



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH – LISBON PRESBYTERY REPORT, MARCH 2020

STATUS

We have once again been fortunate to have Rev. Norman Hutcheson, our Interim Moderator, leading our worship from the beginning of October 2019 until April of this year. This sense of stability is wonderful for the congregation and a great help to the Elders. One of our newer Elders, Daniel Pawley was going to take over from Session Clerk, Nina O'Donnell, the role of Safeguarding co-ordinator, but decided that he preferred to help in other ways. Fortunately, Aubrey Meyers has agreed to fulfil this role and is very enthusiastic to get involved. Both she and her husband, who have moved to Lisbon from the States, attend Sunday morning worship every week, unless they are away. Aubrey has also taken over the role as Librarian and is re-organising the books into various sections so that they will be easier to distinguish the categories. This is a time-consuming job.

Finally, our Lift is installed and is a great asset. It is located by the disabled toilets and goes directly down into the kitchen area.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

Our contribution to the installation of the Lift depleted our funds and so did the work to the roof of the old Manse. Fortunately, we are still in a relatively stable financial state. The Philippine Ambassador continues to be very happy renting the old Manse and has expressed her desire for future Ambassadors to continue living there if and when she returns to the Philippines.

The downstairs hall is still in great demand. As the Lisbon Players lost their previous accommodation, they have been using both the hall and church. They put on a play called "The Lover" by Harold Pinter, which sold out to a full house, therefore they will be contributing part of the money raised to the church funds.

ECUMENICAL

The annual Remembrance Day Service, run by the British Legion in Portugal, is a large event drawing not only ex pats, but also the Bombeiros (Fire Brigade) of Lisbon, whose trumpeter plays The Last Post. Each year, because of the large numbers involved, the event takes place in St. George's Church, Lisbon and is supported ecumenically by St. Andrew's Church.

Both our Christmas Services were well attended, and we were blessed by the singing of a young Hungarian/Romanian girl, who asked if she could sing during the Service as she missed singing with her choir back home in Cluj-Napoca.

During December Rev. Norman Hutcheson was involved for the first time with the Lusitania Congregation. Whilst they are part of the Anglican world, they are a distinctive Portuguese language church.

In January Rev. Abilene Fischer from St. Paul's Cathedral preached the sermon, in St. Andrew's Church to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Rev. Norman Hutcheson also preached the Sermon in the Lusitania Church during the month of December.

St. Andrew's was also involved in the large-scale Youth Event (Vigilia Ecumenical Jovem). This event, which was attended by hundreds, drew young people from many churches in the city to mark Hospitality for the stranger in the midst of the city, following the narrative of the welcome the Maltese people gave to St. Paul. The challenge was to discover how to welcome strangers.

The World Day of Prayer is being held this year in St. Paul's Church, Estoril, and three members of St. Andrew's are taking part, including our new Safeguarding co-ordinator.

We also have three weddings scheduled for later in the year.

FUTURE

As we wrote in our Report to Presbytery last October, we continue to feel very positive for the future and are blessed that younger members of our congregation are stepping up to become more involved in the church life. We still welcome visitors from all over the world who tell their friends of the warm welcome they are given, and some come to worship with us when they visit Lisbon because of this. The Bible Study group took a short break but will start again on the 15th of March.

N. M. O'Donnell
Session Clerk



Aubrey & Dustin Meyers



Rev. Norman Hutcheson
Lusitania Church



The Lisbon Players



The New Lift – view from the WC corridor



Remembrance Day Service - St. George's Church, Lisbon



Susan Borbandi
Hungarian/Romanian