



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

December 2014 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear Friends,

Out of the half light

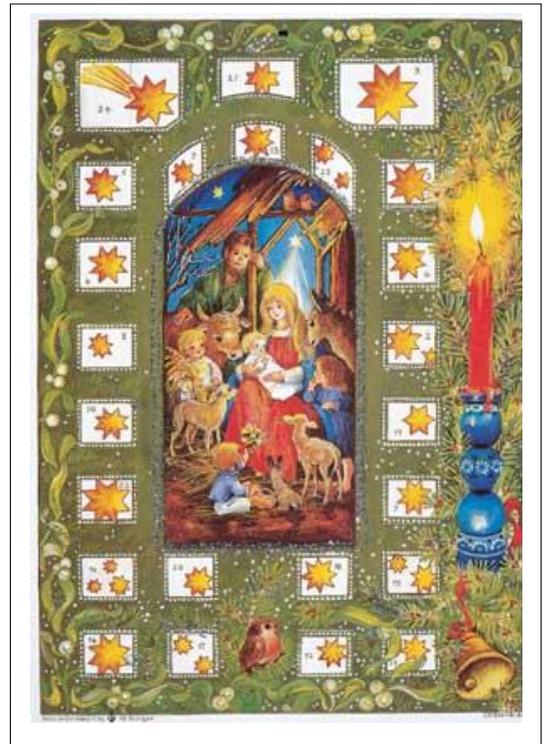
I suppose for most of us Christmas is heavily tinged with nostalgia – there is no getting away with it, Christmas was always better years ago when we were young, when it snowed, when, on that special night before Christmas, one would lay awake as long as possible, one eye open, to see if Father Christmas was coming; then to wake up next morning with inexpressible excitement finding a lumpy pillow case, full of presents, at the foot of the bed. There were parcels done up in funny crepe-like paper and tied up with string and occasionally brightly printed cardboard boxes marked: 'instructions enclosed'. Then there were the surprise presents from uncles and aunts who never forgot you at Christmas. On Christmas Eve, in our house, there was always the smell of baking, with my mother preparing mince pies and sausage rolls to a background of carols from Kings College on the radio, and then the neighbours came around for a glass of sherry in the front room, because it was that time of the year again.

But throughout my happy childhood Christmases, I can never remember seeing an Advent calendar in our house, perhaps these items were not in vogue or were seen as too foreign; I have no idea. But to make up for lost time, or perhaps more correctly lost Advents, my wife appears determined every year to procure one as a part of our festive decorations. Now this requires a good deal of single-mindedness because her requirements are rather specialised - she wants what some shopkeepers would loosely describe as a 'religious' one. The search can be long and sometimes futile, as she sets aside the chocolate filled, bright red dancing Santas or Technicolor Mickey Mouse with friends and dozens of other variants, just to find what looks like a nativity scene; twenty-four little windows that spell out the birth of Christ.

In a recent national poll conducted by a Christian web-site, readers were asked to suggest the 'Badvent calendar of 2014' in other words: 'an Advent calendar with no connection to the original Bethlehem narrative'. It was not difficult to find finalists, there were examples devoted to whisky, Lego, cats and dogs, nail varnishes and Barbie doll fashion accessories; but the outright 'Badvent' winner this year, goes to none other than 'adult' retailer Ann Summers. I won't go into details about the cover picture or the contents, but I can assure everyone it won't be on our shopping list this Advent.

So what's happening to Christmas? It seems Christian groups, including the Church of England are fighting back this year against the over commercialisation with a 'Christmas Starts with Christ' campaign, which starts off on 30th November (Advent Sunday). Sometimes it needs a sturdy will to resist the temptations put in our path, when that strong dose of shopping nostalgia kicks in once more – the cold dark nights, warm shops, tinsel and decorations enhanced with a background of Wham's "Last Christmas I gave you my heart..." etc. etc. But that's not to say turn your back on it all – it's part of the season, but whatever else, now is the time to put out the crib, get a real Advent calendar and go to a carol service, shrug off the layers of vulgarity and let's celebrate Christ -mas!
(MG)

Those shepherds poor, how blest were they
The angels' song to hear!
In manger cradle as He lay,
To greet their Lord so dear!
The Lord of Heaven's eternal height
For us a Child was born:
And He, the very Light of Light,
Shone forth that Christmas morn!



From *Light In The Darkness* by Norval Clyne (1817-1890)





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

★ **Sunday 7th December 2014 10h30 / Second Sunday in Advent Christingle /Advent Service** led by Linda Pillière. A candlelit service to start off the festive season with Advent carols (see below)

★ **Sunday 21st December 2014 10h30 / Fourth Sunday in Advent** - Eucharist service with Christmas Carols to be led by Rev. Charles Hill.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), Romans 16:25-end; Luke 1:26-28

★ **Sunday 4th January 2015 10h30/ Second Sunday after Christmas** - 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 18th January 2014 10h30/ Second Sunday after Epiphany** – Eucharist service led by Rev. Charles Hill, Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

News and dates for your diary:

★ **Christingle /Advent Service - 7th December**

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping, yet in the commercial build-up to Christmas, it so often gets neglected. Our candlelit service in December will offer the opportunity to take a back step from the hectic preparation of the Christmas festivities and to join together, not only to sing Advent carols but also to reflect on the true Christmas message.

★ **Five Christmas Services**

In the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel on **Sunday 7th December at 15h30** there will be a concert of carols from all corners of the world sung by La Chorale Œcumenique de l'Unité, entitled 'Noëls du Monde' // **Friday 19th December at 18h30:** Christmas Carols - in the Chapelle de la Vierge at Notre Dame de Calais; followed by mince pies and hot drinks // **Saturday 20th December at 16h00:** traditional village carol service at Estréelles church, combined with members of the local community // **Sunday 21st December 10h30:** our own congregation's service with carols in the chapel (see above) // **Wednesday 24th December 17h00 (Christmas Eve):** Christmas Eucharist at Hesdin.

Final service in Boulogne

On Sunday 16th November, members of all the congregations attended the last regular service in the chapel led by our very good friend and pastor Canon Reg Humpriss of Canterbury, before his 'retirement' from the Chaplaincy. He spoke, in his address, about the many very happy years he had spent 'helping out' as he termed it, and the wonderful memories it brought back. Lalage Glaister presented him with a voucher for a large garden pot, which will be planted with lilies – his favorite flower. The service was followed by a special 'bring and share' lunch (picture). From December onwards, Rev. Charles Hill of Folkestone is taking over his role (see next page).



Rev Reg Humpriss enjoying an after service lunch with members of the congregation



This month Rev. Charles Hill is taking over from Rev Reg Humphriss, and by way of an introduction he has written the following about himself and what lies ahead...

As I am sure you know by now, from December onwards I am inheriting Canon Reg Humphriss' role of coordinating the deployment of ministers in the three towns covered by the Chaplaincy. I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to share in this new chapter in the Anglican ministry in the Pas de Calais, a region with which I have had a great deal of contact over the years. I am now retired from full time ministry, latterly as parish priest of two villages in the Weald of Kent. I also coordinated the partnership between the dioceses of

Canterbury and Arras.

Earlier, in 1998, I became European Secretary at Church House, Westminster. The work involved developing relationships with foreign churches (including the French Protestants), advising bishops, the General Synod and travelling to many other countries, as well as visiting dioceses in Britain and, of course, across the Diocese in Europe. Before that, I taught Modern Languages in various secondary school posts for 25 years. I trained as a Reader, and then for ordination. I served in churches in Folkestone and on Romney Marsh.

My own origins are in the North of England, in the railway town of Crewe, where I attended our local Anglican church, blessed with a lively, forward thinking parish priest and a good mix of people in the congregation. I studied German (with French and Russian) at Sheffield, and then went on to Oxford to research into German literature. Here I met Joanne, and in 2013 we celebrated our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. We have two adult children – Jonathan, who is a theologian at Exeter University, and Cordelia, who works in the public relations department at the University of Kent. Joanne has for most of her life been a copy editor and proof-reader. Since retiring in March 2013, we have been again serving in continental Europe, including three months at the English-speaking church in Heidelberg, Germany. Returning home to Folkestone at the beginning of this year, we have picked up our old ties with St George's, part of the Trinity Benefice. But our Vicar has moved on to a new post, and so inevitably I have been very busy in an interregnum, which may last some months yet.

It has been a tremendous privilege to minister to so many wonderful people. In some ways, the minister is rather like the engineer working on a telephone junction box; untangling and connecting up a mass of wires communicating with each other. The church's role can be seen as connecting people to God, and as ministers we aim to facilitate and encourage this through care and compassion. One of my favourite verses from the Bible is Romans 12.2b: 'Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God' (NRSV).

Taking up the baton from Reg, after his many years of generously helping you through some uncertain times, is quite a challenge. I'm currently drawing up the 'team' of ministers who will serve you in 2015. Do give them all a warm welcome: some old friends, and some new faces. We will support you with services and prayer, but the key thing will be how you support each other, and how you use the coming months to pray and think through a new, sustainable pattern of ministry around which to build the Chaplaincy for the future. In this spirit, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2015.

Charles Hill (Contact: cbhill18@hotmail.com)



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 not the hospital, but 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 See page 2 for details of Carol Service on Friday 19th December in the Chapelle de la Vierge at the church of Notre Dame de Calais

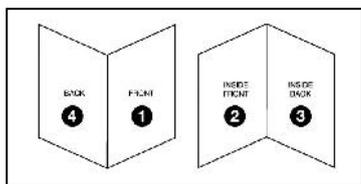
Hesdin's regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – 10h30, Eucharist Service 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Evening Prayer. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin. - Church Warden: Hazel Crompton, ☎03 21 03 31 27 e-mail: james.crompt@free.fr **Special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



Thanks! I am now at the end of my third year turning out these newsletters; I do hope you have enjoyed them, despite the occasional typos that only get discovered until after the sheet is sent out! May I say thank you to all those who have contributed and passed on their encouraging comments during 2014 –all are greatly appreciated. MG

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: Lalage Glaister: - ☎03 21 81 47 65, e-mail: paul.glaister@wanadoo.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 ...at Christmas

In one corner of a field are 16 Christmas trees, as shown in the diagram on the right. The farmer instructed his labourer to cut down just 8 of them on the strict instructions that after felling, there should not be any three trees remaining in line, either horizontally, diagonally or vertically. This left the poor labourer scratching his head. Can you help him out!



Very elementary....

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	+		=		
	-		+		=?

Find the answer to the final sum; each individual symbol represents a number 0 to 9 ...logic needs to be applied rather than maths!

Solution to last month's question – The three cards from left to right are: King of Diamonds, Jack of Spades, Queen of Hearts.

