



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

December 2017 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 62

Welcome to Planet Christmas

Travelling from France to Britain any time after mid-October inevitably involves being plunged into pre-Christmas sales and marketing. I wasn't surprised therefore, on exiting the Eurostar door at St Pancras, to be confronted with a shop window display announcing, 'Planet Christmas has arrived'.

Having been told by the newsletter editor that I was only allowed Scrooge's h-word once in my Christmas article, I was tempted to blow my allocation immediately. Instead, I contemplated what Planet Christmas might be like if we could shift the shop window sales message into the real world.

Outside the St Pancras concourse everything looked much the same as usual, from business executives reclining in the backs of taxis and newly arrived tourists manoeuvring outsize suitcases, to Big Issue sellers and down-at heel folk scavenging waste-bins. Surely, Planet Christmas should be fairer than that.

It's easy to be pious, of course, and point the finger at other people's short-comings. Not so easy when you look closer to home.

So what would my planet Christmas look like? Everybody in church on Christmas Eve singing carols and greeting one other, like the Ely Cathedral ending to John Masefield's 'Box of Delights.' Friends and family exchanging gifts at a modest but meaningful level, not the festival of excess which the window display designers are paid to create. A festive table which doesn't involve weeks of stressful and expensive supermarket shopping beforehand. A spirit of gratitude instead of the clamour for more, more, more. Sorry, drifting into piety again.

OK. My planet Christmas would be....

This is where you fill in your own answers, make your own choices and decide your own agenda for the festive period. Actually, it's a positive message after all. Planet Christmas has arrived!

Let's celebrate.

And appropriate h-words for use over the next few weeks?

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the Highest.*

Colin Ley



Christmas shop window display in Szentendre - Hungary





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

🎵 **Sunday 3rd December 2017 10h30 / First Sunday of Advent** - Service of nine lessons and carols for Advent and Christmas

led by Pauline Cecchin

🎵 **Sunday 17th December 2017 10h30 / Third Sunday of Advent** - Eucharist service led by Canon Peter Brown with a Christmas theme and music. Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

🎵 **Sunday 7th January 2018 / First Sunday after the Epiphany** - Simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings for Epiphany led by Malcolm Gale

🎵 **Sunday 21st January 2018 10h30 / Third Sunday after the Epiphany** - Eucharist service led by Rev Gordon Warren. Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Dates for your diary – Célébration de Noël:

As mentioned in last month's newsletter our **traditional village Anglo-French Carol Service** will take place in Estréelles church, with members of the local community, on **Saturday 9th December at 15h00** ...followed after the service by mulled wine, mince pies and a small Christmas market – not to be missed!

Canon Peter Brown

We have the pleasure of welcoming, for our service closest to Christmas on Sunday 17th December, the Rev Peter Brown from Thanet, Peter and his wife Margaret are no newcomers to Boulogne having celebrated Eucharist with us three years ago, so we look forward to a good turnout for this special Christmas service. The Rev Peter is well known for his good-humored style – just the thing to start the festive season! When asked for a mini biography he provided the following: Past incumbent of 2 parishes in the London Diocese ... Forty Hill, Enfield 1974 – 1981; All Saints' Laleham-on-Thames 1981 – 2009; 1 x Wife (Meg); 2 x Labradors; 3 x (Classic) Cars; 4 x Children; 12 x Grandchildren (6 boys) + (6 girls)!



Christmas Eve House Warming ...An invitation from Colin & Jackie Ley

Our house renovations are on-going but we'll at least have our pellet burner going by Christmas Eve so decided to celebrate with an informal afternoon get-together of friends and neighbours for carols, Christmas poems, mince pies etc and mulled wine. This will not be a religious service but hopefully a seasonal reminder of all we have to celebrate, not least in God's gift of His Son.

We realise that many will have other plans for Christmas Eve but would be delighted to welcome any members of the Boulogne congregation who are able to join us at 3pm. Please let us know if you're able to come, for catering and seating purposes. (You may be asked to bring your own folding chair!) Our address is: 103 rue Pierre Ledent, 62170 Montreuil.

☎: 06 88 79 21 85 email: jackieley@aol.com



To support the work of Maria Skobtsova House in Calais we now have a box available in the church for gifts of the items they still require (full list published in our September issue) which includes: socks 36-43; sport shoes 39-40-41, shower gel; shampoo; all-purpose cleaners; washing-up liquid; cartons of long-life milk. **Every little helps!**

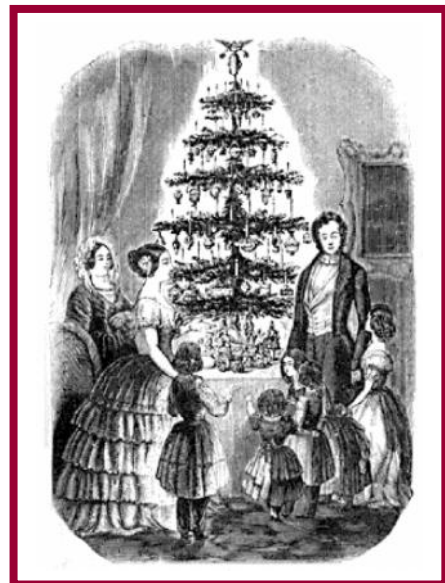
George Murray recounts ...a VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

For some twenty years my great-grandfather and his family lived at Swinburne Castle in Northumberland, a large, dignified mansion with views over rolling countryside. Dr William Murray had remarried after losing his wife (who had given him eight children), and began a new family, marrying a patient who was herself a widow with no children.

There were other excitements as well. Dr William acquired in 1898 the first car seen in Northumberland, a Daimler landaulette bearing the registration 'X 1'. Claudine, the elder of two daughters, was born in 1887. A remarkable woman in many ways, her memoir "Victorian Childhood" gives a vivid picture of late Victorian life. I am indebted to her for the essence of the account that follows.

Swinburne was an ideal home for a large family, although it was far from ideal from a housekeeping point of view. However large rooms, long, wide passages, broad shallow flights of stairs and tall windows gave a feeling of space and freedom. Endless games of hide-and-seek were played on winter evenings. Races were run at top speed all over the house, and along the stone-flagged passage nicknamed 'Watling Street' which led to the kitchens.

The house consisted of some 40 rooms in all, one of which was the large drawing room with a beautifully decorated Adam ceiling, however it was heated only by a single fireplace, which meant that the temperature in some corners of the room remained distinctly chilly in cold weather. The same applied to the dining room that was equivalent in size and shape. There was a single bathroom, or rather a room with a bath installed, an immense affair in which any one of the family's six-foot men-folk could lie full length. Most of the family bathed in their own rooms in flat, round hip-baths filled and emptied by muscular housemaids. A house of that size naturally required a fairly large staff of servants who, in those Victorian days, were easy to find. The indoor staff consisted of butler and footman, cook-housekeeper, kitchen maid and scullery maid, head, second and third housemaids, and two laundresses, plus inevitably nanny who, when the children grew older, was replaced by ladies' and children's maids, with a succession of foreign governesses supplying the education required for the two young girls.



Swinburne Castle

Christmas at Swinburne was a wonderful time, eagerly anticipated to an extent, which today has been largely lost. It began a few weeks before, most likely on 'Stir-up Sunday' – the Sunday next before Advent (the collect for the day begins: 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people'), with the stirring and mixing of the Christmas pudding. After tea the junior members of the family would progress down 'Watling Street' to the kitchen where, on the long table, an immense bowl of the rich ingredients were standing, presided over by Mrs Fergusson in print dress and white cap and apron, and armed with a bottle of cooking brandy. Beginning from the seniors to the juniors the entire family would, with a long iron spoon, take

it in turns to stir the heavy mass of currants, raisins, chopped apple, mixed peel and suet, while Mrs Fergusson slowly poured in spoonful after spoonful of brandy. It was a solemn ceremonial, and was supposed to bring good luck. It no doubt also brought dangers of light intoxication.

On Christmas morning, at family prayers the whole household, including servants, sang "Christians Awake", all six verses. The lady of the house then gave presents to the servants before they left the room. Breakfast over, the family trooped off to church. The midday meal was classed as "light lunch" so that the servants could then retire to enjoy their own Christmas dinner. Lunch was already set by the time the family returned from Church, and consisted of a round of spiced beef about 16 inches in diameter, a whole Stilton cheese and a vast Christmas cake, to all of which ample justice was done. The main effort, however, was reserved for Christmas Dinner at 7.30 pm (in-between came tea at 4 o'clock). Christmas dinner was like all others before and since; turkey and plum pudding and mince pies and crackers and other amusements. Everyone over seven years old was allowed to stay up on Christmas night, and games and singing filled the rest of the evening.

As Claudine commented it was remarkable that anyone had room for Christmas dinner, let alone the energy for games and singing! And of course there were no Christmas Specials on TV!

What with a servants' ball at some point in the "twelve days of Christmas", shooting parties, country dancing, and visits to and from friends and neighbours, it is hard to imagine anything more traditional or typical of late Victorian times. Interestingly, there is no mention in this account of "Father Christmas" and as a social comment, the concept of "Boxing Day" seems unknown, with the staff apparently receiving their presents before the family members got theirs. Sadly, Swinburne Castle is no longer.

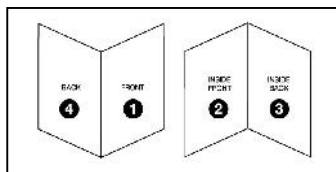
Other services in the Chaplaincy: Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church). Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or 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. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin - Church Warden: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79 e-mail: kmspriggs@fsmail.net

Prayers: Your prayers are asked for Charles Vandezande, our organist, who is in Lille having undergone surgery, and for Chrysten his wife.

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.

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



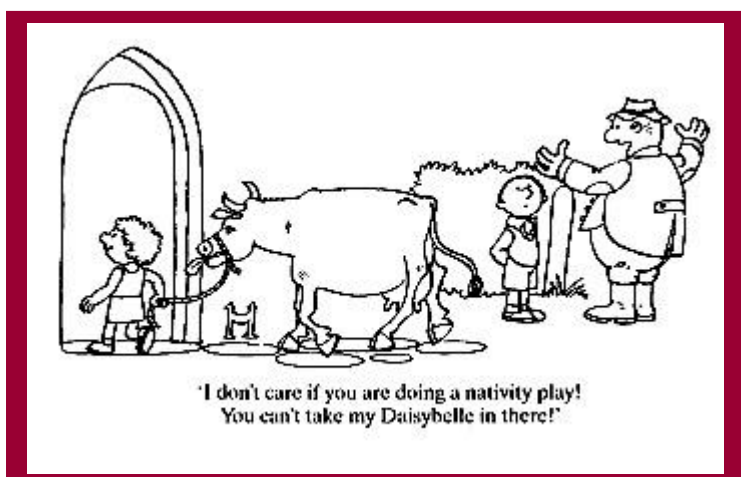
If you have any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send them to: Malcolm Gale: malcolm.gale@dbmail.com - ☎ 03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44

Deadline for January issue: 18th December 2017

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).

**a very merry
CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR**







Célébration de Noël

Christmas Carol Service
En français and in English

Samedi, 9 décembre 2017
à 15h00

Dans l'église d'Estréelles





Crèche Vivante

Vin Chaud et Mince Pies offerts après la Célébration
dans la Salle Communale.

Avec un petit MARCHÉ DE NOËL