

The Carol Service went well, we were able to issue invitations widely by email newsletters, on the social media and personally, and we were more people than would have fitted in Dan.

The Maison de la Bible in the city centre continues to know God's blessing, with new volunteers, increasing sales and stories of lives touched by God's word.

Please pray for our close colleagues, Peter and Alison Kennelly of Open Air Campaigners and James Hammond of Grace Baptist Mission, who works with students. Both are huge encouragements in the work, and James often preaches for us enabling Alan to take a break. James is also continuing his theological studies by distance in French. Challenging!

Our application for French nationality should be submitted in the next few months, after Pat's French exam and once all our documents have been translated.

Our application to Acts29 is progressing.

Church visits will be planned for June, and might involve both Pat and Alan this year.

And above all please pray for new life in this city! *Many thanks!*

*Alan, Pat,
Gwilym and Catrin*



**A Bible Church
in the heart of Bordeaux
To glorify God
To strengthen Christians
To reach anyone and everyone
with the Gospel of Christ**

Help us to reach Bordeaux with the gospel!

1) Please consider praying for us regularly

You can receive this prayer letter
by email from : alan.davey@gmail.com
by post from : Mr. P Harman

Ingleby House
14 Haxby Road
York
YO31 8JX

2) Please consider supporting us financially

Contact: admin@ufmworldwide.org.uk
or by post: UFM Worldwide
145 Faringdon Road
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 5DL



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united for mission

Daveys in FRANCE

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For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
(2 Corinthians 4)

Dear friends,

We wish you all a happy and blest New Year. A new year can bring new opportunities and challenges, new horizons to explore.

So it is in Bordeaux. In November, having had several services with standing room only, once with eight people standing in corners of the room or squatting on steps, we took the reluctant decision to leave Dan at the end of the year, although we had nowhere to go. Work had not started on the new bigger restaurant. So we began searching.

Firstly Alan wrote to the three churches situated around the city centre to ask if we could use their premises on Sunday evenings. Then we looked for other options, meeting with the owner of a small theatre and visiting a couple of other potential places.

Meanwhile we had already asked the Brethren Assembly if we could use their premises for a Carol Service on Saturday, December 10th, and they had agreed. And that Saturday we heard that the assembly had agreed that we could meet in their hall on Sundays from January.



What's it like? It's a large hall that can seat over 100 people. It has benches arranged in a wide U shape around a central table. There's a piano, a kitchen and a courtyard. We'll be able to set aside a children's corner. We can have enough space for simultaneous translation. We'll have far more possibilities than there were in Dan.

It's situated just outside the centre of the city, opposite the ruined Roman amphitheatre. Strangely apt for our studies in Romans starting this January! It's about a ten minute walk from the Quinconces monument and from Gambetta, and there are shops, cafés and little supermarkets round about, as well as parking-places for the determined.

We will miss being right in the very centre of the city, and Dan's restaurant layout imposed on us a certain intimacy that made it naturally very easy to welcome and to get to know new people. In the new premises we'll need to work harder at that, and to make sure that

people don't all try to sit at the back!

So there are pros and cons, opportunities and challenges, and it feels like a new beginning.

In addition we can rethink our outreach strategy. We have a hall now where we can openly invite people without being fearful of too big a response! So how much do we use cafés and restaurants — 'neutral territory' and how much do we use our new 'home turf'?

Please pray for us in this time of transition. We don't want to establish traditions

that can never be changed, but we do want to find the best ways to glorify God and to reach people.

Meanwhile we had a nice, restful family Christmas together, doing the usual things, cinema visits, board games, etc. It's very hard to put Gwilym back on the plane to London.

Health-wise, there have been a few little challenges. One Sunday in December Alan had a slight illness during the service — he couldn't see properly and read like a small child. His doctor put it down to a one-off near fainting experience. We were told sternly to rest over Christmas, and so we did. On New Year's Day Pat took a nasty tumble in the city centre and ended up in A&E being checked over. She's OK and getting the bruises out.

