



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais BOULOGNE CONGREGATION

April 2019 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 77

Treading Deep Water

On March 20th, I attended the first of the four Wednesday morning Lent services at the home of Rev Kirrilee Reid. My experience of the Advent series was that God can use them to dig deep. I expected to be challenged by our focus on the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. We read the account in Matthew 4:1-11 and were invited to ponder the nature of Satan's three temptations of Christ. Our meditation was based on modern paraphrases of the temptations and our discussion focussed first on how the devil might tempt us to worship something other than God. We concluded that the evil one takes our own wants and perceived needs and



Le Havre, bateaux de pêche sortant du port 1874 by Claude Monet (1840-1926)
(Los Angeles County Museum of Art)

strives to turn them into our 'god', the object of our worship. He seeks to captivate us by 'show' or appearances rather than do the labour of uncovering true substance in our lives and in the lives of others.

I knew there was something here for me to unpack and God, in his faithfulness continued the process next day via a reading of Luke 5:1-11. I've spent the past twenty years writing fiction. Words are my thing and I'm deeply grateful to God for a gift that gives me such intense pleasure. My novels are not specifically aimed at the Christian market, but as one of my sons pointed out, they always manage to smuggle in Christianity. The comment wasn't intended as a compliment, but perversely, it gave me encouragement! Most aspiring authors know that the path to getting published is a long and torturous one. Like so many others, I've experienced all the highs and lows of attracting agent or publisher interest followed by crushing rejection. Incidentally, if anyone feels prompted to tell me how many times JK Rowling was rejected, don't be alarmed if I scream!

Anyway, back to the Luke passage. Such a vivid picture of empty boats pulled up on the shore; dispirited fishermen washing their nets after a fruitless night's fishing. We're privileged to live in a maritime area where fishing provides a livelihood for many. We can never underestimate the importance of a substantial catch. Their dejection also chimed with the frequent discouragement of my own writer experience. If I'd been writing a happy ending for the story, Jesus would have climbed into Simon's boat and immediately performed the miracle of an amazing catch of fish. Job done. But Jesus didn't do that. He climbed into the boat and asked Simon to put out a little from the shore so that He could continue more effectively teaching the people. Simon may have been hoping for a miracle too. He must have been exhausted, ready to trudge home for breakfast and bed. The request may not have been what he had in mind. But something about this man made him agree. He climbed into the boat with Jesus, and must have listened, maybe drowsily at first, eyes closed, lending half an ear, then perhaps more attentively, so that when Jesus finished teaching and commanded him to 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for the catch,' he was deeply sceptical, but he obeyed.

The resulting volume of catch was beyond Simon's wildest dreams. In monetary terms, the yield would have been considerable, the equivalent of an Amazon bestseller. But Jesus immediately shifted the emphasis to the higher priority he'd asserted when he first climbed into the boat. "Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.' The most amazing catch of their lives and they were willing to abandon fishing and follow Jesus. Humanly speaking, that didn't make sense. But their life-changing encounter with Jesus on the beach that day had demonstrated a different priority, and another aspect of our focus at the Lent Service, in Psalm 63. 'O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.' God encourages us in our hopes and dreams, our use of the talents and gifts He's given us. But they belong to Him and should serve Him. Without that priority, we stray into a dry and thirsty land. That was the baggage I had to unpack.



[Jackie L .



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

Sunday 7th April 2019 15h00 - Fifth Sunday in Lent Afternoon Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain: Rev. Kirrilee Reid. Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday 21st April 2019 10h30 - Easter Day Eucharist service conducted by Rev. Kirrilee Reid Readings: Acts: 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians: 15.19-26; Psalm 118.14-24; John 20.1-18

Sunday 5th May 2019 15h00 - Third Sunday of Easter Afternoon Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain - Readings: Acts 9:1-6; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19; Psalm: 30

Sunday 19th May 2019 10h30 - Fifth Sunday of Easter Eucharist service led by our Chaplain Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Revelations 21:1-6; Psalm: 148; John 13.31-35

Lenten Prayers 2019 at 23 rue Claude Debussy, Wimereux will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 10h00 (please note change of time) and on Wednesday 10th April at 10h30

News and dates for your diary...

Holy Week Services in the Chaplaincy

* **Palm Sunday** 14th April 10h30 Service of Holy Communion with psalms and readings on the Passion at Calais

* **Maundy Thursday** 18th April at 18h00 Service beginning with a shared meal and ending with stripping the altar and silence at the Monastère du Carmel, Boulogne

* **Good Friday** 19th April at 12h00, Service at Hesdin

Bible Study: Dates for April not yet fixed, please contact Colin Ley email: leycj@aol.com. ☎ 0688792185

Play-Reading: Daphne Clemens kindly bought copies of the play by Oscar Wilde 'Importance of Being Earnest' subtitled: 'A Trivial Comedy for Serious People' with a view to presenting a play reading. Daphne has now kindly lent these to the Chaplaincy and there is the possibility of using the scripts for a fund raising event in early autumn. To start things off it is proposed that an informal reading of the play take place in May. Anyone interested in taking part please e-mail: lalageglaster@gmail.com indicating when you would be free in May.

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 e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr ☎ 03 21 35 07 65

Hesdin's services: Normal pattern - 1st Sunday: 10h30 / 3rd Sunday: 16h00 (winter) 17h00 (summer-time.) Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin – Warden: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79

Contact details for our Chaplain: Rev Kirrilee Reid, 23 rue Claude Debussy, 62930 Wimereux ☎: 0983428753 or Port: 0766883484 email: kirrilee.reid@gmail.com 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 our chaplain.





WELCOMING THE STRANGER - Jane and Thierry Langlet report on a WORKSHOP IN ISTANBUL

Last month Thierry and I were invited to the Turkish speaking Anglican Church in Istanbul to lead a workshop on the theme of “Welcoming the Stranger”. This request came to us through l’Arche as they had been inspired by the writings of Jean Vanier (founder of l’Arche). The priest Engin and his wife Mine have set up a foundation working with refugees which provides support for Syrians living in the city and wanted to organise a workshop for those involved. From the start, they have been keen not to limit their work to charitable giving, but above all to seek to build relationships across the borders of culture, language and religion – a greater challenge in many ways than providing food or clothing. This resonated with our experience and we shared our stories from l’Arche and Calais where it has been essentially about meeting and entering into relationship with the ‘stranger’, the ‘one who is different or marginalized’.



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop - Mother Teresa

Turkey is of course on the frontline of migration, and has welcomed 4 million Syrian refugees. How easy in that context to feel overwhelmed by the situation and feel it is pointless trying to do anything. How easy to let the fear that is so prevalent in society take over and paralyse you. How easy not to take the risk as minority Christians to be too visible. Yet they are out there working with Syrian families, seeking to build bridges between the cultures. However small their foundation may seem in the context – a “drop in the ocean” - it is a real sign of hope and peace.



The foundation includes a kitchen where Syrian women cook and sell their delicious specialities!

We were interested to discover there were two Anglican churches in the city. One is English speaking but the one we visited is Turkish speaking. The liturgy has been translated into Turkish and although we

couldn't understand the language, we were able to follow the familiar pattern of the service. We discovered an incredibly vibrant community and had a wonderful welcome. Most of the members are Turkish of either Muslim origin or Armenian origin, with a few other nationalities. In a country where less than 1% of the population is Christian, we picked up how careful they have to be not to talk about their faith, especially for those who have come to Christianity from Muslim backgrounds.

Engin, who was priest there for over 10 years, actually moved last year to serve in a parish in London and gain a different experience. I hope that they will soon be visiting us and seeing the work Kirrilee does in Calais.





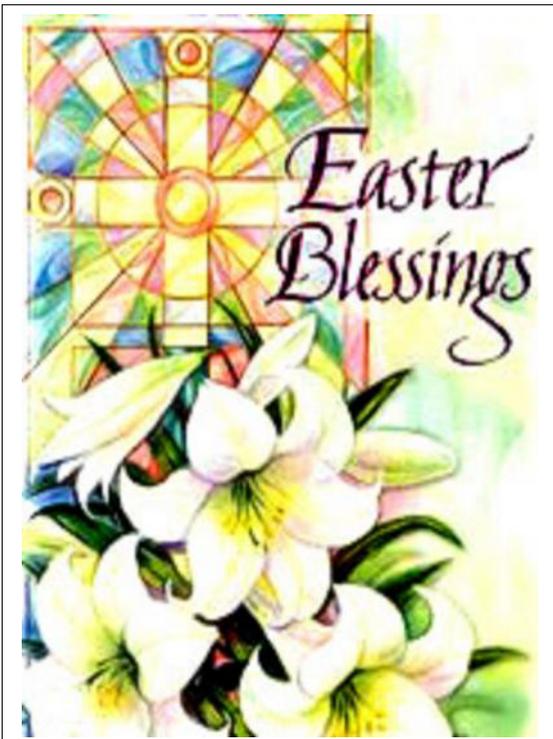
Back Page Comment by David Furbur

Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei, in Normandy, is listed as one of *Les Plus Beaux Villages de France* and has a beautiful 11th century Romanesque church. Inside on one of the walls are 14 Stations of the Cross in the form of small steel sculptures. This is the work of Christian Malézieux and was completed in 2001. Reading up later on what each of the 14 stations represented my attention was drawn to Luke 22: 54-62. This was the event which occurred whilst Jesus was being condemned to death as shown in one of the small sculptures. Peter had followed Christ in all his teachings and observed his miracles; he was his friend but when tested he denied his master, not once, but three times for fear of being arrested. 'Woman, I do not know him' (v 57).

It made me think because although we profess to be Christians, if we were in a life or death situation and our faith was tested what would we do? Assert our Christianity and die or deny it as Peter did and live. In the 21st century this situation is unfortunately a daily occurrence happening in communities who hold on to their faith and thus are either in constant danger and in many cases killed for their belief.

Despite many of the individuals, which I bring to mind, being in far off countries, I recollect the recent past and the troubles in Northern Ireland, when people died on both sides as a consequence of their strongly felt religious attachments...arguing about the same God... is it not the same as the sculpture shown above?

Then I ask, although we as the congregation may be weak, what would those who give up their lives to serve Christ do if challenged in a life or death situation, clergy, priests and bishops? Would they be any stronger than us to have the courage to assert their faith and die? Would and should we expect them to be stronger? We are only human and sometimes even to a point, when in ordinary social situations; we keep our faith under wraps. Facing the ultimate challenge, I am sure the majority of us would be counted like Peter. On the other hand there are many who will stand up and die for their faith. Somebody, or maybe a whole community of Christians will die at this moment of time for their way of life; let us respect them for their courage and honour them with our prayers.



This newsletter can be found, together with other information about the Chaplaincy, on our website at: <http://www.anglicanspdc.com>
Any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send to: malcolm.gale@dbmail.com
☎ 03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44
Deadline for May issue: 23rd April 2019

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