

Rev. John Keith Kimber, Chaplain 1992 – 2000



Studied Chemistry and Philosophy 1963-66 in Bristol University. Met and married Clare during our time in Bristol and raised a family of two girls and a boy.

Ordained 1969 and 1970 for the ministry of the Anglican Church in Wales. Served in a Valleys mining Parish, Birmingham University Chaplaincy, Rector in three urban multi-cultural Team Ministries in Bristol, Worcester and

Llandaff Dioceses, plus six years with USPG as an adult educator in Wales.

We arrived in Geneva end of 1992, following Revd Mervyn Puleston. The Vicarage was a large house on Rte Suisse, which was about to be sold. A five year lease agreement saw us move to the Vieux Port villa, in Versoix, Partly motivated by cutting the commute to church, cutting costs and reducing maintenance, when the lease ran out, in 1998, the Chaplain's residence moved to a spacious apartment in rue de Montbrillant, Geneva.

During my time at HTC, the new Common Worship liturgy was introduced alongside the 1662 BCP and we saw in the new millennium. The sous-sol stair lift was installed to help the older members of the congregation to access the church hall and toilets in the basement.

An entirely lay led, self-seeding exercise initiated by John and Peta Tracey, eventually grew into a self-supporting chaplaincy, La Côte Church, Under Revd Puleston, Evensong was held in the village church. On my watch, we moved from monthly to fortnightly and then weekly services, alternating Evensong and Communion. Sunday school started when there was just one service, and just grew, reflecting the number of Vaud ex pat residents needing spiritual sustenance.

Julia started a crèche which became Sunday School. I prepared her for confirmation and supported her as her vocation to ministry developed into ordination training; the Gingins community, thus producing a priest of its own: Rev. Julia Chambeyron. I left Geneva a year before Julia was ordained and returned to witness the fait accompli. Gingins support was already at a viable critical mass stage when I left, and discussions to establish it as a separate chaplaincy were under way. After Julia was ordained the Divonne les Bains, FR, church plant happened.

Moving to Monaco for a brief spell in 2001, we returned to Wales in 2002 and another city centre ministry at St John's City Parish Church in Cardiff's central business district. Half the shopping centre was demolished and rebuilt, while Church, city and international rugby carried on as usual!

I retired in 2010 and started work as a voluntary locum pastor in Llandaff diocese and the diocese in Europe, mainly in Spain. Still active with no intention of stopping any time soon, echoing St Paul "Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel."