



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

February 2018 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 64

## Out of the mouths of four-year-olds

“Who made our toilet?” This is probably a question you’ve never been asked, and it was certainly a first for me on a recent family visit to Edinburgh.

To explain the context, we usually stay with our eldest son and his wife and their two small boys, aged six and four. People often wish us a happy holiday when we depart on these regular visits but ‘holiday’ is a bit of a misnomer since we usually return to France exhausted. However, ‘happy’ is an understatement since, in common with most grandparents, spending precious time with our grandchildren is a delight, even when the anguished cry goes up from four-year-old Oscar in the bathroom that cleaning up operations are required.

On this occasion, nana drew the short straw, hence the toilet question. My first reaction was to burst out laughing, but Oscar, pants round his ankles, was waiting for an answer.

“Well, I suppose, people whose job it is to make toilets.” This sounded lame, even to me. Oscar thought so too.

“God made our toilet,” he pronounced, with the air of one who would brook no further discussion.

I launched into another inadequate response. “Yes, God made everything, so He made all the materials we need to make toilets and....”

Engaged in the hand washing operation, which leaves anyone in the vicinity a little damp round the edges, Oscar continued to set me right. “God made my mummy and my daddy and...”

To cut a long story short, he proceeded to list every member of his extended family by name, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, ending with another pronouncement. “God made all my family for me.”

A small child’s egocentric view, maybe, but it set me thinking. When God fashioned me, did He have every future member of my family in mind as well?

Psalm 22:30,31 says: Posterity will serve him...they will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.

In Psalm 139:16 we read, ‘All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.’

Families can be exasperating at times, and we all know the wry joke, ‘You can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family.’ But maybe the knowledge that God in his wisdom chose our family members might help us to see each one in a different light.



*Cristo tra i dottori* (c1625) by Giovanni Serodine (1600-1630)  
Musée du Louvre – Paris

Jackie L.



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

**/// Sunday 4th February 2018 11h00 / Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany -** A service to celebrate the life of our late organist Charles Vandezande (18th November 1932 - 2nd January 2018) taken by Canon Reg Humphriss.

**/// Sunday 18th February 2018 10h30 / First Sunday in Lent -** Eucharist service led by Rev David Houghton. Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

**/// Sunday 4th March 2018 10h30 / Third Sunday in Lent** Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by Paul and Lalage Glaister (for Mothering Sunday)

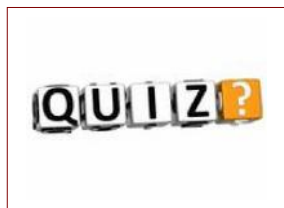
**/// Sunday 18th March 2018 10h30 / Fifth Sunday in Lent** Eucharist service led by Rev. Simon Braid. Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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### News and dates for your diary...

**The next meeting of the Bible Study Group** will be Friday 26th January at the home of Peter Wyatt, 138 rue Jean Ducrocq, Sorrus For further details, please contact Lalage on ☎03 21 81 47 65 or e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

**On Saturday 3rd February** at Les Tourelles de Condette (Maison diocésaine d'accueil et de formation spirituelle) there will be a day with area dean Rev. Debbie Flach. Starting off at 10h00 with a welcome and coffee, the meeting is designed to offer guidance and training, particularly for those who conduct lay services, assist with the chalice, prepare intercessions etc., however all are welcome. Debbie will answer any questions and also deal with safeguarding issues. The cost, with lunch, will be: €16 (must know numbers) or if not staying for lunch: €2. The meeting will close around 16h00 after a Eucharist.



**It's back again! GRAHAM'S QUIZ NIGHT**, this time on Friday, 2nd March 2018 at 19h00. There will be as usual a paté, cheese and dessert buffet with wine of course too! The charge is €10 – so an invitation goes out to all you knowledgeable types with questions varying from the dead easy to the very hard. Venue: Salle Communale, rue du Moulin, 62170 Estréelles. To ensure we cater for the right numbers please let Lalage know if you are coming ☎03 21

81 47 65 or by e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

**A Maundy Thursday Service** on 29th March 29th will be held at the home, in La Capelle les Boulogne, of Linda and Jean Marc Pillière, starting at 19h00. Further details in next month's newsletter.





## Service à la.....?

It's so easy to get in a muddle when eating in a new country. And it could be an embarrassing or even expensive muddle.

I have yet to visit Japan and so manage to have avoided the potential hazards of negotiating a tea ritual. But I have been caught out in a Paris restaurant where an invitation to take a 'petit digestif' has resulted in a mortgage size addition to the 'addition'.

I am currently Locum Chaplain in Porto, the rightly named 'working' city of northern Portugal. The food here, especially fish straight from the Atlantic, can be succulent and

delicious. The Duoro wine, relatively little known outside the country is also excellent. And there is a local variation on how to order from a restaurant menu – and how the order is then served. So please note the two prices on a menu – one for 1 portion and the other for ½ portion.

Now, I may be naïve, but I first assumed the ½ portion would be designed for children, those who have already had dinner, or the thrifty/mean. So it seemed quite right for the two of us to order two full portions: one of steak and the other of pork. The waiter was puzzled. 'This is too much'. No, a full portion is for two people, maybe for three people! Indeed, he insisted, the ½ portion of pork (well presented with nice accompaniments), is really enough for two people. So a ½ portion for ourselves is really sufficient? He nods approvingly.

I have learnt something new in northern Portugal. Be very careful with your expectations. When the food arrives it is invariably presented on a serving dish from which one takes helpings as seems right. This fits in well with a fairly loose definition of 'portion' and just means that the customer has the choice of how much actually to serve for himself or herself – for this ritual is played out even when dining alone. And even in the most humble and ordinary of restaurants. I was (sort of) told off last night at my 'local' for setting knife and fork straight into the serving plate.

But of course, is this not also a reminder of the celebrated distinction between 'service à la française' and 'service à la russe?' The traditional 'service à la française', is where food arrives from the kitchen in no particular order, and the guest/customer helps themselves according to taste and desire. All very sensible. But a Russian ambassador in Paris at the time of the First Empire, fed up with cold

food and disregard for the distinguishing feature of each dish, introduced the novelty of serving food in set courses. This is much as we expect now, when eating in almost any kind of 'eating establishment'. Though it doesn't really work for the food of Asia. And what about the 'Buffet'?

But that's another tale....



Ponte Dom Luis I - Porto







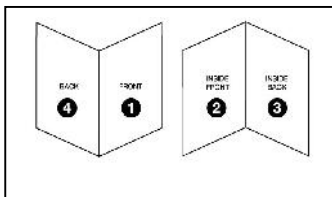
**Other services in the Chaplaincy: Calais's regular services:** Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church). Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65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

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 March issue: 18th February 2018*



*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).

