year in: the prominence given to safeguarding information on the chaplaincy's website, on church notices, and at the entrance to the chapel.

However, the congregation has sadly shown itself unresponsive to encouragement to take the Basic Awareness training (C0), and some members of the chaplaincy council have yet to send me documentation of their own training to allow me to update the dashboard. For this reason, the dashboard indicator regarding 'Training for Key Roles' has remained red throughout the year. Regarding this, might I yet again suggest making either eligibility for election to the council or voting rights on the council dependent on having the completed the required C0 safeguarding training and the additional training pathway on Domestic Abuse?

Ian and I have also discussed organising with the help of Graig Norman, the diocesan safeguarding training coordinator, a collective training session to raise awareness

Link with Toliara

Carol Gardner writes:

After I came back from Madagascar last year our congregation raised just over 700 euros for the diocese of Toliara for their water project. This was welcomed by Bishop Sammy. However the money raised for Mme Lalao's bike is on hold as Deacon Tomboasy told me that she has joined another church called the Welcome Church. I don't know what that means or where it is, and if it is under Bishop Samy's jurisdiction. The Bishop is holding this money at present. Deacon Tomboasy said Fenoarivo church needed some repairs but I haven't had this confirmed or any response from Deacon Tomboasy as to what the Bishop or Rev Delphin thinks this money would be best used for as yet. I will send an email to the Bishop as to the current situation.

In the meantime there has been considerable flooding recently due to the current monsoons and the Cathedral Complex was under water. Rev Delphin sent a video of himself and his son sweeping water from one of his rooms in his accommodation in the Cathedral Complex. This is also discussed in the recent Friends of Toliara news letter, Rev Delphin also sent pictures and a short video of waterlogged crops in the area he is now presiding over north of Toliara town.

Music Team Report 2024

Susan Robinson writes:

The Music Team consists of four members of our congregation - Alison Kane, Carol Gardner, Sue Robinson, and Ian Thomas. Ian has particular responsibility for the coordination of live music during some of our church services and has joined Nigel in the role of collating music for our services - our thanks go to both for their work and expertise in this area.

Alison, Carol and Sue meet several times a year to bring together their choices of hymns

based on the prescribed readings and collate a list of suggestions which are sent to Roy who has the final say. As a team we try to take into consideration the varying backgrounds of our congregation and sometimes select a tune or version of hymn which may not be 'the norm'. Sometimes we choose a hymn which is not included in the green hymn book we use for our services and we are grateful for the extra work involved with the printing the words on these occasions. Consideration is also given to the lists of 'favourite hymns' which have been provided by members of our congregation. We would always welcome any new requests so please don't hesitate to approach a member of the Music Team.

During 2024 we were treated to live music from Tim, Ian and Martha and our thanks go to them. Tim's trumpet solo of The Last Post is always a powerful moment in our Remembrance Day Service. We look forward to more live music during 2025. Again, if anybody would like to volunteer their services with regards to musical contributions, we would be delighted to hear from you."

Website and Communications

Delia Smith writes:

As well as trying to describe our chaplaincy to visitors and newcomers, our website is designed as the "go to" place for news and information for our members, which seems to be sadly under-used. We expect most visitors find our website via a link from "A Church Near You", which we keep up to date with our service information, especially at Festivals.

Ecumenical Activities

Again this year, no formal ecumenical worship was programmed. Informally our relations with our brother churches remain most cordial and our new chaplain is actively involved in building the relationships. At least one joint service is already planned for 2025

Temple: premises and chattels

The agreement with the Église Protestante for our use of the Temple at Saint-Pargoire expired in October 2024. Given the Église Protestante's likely intention to give up the Saint-Pargoire premises our own move to another place of worship becomes a near-term prospect

All chattels are fully recorded in the inventory register. .

Support for Charities

Charitable donations from unrestricted church funds have so far been governed by the "tithe" guideline (10% of general fund income) enabled funds to be set aside for the additional expenditure which has been and continues to be incurred onwards in connection with Roy's recruitment, installation and ongoing costs of Roger's successor General fund income in 2024 amounted to €15,992 and it was agreed that a further €1,000 could be donated to charities. This sum was in addition to the €250 donation in July to Simon Coulshaw to relieve the enormous disruption and distress to his family and household brought on by his illness and €250 to Fondation de France for the Mayotte disaster.

Donations from unrestricted church funds

€250 to the Bishop's Advent Appeal

€250 to Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees

€250 to Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar

€250 to the UNICEF appeal for Gaza (

Donations from the Discretionary Fund:

Simon Coulshaw	€250
Fondation de France for Mayotte	€250

Donations from restricted incoming donations, collections and fund-raising:

Bishop's Lent Appeal	€100
Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar (for water distribution)	€710
Restos du Cœur	€600
Bobbie's Book Sales for Croix Rouge Ukraine appeal	€294

NB the Book Sales proceeds were not disbursed until after year end and so this donation is shown as the balance of Restricted Funds in the attached accounts

Planned Giving (France) and Gift Aid (UK) Schemes

Total Pledged Giving in 2024 amounted to €10,059, slightly up on last year. Monthly giving amounts to 74% of total unrestricted collections. We now count a total of sixteen regular donors.

These figures again vividly illustrate our dependence on a handful of regular donors and provide a good reason to consider making one-off or regular donations by cheque or bank transfer, which would of course benefit from tax relief.

Financial Report

The salient features of the accounts presented here may be summarised as:

- Total income increased by 24% thanks largely to exceptional restricted donations for Restos du Cœur, Fenoarivo and Roger & Delia's farewell gifts
- Total expenditure at €15,594 up by a factor of almost three, chaplain expense up by nearly €4,000 and (restricted) donations by €2,400. Exceptional items of expenditure were Carol's travel costs for Madagascar, largely covered by donation and the catering cost of the reception after the Installation service for our new chaplain
- The monthly transfer of €500 to the Succession Fund was suspended after Roy assumed his duties in July. It is gratifying that in 2024 no call was made on the Succession Fund for Roy's arrival or running costs
- Chaplaincy funds are held wholly in bank accounts (sterling funds are held on an account with Diocese). At year-end €44,552 (75% the total) was held in an interest-bearing Livret A which earned interest of €1,298 in 2024.. This savings account, intended as cover for the Succession reserves which stand at €46,850 has not yet been needed. The balance is held on current accounts with La Banque Postale and with Diocese..
- The statement of receipts & payments analysed by class of fund (Unrestricted, Designated or Restricted) to/from which monies are paid is presented in a note to the accounts. We are also obliged to report to the Diocese in Europe in a standard format which corresponds to the main accounts presented herewith.
- We are indebted to Robert Wilson who from last year has taken over the rôle of Independent Examiner of our records.

Conclusion & Thanks

This year we had to mourn the passing of Barry Marsh, a founding member of the English Church at Saint-Pargoire, as All Saints' was known before becoming a chaplaincy in its own right. We are happy that his widow, Barbara, continues as a very active member of our congregation and as significant organiser of aid for the Restos du Cœur

For us as a congregation this has been a landmark year with the arrival of our new incumbent and Roger's "retirement". Our thanks go to Roger and Delia for their years of outstanding service since 2013 and for their continuing contribution to our worship.

2025 may well be equally epoch-marking if the need to move to a new place of worship comes to pass

We welcome Ian Thomas as our new Safeguarding Officer and express our sincere thanks to Steven Hopkins for his outstanding service in the role over the years.

Our thanks also go especially to John Gifford for his valuable contribution to our work before health obliged him to resign from the Council and hope that, with recovery, he may soon rejoin us.

As always, our thanks are due to all who contribute in so many ways, especially the music and setting-up teams and the intercessors, to maintain and sustain our life as a Christian community in these for us especially challenging times


Nigel Summersall

February, 2024


Vice-Chairman & Secretary to the Council

~~Reverend Roy Cole~~

Chairman of the Chaplaincy Church Council

February, 2024