

Testimonial in Honour of France Amétis

By Canon Barry Thomas, Former Chaplain

Our years at St Paul's were enriched by knowing and living close to France. I remember very clearly the warm welcome she gave us on our arrival in Monaco, and throughout our time at the Chaplaincy she was always helpful and willing to share her vast knowledge of the church with us. At all times she was respectful of myself and Delyth and never referred to us as anything but *mon pere & madame*. Everything was always in place in the church and sacristy well before a service was due to start; the altar prepared, the hymn boards up, the books out and so on; she took her duties very seriously and regarded it a privilege to serve the church to her very best ability.

As a close neighbour she was thoughtful of our needs without being intrusive and we shared a happy friendship which was real and valued. We learned to communicate in spite of our deficiencies in French and she was an asset in helping us to become a little fluent in the language.

We used to enjoy our trips out in the car with her and she delighted in showing us the church of her baptism and first communion in Peone as well as her *gite* in Valberg.

These outings reminded her of those she and Maurice had made many years earlier with Pere Matthews. A yearly 'pilgrimage' was made to Maurice's grave at All Soul's Tide to say a prayer and this would be followed by lunch in La Turbie.

She took a lively interest in Nia and Huw and birthday and Christmas cards came regularly to Wales until quite recently.

We thank God for all that we shared with her and remember her with fondness.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.