



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

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

Global Warming

The Christmas lights have been switched on earlier than usual this year in Boulogne. As they twinkle, illuminating the dark and cold winter nights, they set a particularly welcome tone of brightness in our world touched by headline news of terrorist attacks, heightened security levels, states of emergency, refugee crisis and a UN Climate Change Convention *et cætera, et cætera*.

True to say, back at the first Christmas, 2000 plus years ago, life was certainly not easy, peace and goodwill were the fragile commodities they are today. Judea was a part of the Roman Empire, with limited autonomy granted to King Herod who was fanatical about losing what power he had. Failing to trick the magi into revealing the whereabouts of Jesus, he ordered, without hesitation, the death of all boys up to the age of two, in an act of barbarity, criminal and murderous violence. So for good reason Jesus's parents fled with him to Egypt, fortunately it was a host country willing to accept them. Yes, another story straight out of today's newspapers.

This event of the flight into Egypt does make it on to a few Christmas cards, but even though we are also honouring the life of Jesus on the anniversary of his birth, the spotlight is firmly on the stable and rarely moves far from it. The modern English poet, Steve Turner draws our attention to this one-sided view in his poem, 'Christmas Is Really for the Children,' He begins by listing 'animals, stables, stars and babies... kings fine robes, humble shepherds...' But in the second verse we are reminded of the other major Christian festival: Easter, which: 'is not really for the children unless accompanied by a cream filled egg.' He ends with the premise: 'wait for a re-run of Christmas without asking too many questions about what Jesus did when he grew up, or whether there's any connection.'

In another way the Lord's Prayer has disappeared from many people's lives, but the moment the Church England produces an advertisement promoting it and the value of prayer, especially appropriate just before Christmas and in the wake of the Paris attacks, the short film is banned by three major UK cinema chains because it "carries the risk of upsetting, or offending, audiences." Where are we going? Must we stop with just a stable and a baby Jesus?

It is important for all faiths to show, above all, the true global facts and how strongly they abhor acts of hatred and violence when supposedly committed in the name of God. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury has said: "We choose life and hope, to overcome their hate with the power of God's love. In solidarity across all faiths and none, and with all human beings, rather than in the victimisation of any, we will find the way to defeat the demonic curse of terrorism. Christians are called, like Jesus, to stand with the suffering and broken and to oppose evil and fear with all their strength."

The Christmas lights will be shining bright again tonight as we celebrate the coming of Christ, the true light and warmth of the world, which we are all in need of at this time. (MG)

*Trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
From His poor manger to His bitter cross,
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,
Till man's first heav'nly state again takes place.*

From: Christians, awake! salute the happy morn (John Byrom 1691-1763)



Detail of window 12, Sint-Janskerk, Gouda (Netherlands) 1564:
The Birth of Christ by Wouter Pieterszoon Crabeth (circa 1520 - 1589)

**All our Christmas
services are
listed overleaf.**



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

★ **Sunday 6th December 2015 10h30 / Second Sunday in Advent - Christingle** or 'Christ Light' service, led by Malcolm Gale. This is in preparation for Christmas when we light 'Christingles' representing the world and the light of the world.

★ **Sunday 20th December 2015 10h30 / Fourth Sunday in Advent** Eucharist service with carols conducted by Rev Charles Hill, Readings: Micah 5: 2-5a; Psalm 80:1-8; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)

★ **Sunday 3rd January 2016 10h30 / Epiphany Sunday** Morning worship, a simple service of Morning Prayer, with carols and readings for Epiphany and the first Sunday of the year. Led by Malcolm Gale.

★ **Sunday 17th January 2016 10h30 / Second Sunday After the Epiphany** Our first Eucharist service of the year led by Rev Charles Hill: Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

News and dates for your diary:



Please note: our traditional village carol service at Estréelles church, with members of the local community, will take place on **Saturday 12th December at 16h00** (not the date as shown in last month's newsletter) This service will be led by Paul Glaister.

In the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel on **Sunday 6th December at 15h30**, there will be an Advent Concert given by the Chorale de l'Unité entitled: "Noël Chantons Noël!"

Calais congregation will be holding a bi-lingual Carol Service at the Église Notre Dame de la Salette, Blériot-Plage on **Tuesday 22nd December at 19.00**. Mince pies and hot drinks will be served after the service.

Boulogne - Cathédrale Notre-Dame **Les Crèches du Monde** An exceptional exhibition of cribs from countries as wide apart as Poland and Japan until 3rd January 2016: 10H to 12H and 14H to 17H. Admission: 2 € (free for children).

The sisters, at the Monastère du Carmel will be once again mounting a display of Christmas crèches in the cloisters every day from Christmas Eve until the end of January. Hours: 10h00 to 11h30 and 14h00 to 17h00

We are delighted to report that our Remembrance Sunday service, which took place on 8th November, was very well attended. It took the form of readings and hymns with a special part given over to personal reminiscences of wartime by 4 of our members: Charles Vandezande, Daphne Clemans, Michael Bown and George Murray. Each person brought alive in different ways their experiences and the traumas of the war and military service. Poppies were on sale and the collection was donated to the Royal British Legion.

New book - At the above service, George Murray introduced and read extracts from a series of nearly 200 letters written by his great-uncle: Col. William Atholl Murray, RHA, CMG, DSO, Croix de Guerre, from the Western Front between October 1914 and June 1919. The originals are in the Imperial War Museum but the entire collection will be published, for the first time, early in the New Year by Bookcase Publications of Carlisle under the title "The Thunder of Guns". A short extract is reproduced below, written on 11th November 1918:

"We ceased fighting today..... To have come through four years of this seething mass of horror and death is a truly wonderful thing, and one for which no human thankfulness can be adequate....."

Every church in the country was peeling its bells. As we reached the town the leading battalion which had got its band with it played the Marseillaise and the Belgian National Anthem. It was the most extraordinary scene of emotion. Now we are sitting down wondering what we shall do next. Europe is in the melting pot. No more danger, no more wars and no more mud and misery. Just lasting peace. It is a great world".



Graham Hughes's memories of a (white) Christmas in the Rockies

The grandparents of my wife Jean: Bertha and Tom Grace, emigrated to Canada in 1912, having just missed sailing on the Titanic.

The Graces took their 10-month old son Reg with them, but Jean's mother Marjorie, apparently a rather sickly child was left behind, to be looked after by *her* grandmother. The plan was that when the family was finally settled they would return to pick up Marjorie. The First World War and particularly the sinking of the Lusitania rather put a kibosh on that idea. Therefore after spending time in Ontario, the family made its way to the mountain town of Revelstoke in the Selkirk Mountains situated in the western foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Grandma Bertha did not return to the UK until 1924 when she tried, in vain, to persuade Marjorie to move to the harsh country life in Canada, where by this time she had two further brothers who had been born in Revelstoke. The brothers eventually met their long-lost sister, and nieces, in 1945 on their return from the Normandy beaches.

By 1966 there was a large family of Graces in Revelstoke, which Jean had never met (apart from the military brothers) and so we planned to visit the family in Revelstoke over Christmas, leaving from Los Angeles, with great excitement. The prospect of a week with literally dozens of new relatives, two fondly remembered uncles, combined with the snows of the Rockies, would be exhilarating indeed.

We flew to Vancouver and stayed overnight with an old school friend of Marjorie from Chester and then took the overnight trans-Canada Canadian Pacific sleeper to Revelstoke some 400 miles away (regrettably this train no longer runs). It was a magnificent ride through the mighty Fraser River Canyon, unfortunately however much of this was done in the dark. To our (and everybody else's) surprise, when we arrived at noon, Revelstoke was bathed in bright sunshine, hitting about 10 degrees Celsius, with no sign of snow whatsoever. According to the predictions it was to be the first non-white Christmas for years. Somehow the newly flooded valley with the Mica dam was blamed.

On Christmas Eve the whole family, or so it seemed, went to midnight mass. The temperature had dropped significantly and the sky was crystal clear as we entered the church and we could just imagine the Star of Bethlehem sparkling in the heavens, as it had some 2000 years before. By 1 AM when we left the church the sky had clouded over and the first huge snowflakes were beginning to fall from the now leaden sky. We went to bed after quick rum toddy to drive out the cold. The next morning we awoke on Christmas Day to a world transformed by deep snow. No white Christmas indeed!!



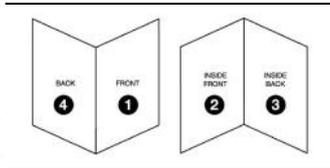
Other services in the Chaplaincy... Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church) - Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65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

Hesdin's regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – Morning Prayer 10h30; 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Eucharist Service. All 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.crompton@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:-georgemurray@sfr.fr or otherwise the secretary.

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

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).

Christmas and New Year Fun!

Old puzzles never die... here is a good old fashioned one that was featured in a 1935 Christmas album. And 80 years on it's still just as good...

KATE'S SCHOOL DAYS AND BEYOND...

The word that is suggested by each of the sentences given below, ends with the syllable *-cate*, all you have to do is find the word alluded to:

1. She often wrote home from schoolAnswer: Communicate
2. Sometimes her letters were imaginative...
3. She avoided answering her parents' questions...
4. And tried to bolster up her doubtful statements...
5. Schooldays ended and her desk was left empty...
6. Then her mother taught her housekeeping...
7. And she lost her youthful simplicity...
8. Her fiancé worked for a law firm...
9. He heartily returned her affection...
10. They got a certain document from the registrar...
11. But the wedding presents included two identical gifts...
12. And at the reception one guest drank too much wine...



So finishing on that note it's time to wish everyone a very...

**Merry
Christmas**

And a Happy New Year