

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 31 December 2023

Chaplain

Revd Roger Smith, 14 Rue du Parc, 34480, Autignac

Churchwardens

Patricia Bigot and Nigel Summersall

HonTreasurer

Secretary

Graham Gardner

Nigel Summersall

Bankers

La Banque Postale, Centre Financier, 13900 Marseille Cédex 20

Independent Examiner

Robert Wilson

Annual Report 2023

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 Cultuelle (Law of 1905) under French law.

Membership

Members of the Chaplaincy Council (CC) are appointed ex officio (Chaplain, 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	Julie Johnson	until 2026
Archdeaconry Synod	Jim Mallett	until 2026
Elected CC Members	John Gifford	until 2026
	Phyl Mallett	until 2026
	Sue Robinson	until 2026
	Ian Thomas	until 2025
	Jac Phillips	until 2025
	Delia Smith	until 2024
	Graham Gardner	until 2024

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

Chairman (ex-officio)

Vice-Chairman

Secretary

Minutes Secretary

Revd Roger Smith

Nigel Summersall

Nigel Summersall

Delia Smith

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 Organisers Jac Philips & John Gifford

Music Team Liaison Sue Robinson Setting-up Rota Organiser John Gifford

Standing Committee

This committee is required by Church law. Members are the clergy, the churchwardens and two other members of the CC. For 2023 these were Graham Gardner and Delia Smith. 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 2023.

Electoral Roll

As at 31st December 2023 there were 69 members on the Chaplaincy Electoral Roll, all of whom were full- or part-time residents in the Hérault.

Review of the year

In response to the recently legislated requirement, communicated to us by the Archdeaconry, for all 1905 Associations Cultuelles to re-register their Statuts, the opportunity was taken to adopt a new set of Statuts, standard for all chaplaincies in France. This was done at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened on 4th June 2023.

The CC held five meetings during the year, of which the latter four were of the members elected at the 2023 Chaplaincy Meeting. Two of these four had agendas dedicated to the ongoing project to identify and recruit a successor to Roger, who will retire in 2024. The latter of these two was held jointly with representatives St George's and St Michael's, whom the new priest will serve jointly with ourselves. Three of these meetings were held by Zoom.

Three Chaplaincies Project for the recruitment of Roger's successor

Ian Thomas, co-ordinator of our representatives on the project team, writes as follows:

The proposed retirement of Roger in July 2024 has focussed the attention of the Archdeacon of France, Peter Hooper, upon the recruitment of a priest who will serve not only All Saints here in Hérault but also St George's, Vernet-les-Bains, in Pyrénées-Orientales and St Michael's in the Gard, both of which chaplaincies have been without a priest for some years. Accordingly, All Saints Chaplaincy Council appointed our two Churchwardens and Ian Thomas to represent our community in the recruitment process. To that end, with the approval of the other communities we created the key documents of Role Description, Person Specification and Joint Chaplaincies Profile. The position, a three years contract on a House for Duty basis, has been advertised twice in The Church Times, together with vacant posts in three other chaplaincies in France. Some fourteen information packs were requested by possible applicants. Subsequently, two Zoom 'webinars' were conducted. The first of these was an opportunity for representatives of all (ie our three plus those from the rest of France) the chaplaincies to market themselves to about a dozen interested parties. Three men and one woman priests expressed interest and these were interviewed in a second, structured interview. All the chaplaincies' representatives then selected those candidates whose applications they wish to pursue. One candidate was declined by all chaplaincies, reducing the number to three for the four vacant posts. Since then a fourth candidate has appeared, expressing an interest only in our three communities. There is planned for early January a further Zoom session - just for our three chaplaincies - at which the new candidate will be interviewed and at which all candidates can question us in detail. Assuming no candidates drop out, they will be invited to physically visit us later in January, when there will be an opportunity for all to meet them. An offer will then be made to the preferred candidate.

Worship Leaders

The situation regarding our other worship leaders during 2023 is summarised below by Roger.

In 2022 Revd Gwilym Richards was granted PTO (Permission to Officiate) at All Saints and Gwilym has given valuable help during 2023. He and Sharon come to France on the 3 months here, 3 months there cycle permitted since Brexit.

We had hopes that Revd Kevin Conroy from the Church of Ireland, who obtained PTO with us in February 2023, would be also able to help. Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for his new parishioners, in the spring he was appointed Rector of the group parishes of Stillorgan & Blackrock in the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough. That will reduce considerably the time that he and Olive can spend in France.

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 took one service of Morning Prayer for us in 2023 and helped whenever possible, but the time that she and John are in France is limited.

Our resident Reader, Julie Johnson continues in poor health, alas, but was nonetheless able to preach at seven services during 2023. We feel for her suffering and deeply appreciate what she continues to bring to our worship.

Worship

This year we celebrated 26 services of which all but Good Friday and Trinity 19 were Holy Communion. Gwilym Richards celebrated on four occasions, Jane Griffin led morning prayer on one, Roger on the remainder.

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

This year, thankfully, the service at Notre Dame de Roquessels could be held at Pentecost followed by the traditional lunch in the chai at Domaine des Trinités. Simon kindly donated the proceeds of wine sold on the occasion to our chaplaincy.

Harvest Festival this year was celebrated at Saint-Pargoire on 1st October. There was no raffle for Restos du Cœur; instead plentiful offerings in the form of provisions etc were laid at the altar.

All Saints and Remembrance were celebrated on 5th November.

Prayer Group

Jenny Morgan writes:

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 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.

Lent meetings

Lent Lunches resumed their traditional format in people's homes with sequences from a film being viewed and then forming the subject discussion of their spiritual message. In 2023 the film was "Casablanca" and the study book was "A beautiful friendship" by Paul Kerensa & Zoë Young. The average attendance at the course was 14.4 and 18 people came to at least one of the five meetings. The Lent fundraising was extremely successful with €693 in total being raised for LSR and Fenoarivo.

Wednesday Group

The Wednesday Group has been in abeyance since COVID struck in 2001. The convenor, Jim Mallett, intends to update us on possibilities for 2024 (including the planned Theology Sessions) at the AGM.

Theology/Doctrine Discussion Group

A proposal put to the congregation to hold occasional informal discussions on the fundamentals of our Christian faith and Anglican doctrine has proved popular such that the first session, facilitated by Roger, will take place in January 2024 in the home of Tim Newitt.

Synod Report

Jim Mallett writes:

There was no full Synod meeting as such in 2023, but there was a Finance Meeting on the 4th March.

Session 1 was concerned with the diocesan financial strategy for 2023-2026, the aim of which is to enable mission and ministry to flourish in the diocese.

Session 2 considered what is changing in our chaplaincies post Brexit and Covid.

Session 3 looked at the challenge of good financial stewardship. One of the main lessons of this session was the need to motivate giving by showing what the church is doing and how it is meeting people's needs.

Session 4 was about archdeaconry business, the accounts for 2022, the budget for 2023 and details of subsequent meetings for the year. A meeting took place on the 30th March to inform and consider the updates for French laws and the re-registration of French chaplaincies in particular. There was a follow-up meeting on the 4th May to monitor progress and clarify issues.

Bishops Robert and David wrote a letter to chaplaincy clergy and churchwardens in November about the 'Living in Love and Faith' initiative, which we discussed at our last meeting.

Safeguarding

Steven Hopkins writes:

This is my third, and penultimate, annual report to the council.

I would like the council to identify a member of the congregation to whom I can hand on safeguarding responsibilities over the course of the coming year.

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 Diocesan Safeguarding Team (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.

Safeguarding concerns

Since the last annual report, the chaplaincy has not had to deal with any safeguarding issues nor has it undertaken any formal activities which would have required people to go through safeguarding clearance procedures.

Safeguarding dashboard

The dashboard, to which Roger and I have access to modify, and to which the churchwardens have access to view, is a tool which helps parishes to stay up to date with their administrative safeguarding obligations. I use the Policy and Action Plan from the dashboard to remind the council of what it needs to do, such as the review and re-approval of certain policy documents and training requirements.

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 once again suggest making either eligibility for election to the council or voting rights on the council dependent on having completed the required C0 safeguarding training and the additional training pathway on Domestic Abuse?

Link with Toliara

Carol Gardner writes:

Our link with Rev Delphin is mainly provided by prayer within our intercessions and responding to money requests concerning the needs in Toliara and in particular the parish of Fenoarivo. This included 250 Euros sent by All Saints at Christmas time which translates as 1,222000,00 Ariary. Rev Delphin has messaged to say the money will hopefully be allocated to try and set up a goat farm centre as part of their parish development which sounds a good idea! Rev Delphin is very good at sending pictures of the activities he undertakes such as baptisms and some of the services in aid of various celebrations. There was a lull in his communications in the late autumn while his wife was unwell but we are very pleased to hear that she seems to be at home now and making a good recovery. I think we need to finalise the allowing of photographs within St Pargoire so we can be more proactive in sending photos of our church activities and the type of congregation we are!

The Friends of Toliara reports tell of a new women's prayer centre in Mangily which has opened to include handicraft workshops for the women. They are also hoping to open a little shopping outlet there, to sell their products along with the crafts created by women within the women's centre at the Cathedral complex.

There have also been various courses run within Toliara from which leaders have been chosen to discover women's various skills and talents plus the setting up of women's financial savings groups to enhance activities in the diocese.

I hope to visit Toliara along with Jane and John Griffin in June which will be very illuminating and I hope will give All Saints a better understanding of their sister parish in Madagascar. When I visit Fenoarivo I think it could be useful to take a small amount of provisions for the teachers and children within Rev Dolphin's school projects, so I aim to provide more marmalade to raise funds to help with this idea. In the meantime I will find out from Rev Dolphin what would be more useful to them.

Again we pray for direction and inspiration for the ongoing links between All Saints and Fenoarivo, particularly in this year of transition for us, for our combined future together in Christ.

Music Team

Susan Robinson writes:

The Music Team consists of four members of our congregation - Alison Kane, Carol Gardner, Sue Robinson and Ian Thomas. Ian was appointed during 2022 and initially had the responsibility for coordinating live music during some of our church services but has now joined Nigel in the role of collating music for our services - our thanks go to both Nigel and Ian for their work and expertise in this area. Our thanks too go to Roger who has occasionally had to take on this role in addition to leading our service - no mean task.

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 for Roger 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'. 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 2023 we were treated to live music from both Tim and Ian and our thanks go to both and we look forward to more contributions during 2024. 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

Roger Smith writes:

It's easy to find a Church of England church in England. Every city, town and village has at least one, usually with a large tower, often with a spire. Here in France we're not so obvious, and the internet is how we get ourselves known.

Most people will use a search engine like Google. Depending on what they search for, they might come up with the Church of England's 'A Church Near You' website, the Diocese in Europe's website or even the Archdeaconry of France's website. Our chaplaincy is listed on all three of those, with links to our own website.

If you have ever searched for an organisation, clicked on the website and found that the latest 'news' is several weeks or months old, you will know what a poor impression that gives. I try to keep 'A Church Near You' up to date and our webmaster, Delia Smith, makes sure that our website is topical, interesting and attractive to look at.

As well as being our 'shop window', the chaplaincy's website is also there to keep the congregation informed about what is happening, so everything relevant to that purpose can be found there, including notices of events, Council agendas and minutes.

The website had about 3,000 visits last year, nearly 90% of which were new visitors, and 4,500 page views. 'A Church Near You' had 3,700 page views last year.

Ecumenical Activities

In this year for the second year running, no formal ecumenical worship was programmed. Informally our relations with our brother churches remain most cordial and we hope for a resumption of the normal programme in 2024.

Temple: premises and chattels

The annual renewal (and signature!) of the agreement with the Église Protestante for our use of the Temple at Saint-Pargoire was concluded and signed in November and is valid until October 2024. Given the Église Protestante's reduced need for the Saint-Pargoire premises, a move to another place of worship may eventually be necessary.

All chattels are fully recorded in the inventory register. The donation of altar linen from the bequeathed chattels of Jenny and Gordon Guest was gratefully accepted.

The intention to acquire two further chalices when suitable ones can be identified stands.

Support for Charities

Charitable donations from unrestricted church funds are governed by the Council's decision to use the "tithe" guideline (10% of general fund income). This will enable funds to be set aside for the forecast

additional expenditure which will shortly start to be incurred from 2024 onwards in connection with the recruitment, installation and maintenance of Roger's successor. General fund income in 2023 amounted to €14,845 and it was agreed in November that a further €1,000 should be donated to charities. This sum was in addition to the €250 donation in February to Islamic Relief for the earthquake in Syria/Turkey and €250 in May to Fenoarivo (our partner church in Madagascar) from the Discretionary Fund.

Barbara Marsh led our efforts for Restos du Cœur as in previous years, buying about 75 Christmas presents and 50 boxes of chocolates from money given directly to her. Barbara also raised €207 from a collection in September.

Our cash donations to LSR (Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees) were enhanced by Judy Newitt's collections of food and household necessities for LSR, brought to church by members of the congregation.

Donations from unrestricted church funds

€200 to the Bishop's Advent Appeal (Christians in South Asia)

€50 to Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees (to add to the €150 raised by John Gifford at Harvest) €250 to Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar

€250 to the UNICEF appeal for Gaza (rather than Morocco & Libya as that appeal was closed and there was now urgent need for aid to Gaza)

€250 to the UNICEF appeal for aid to Armenia

Donations from the Discretionary Fund:

Islamic Relief (Syria/Turkey earthquake)		
Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar (Tropical cyclone Freddy)	€250	

Donations from restricted donations, collections and fund-raising:

Fenoarivo parish in Madagascar (Tropical cyclone Freddy)	€462
Languedoc Solidarity with Refugees	€381
Bobbie's Book Sales for Croix Rouge Ukraine appeal	€268

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 2023 amounted to $\[\in \]$ 9,863, gratifyingly returning to pre-Covid levels, however the current level of pledged regular monthly giving amounts to $\[\in \]$ 9,100 annually. We now count a total of fourteen 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:

- Collections were up slightly from 2022 but total income by 20%, thanks to resumed Lent and Harvest fundraising, the donation of the Roquessels wine sale by Simon and of Roger's travelling expenses. Our thanks to them both.
- Total expenditure at €5,806 was down by 15 % thanks to slightly reduced charity giving, the absence of Diocesan or Archdeaconry quotas or exceptional charges from PICRIGHTS and a pleasant surprise a refund of overcharged insurance premia.
- The monthly transfer of €500 to the Succession Fund was maintained throughout the year.

- Chaplaincy funds are held wholly in bank accounts (sterling funds are held on an account with Diocese). At year-end €43,255 (83% of the total) was held in an interest-bearing Livret A which earned interest of €1,107 in 2023. This savings account, intended as cover for the Succession and Discretionary reserves which stand at €43,850, will undoubtedly start to be drawn down in 2024 with the expected appointment of Roger's successor. 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 this year took over the rôle of Independent Examiner of our records and has given us his clean certificate.

Conclusion & Thanks

For us as a Christian family, sadly, the most marking event of the year was the sudden death of Francis Bigot, husband of our churchwarden Patricia on 30th October 2023. We all share Patricia's grief, pray for his soul and for her and that she will in time find closure.

For us as an institution the scene is increasingly dominated by the succession process.

As we see from Steven's Safeguarding Report we shall need to identify a new Safeguarding Officer in 2025

As always, our thanks are due to all who contributed in so many ways to maintain and sustain our life as a Christian community in this year of ever more imminent change.

Nigel Summersall

Vice-Chairman & Secretary to the Council

February, 2024

Reverend Roger Smith

Rev Sink

Chairman of the Chaplaincy Church Council

February, 2024

Rue de Peyne

34290 Alignan du Vent

France

ASSOCIATION L'ÉGLISE ANGLICAN DE TOUS LES SAINTS DANS L'HÉRAULT

28 January 2024

I have independently examined the books and financial records of the above Association for the year ended 31st December 2023 and found these Accounts to be in accordance with the books and records of the Association.

Robert Wilson MA Cantab

Alignan-du-Vent

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

2022	ASSETS		2023	
41,616		Cash at Banks Cash	<u>-</u> _	51,765.59
		Other Assets		
41,616		Total Assets		51,765.59
	LIABILITIES	3		
		Chaplaincy Account		
41,616		As at Jan 1st 2023	41,616	
		Surplus (Deficit) for the year	10,152	
41,616		Account as at 31st December		51,766
		This consists of		
		Unrestricted Funds	7,648	
		Restricted Funds	268	
		Designated	43,850	
		Total	51,766	
<u>41,616</u>		Total Liabilities		<u>51,766</u>

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

2022				2023	
		INCOME			
		Collections			
8,052		Planned	9,025		
805	8,856	Sterling	838	9,863	
3,699		Plate including restricted	3080	•	
	12,556	Total		12,943	
		Fees,other donations			
			1,064		
295		Other donations (restricted)	267		
	295	Total	20.	1,331	
		Fund Deleine Fuente			
		Fund Raising Events	400		
		Lent Lunches	462		
		Harvest	115	-	
_	0.00	Total		577	
	462	Interest and Investment Income		1,107	
	12 212 T (OTAL INCOME			15958.00
EXPENSES	13,313	STAL INCOME		_	13936.00
EXPENSES		Chaplain Accommodation & Expense			
707		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	044		
737	707	Chaplain Expenses	944		044.00
	737	Total			944.00
500		Charitable Giving Contingency fund	500		
		• •	0		
1,053		Other inc restricted	U		
200		Fellow Churches	1112	(of which €962 to Fenoarivo)	
1,200		Support for Charities	872		
	2,953	Total	0.2		2484.00
	2,000	Diocesan & Archdeaconry Quotas			2101.00
454		Diocesan & Archdeaconry Quota			
707	454	Total			0.00
	454				0.00
200		Exceptional Items	24		
200			34	-	
	200	Total			34.00
	200	Total			34.00
000		Upkeep of Church Fabric	4 000 00		
900		Upkeep of Temple	1,200.00		
367		Insurance	260.00		
16	4 000	Other Premises Cost	70.00		4500.00
	1,283	Total			1530.00
		Service and Admin costs			
79		Bank Charges & Legal	102		
92		Books etc for Congregation			
310		Printing and Consumables	379		
151		Publicity	227		
582		Other	106		
27		Exchange Adjustments and other			
_	1,186	Total			814.00
_	6,811.93	TOTAL EXPENSES		-	5806.00
_	6,500.79	SURPLUS or (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		-	10152.00

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

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

		As at 1st January 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Payments	Transfers between Funds	As At 31st December
Designated Funds	Succession Planning Disaster Appeals	37,850		500	6,000 500	43,850 0
Restricted Funds	AGM & Lent Fund raising LSR & Fund Raising Harvest Book Sales Ukraine	k Toliara)	693 150 268	693 150 0		0 0 268 0 0 0
Unrestricted Funds	General Fund	3,766	14,845	4,463	-6,500	7,648
TOTALS		41,616	15,956	5,806	0	51,766