



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas de Calais
BOULOGNE CONGREGATION
April 2015 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,



Tulip from *Tulpenboek* (1643) by Judith Jans
Leyster (c.1609-1660) Frans Halsmuseum
Haarlem

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Sitting, a few days ago, in the car on the quayside at Dover, waiting for a delayed ferry for Calais to arrive, I saw the sky was constantly changing colour. The overall grey quickly giving way to ominous formations of grey-black, white-edged clouds; there was rain in the air. Then, almost suddenly, whilst glancing away for a moment, the sun broke through and everything looked altogether different and for good measure, the ship was finally manoeuvring into its berth. April weather I thought! As there was still time to kill before boarding, I switched on the radio and found myself listening to a retransmission of choral evensong from Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral, originally broadcast on March 25th for the Feast of the Annunciation, sometimes known as Lady Day. A service to celebrate the archangel Gabriel's visit to Mary, to tell her that she would become the mother of Jesus. In his homily the speaker drew attention to the fact that this day formally marked the Spring Equinox and when there was no distinction between secular and Christian calendars, it was also considered as New Year's Day. He pointed out January 1st did not take up its present familiar role until after 1752.

In the UK, a vestige of this ancient calendar remains with the dates of the British Tax Year. Back before 1752 it simply started logically enough on New Year's Day (March 25th). But the reason for its change to the present April 6th, was as a result of the country finally having to bring its calendar into line with the rest of Europe. To achieve this, a short year

of 354 days was required, however, the Treasury was not happy, it felt it would lose revenue so instead of moving to the new date of January 1st and making an exception just for once, it contrived to tamper with the old calendar, opting for an adjustment to suit its purposes. And so we have it still in use today.

It might feel rather strange having New Year's Day falling in Lent, or even at Eastertide. But the idea of starting the year on one particular date is largely a secular concept with different climatic implications around the world. In reality, every day is the start of a new year - if we want it to be. But the most important 'new year' to Christians is Easter with the drama of Holy Week giving way to the joy and reassurance of the resurrection - a new beginning: "...by his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," (1 Peter 1:3) - what better new start could there be. So the month's adage rings true, as the April skies continually change, the showers give way to sun and the flowers bloom again with new life in the months ahead. Happy Easter. (MG)





Planned services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne

>**Sunday 5th April 2015 10h30 / Easter Day** Eucharist service to be led by Rev Charles Hill. Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-9; Ps 118: 21-34; Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-18

>**Sunday 19th April 2015 10h30 / Third Sunday of Easter** - Eucharist service led by Rev David Radcliffe. Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-end; Psalm 4; Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

>**Sunday 3rd May 2015 10h30 / Fifth Sunday of Easter** - A service of morning worship, with hymns and readings

>**Sunday 17th May 2015 10h30 / Seventh Sunday of Easter** - Eucharist service conducted by Rev Charles Hill. Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

News and dates for your diary:



Our New Churchwarden - after seven years of sterling service by Mrs Lalage Glaister, we are pleased to announce that Mr George Murray was unanimously voted in, at the March 15th AGM, as churchwarden. He will be officially installed in the post at the Easter Sunday service. George is a semi-retired consultant in international marketing and business development. He has lived in the north of France since 1993 and for much of that time has taught in various business schools. He still remains active in business matters, being involved in the management of several local companies. George was widowed in 2011, and now lives mid-way between Calais and Boulogne in the pretty village of Havelinghen. He can be contacted on ☎03 21 36 53 87 or e-mail: george.murray@orange.fr

The rest of the PCC remains the same as last year with Graham Hughes as Treasure and Malcolm Gale continuing as secretary.

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April there will be a service at the home of Linda and Jean-Marc Pilière at 8 Résidence Le Ruisseau, La Capelle-lès-Boulogne at 19h00, followed by a supper (€5) please confirm if attending ☎03 21 32 49 76

Easter Day - 5th April - Eucharist service at 10h30 in the chapel and on **Sunday 19th April** we welcome back, after a long absence, the Rev Canon David W Ratcliff for Eucharist on the Third Sunday of Easter at 10h30. Rev. Ratcliff, although now retired, was one time chaplain at the Anglican Church in Stockholm, he is now based in the village of Elham, situated deep in the Kentish Weald.

There will be a **meditation** organised by the Association Œcuménique du Littoral on **Good Friday 3rd April** from 12h15 to 13h00 at the l'Eglise Protestante Unie, rue du Temple in Calais Also a **Dawn Celebration of the Resurrection**, on **Easter Sunday 5th April** at 07h00 to take place on the beach at Wissant (north end) - light refreshments provided. See the Calais page on our web-site or phone 0321362747 for more information.

Lay-led services

Recently our lay-led services have been held in one of the rooms at the rear of the Monastère, this has proved very successful as it brings together the smaller numbers in a way the larger chapel cannot. *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."* Matt 18.20



The Bishop in Europe - Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes, EASTER MESSAGE 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“We are an Easter People and Hallelujah is our Song!”

The great St. Augustine of Hippo wrote these words 1600 years ago and they have spoken to people through the ages down to our own time. Being an Easter people means that resurrection is part of our life experience. Easter celebrates how Jesus dies and rises in each of us – in our personal lives and in the community of the church. Easter celebrates how Jesus is present in our daily work, our relationships, the joys and sorrows of the world.

We are an Easter people, in a Good Friday world. Within Europe, many countries continue to live with the grinding effects of austerity. In the South of the continent, we have a whole generation of young people growing up without work. Eastern Ukraine has faced the misery and devastation of armed struggle. This is in addition to the conflicts in the wider world – in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria and Iraq – with their tragic humanitarian consequences.

In this kind of world, it could seem that the only God in whom we might believe, or refuse to believe, would be a deist god – that is, a god who may have created the world back in the mists of time but has since then left it alone to run down by itself. Whilst philosophers might find it interesting to debate whether or not such a god exists, the deist god would not make any practical difference to the way the world is.

By contrast, the Christian Easter insists that God is not a god who is far off, but one who in Jesus draws very near. In Jesus, God himself comes among us. As the Church Fathers insisted, “what God has created, only God can redeem”. In his bursting from the tomb on Easter Day, God releases new energy into the world. Far from allowing his world to decay, according to a relentless law of entropy, God in Christ initiates a programme of renewal. Beginning with the first disciples, a new community is created that exhibits a remarkable degree of joy, hope, and love. 2000 years later, the Easter people is still growing rapidly in number, especially in Africa, in China and in some other Asian countries.

Unfortunately, in the old continent of Europe, the churches (or at least the traditional churches) are generally not enjoying numerical growth. Our own Church of England has been declining at the rate of about 1% per year for many years. On top of this, the average age of our church has increased so that it is now much higher than the average age of the UK population. This means that, even if we manage to replace all those who leave the church, we will still decline as a large proportion of our current membership comes to the end of their lives. Moreover, a bulge in the clergy age distribution means 40% of our clergy are due to retire in the next 10 years.

Faced with this reality, one approach would be to dig our heads in the sand and either pretend that decline wasn't happening or that it doesn't matter. If our God was a God who had simply left the world to decline in its own way, than that might be permissible. But as an Easter people we simply daren't do this!

Aware of the great challenge facing the church, the General Synod at its meeting in February approved a range of reports that constitute an ambitious programme of 'Reform and Renewal'. At the heart of these is a renewed commitment to personal discipleship across all dioceses. There are plans to alter the way in which central church funds are distributed so that the church particularly addresses areas of deprivation and possibilities for growth, plans to increase the number of candidates for ordained ministry by 50%, proposals to simplify the process of church planting, all backed by a significant investment programme from the Church Commissioners.

The February General Synod was a gathering of some historic significance, and it left me with a real sense of hope in the future of our church. But all of us are aware that 'renewal' is not something that can be programmed or managed centrally. Renewal happens personally and locally. It is in our local congregations that lives are touched by the love of Jesus. It is through personal friendship and invitation that people come to know and follow the Lord. It is in the gathering for worship of our local communities that minds are challenged and hearts transformed.

This Holy Week, I will be spending Palm Sunday in Naples and Easter Sunday in Florence. I am deeply thankful to all our clergy and lay people who will be involved in the preparation and conduct of worship for Holy Week and Easter. I pray especially for those who will be endeavouring to communicate the Easter message in ways that will connect with regular churchgoers and visitors alike. I hope there will be an expectancy that people will come to faith in Jesus through the welcome and worship we offer. We have a great story to tell and a wonderful song to sing! I wish you a blessed and joyful Easter,

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

Other services in the Chaplaincy...

Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church) - Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr

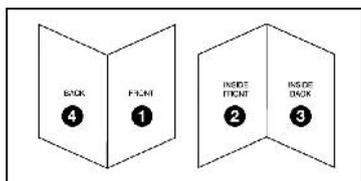
Hesdin's regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – 10h30, Eucharist Service 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Evening Prayer. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin. - Church Warden: Hazel Crompton, ☎03 21 03 31 27 e-mail: james.cromp@free.fr

=====

If anyone needs any form of help or assistance or if you are aware of someone who is ill, either in hospital or at home and would appreciate a visit, or alternatively if you know of anyone who you feel may benefit from prayer, please contact the church warden: George Murray ☎03 21 36 53 87, e-mail: george.murray@orange.fr or otherwise the secretary.

=====

If you have any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send them to the secretary Malcolm Gale: malcolm.gale@dbmail.com - ☎03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44 or by post to 76, rue de la Paix, 62200 Boulogne sur Mer.

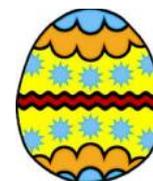


Printing your newsletter: This newsletter is designed to be printed at A5 size - select the 'livret' or 'booklet' printing format on the print management page of Adobe PDF Reader, this turns it into a handy A5 size four-page leaflet – of course remember to pass the paper through your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

This newsletter can be found, together with other information about the Chaplaincy, on our website at: <http://www.anglicanspdc.com>

And just for the fun of it ...

The word sudoku puzzle is a simple variation on the number sudoku – sometimes known as a 'wordoku'.



Here's a simple one – just use the letters A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I in place of figures; the normal sudoku rules apply. Use each letter only once in each box, likewise in each line horizontal and vertical made up of 3 boxes.

	G		H	C		D	I	
D					G			C
C	B		D			A		
H						C	G	
I								B
	F	B						E
		I			E		F	D
B			I					H
	E	D		H	A		C	

Answers to last month's 'Amazing Anagrams'
When the letters, in each clue are rearranged, the following is produced:

- THEY SEE (7 letters two words)
THE EYES
- HERE COME DOTS (12 letters three words)
THE MORSE CODE
- CASH LOST IN ME (12 letters two words)
SLOT MACHINES
- IS NO AMITY (9 letters one word)
ANIMOSITY
- TWELVE PLUS ONE (13 letters three words)
ELEVEN PLUS TWO
- I'M A DOT IN PLACE (13 letters three words)
A DECIMAL POINT