



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

February 2019 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 75

Burns, Bible Study and Haggis

After selecting January 25th as the date for last month's Bible Study, it dawned on us that we might continue into the evening and enjoy a simple Burns Supper together. Well, simple it wasn't, but enjoyable it certainly was.

*O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us,
To see oursels as ithers see us!*

I'm not a Robert Burns scholar by any means but have had these few lines of his poetry running through my head since our sharing of haggis, neeps and tatties together. The quote is well known to most,

I'm sure, with its invitation to see ourselves as others see us. It also brought to mind a verse from the Old Testament, 1 Samuel 16:7, when the prophet Samuel was looking for a new king to replace Saul. This verse turns the Burns quote on its head, with its emphasis on how God sees us. Samuel is immediately impressed with Eliab, one of the sons of Jesse, when he stands before him. However, according to verse 7:

The Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

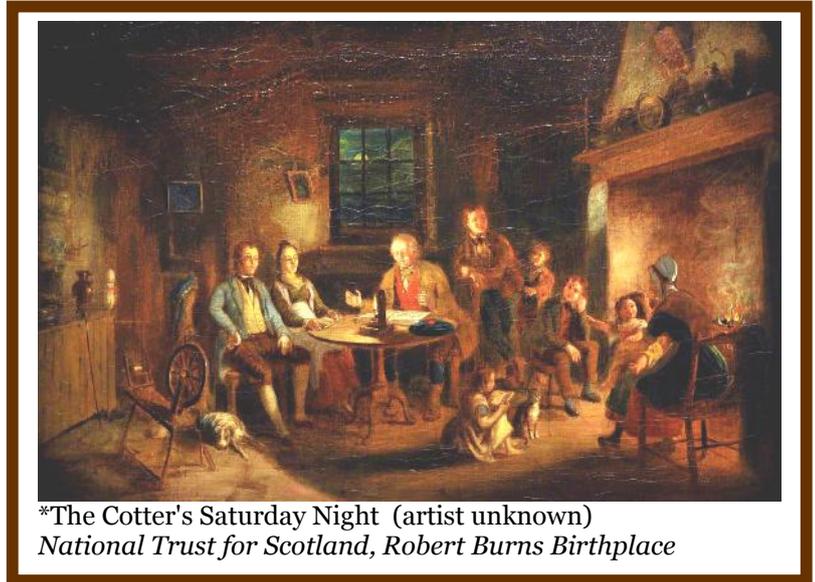
For me, this is a comforting thought. I've been blessed (?) with a very dry sense of humour. This can sometimes be misinterpreted. As my wife is quick to point out, people don't always realise that I'm joking. But while I may feel misunderstood sometimes, God understands the intentions of my heart. This is both a challenge and an encouragement, to see myself as He sees me.

Preparing for our Burns Supper was also encouraging, despite initial worries about how to get sufficient haggis to Montreuil. As it turned out, I was asked to write an article for a UK meat trade magazine on a very tight deadline. Having interviewed Edinburgh-based James Macsween two years before, about his family's haggis business, I approached him for an update. Not only did he agree, which made for a positive and timely article, he followed up by sending us a Bible Study haggis gift to enjoy.

Macsween's haggis is regarded as Scotland's top brand, so the gift was also a reminder of God's abundance, that He never does things by halves in giving to His children, even when it comes to the humble haggis. We can't promise that future Bible Studies will be followed by such a memorable event, but everyone is welcome to join us for our next meeting on February 15 when we'll be discussing our favourite Psalms.

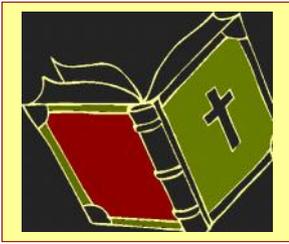
[Colin and Jackie L.]

** This painting illustrates a poem of the same name by Robert Burns - the verses relate to the rustic scene of a farm worker's family coming together for an evening meal, after which the bible is read, psalms are sung and thanksgiving made to God.*



*The Cotter's Saturday Night (artist unknown)
National Trust for Scotland, Robert Burns Birthplace





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

Sunday 3rd February 2019 10h30 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany / The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - A lay led service for **Candlemas**: Readings: Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 24:7-end; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2: 22-40

Sunday 17th February 2019 10h30 - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany / Third Sunday before Lent - Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. Kirrilee Reid. Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Sunday 3rd March 2019 15h00 - Transfiguration Sunday / Last Sunday before Lent Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. Kirrilee Reid. This will be followed by the **Boulogne congregation's AGM** and refreshments. Readings: Exodus 34:29-end; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

Sunday 17th March 2019 10h30 – Second Sunday in Lent - A lay led service: Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-end

Sunday 31st March 2019 11h00 – Fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday) Joint congregation Eucharist service at Hesdin followed by Chaplaincy AGM Readings: Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 34:11-20; 2 Corinthians 3:12-17; Luke 2:33-35

News and dates for your diary...

!!! Please note the time of the service on Sunday 3rd March. This is being done on certain Sundays as an experiment to make things fairer with other congregations who would like a morning Eucharist. Based on attendance numbers this time change will be carefully assessed in the coming months. Following that service our annual AGM will take place with the election of a new PCC etc.

Tuesday 27th February at 15h00: AFTERNOON TEA (which means scrumptious cakes as well) at the home of Pauline Cecchin, 13 Parvis Notre Dame, Boulogne-sur-Mer– all are welcome contact ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 or e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr



Friday, 8th March at 19h00: Another QUIZ NIGHT - with quiz master Graham Hughes in the chair., All welcome €10 euros to include a supper (cheese, salad, paté, desserts etc. and wine) Salle Communale, Estréelles. *Contact details if attending: Paul or Lalage on 03 21 81 47 65 or lalageglaster@gmail.com*



Our Chaplain

To strengthen her appreciation of what happens there, Rev. Kirrilee Reid has been staying at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais with Br Johannes and his team for the week. This is to further her understanding of its workings especially with regard to her role as Refugee Projects Officer. She also plans to conduct a monthly Eucharist in the house for the residents. Brother Johannes expressed his gratitude to the Chaplaincy for the 23 Christmas boxes containing warm clothes and other essentials for migrants. Rev. Reid will be away visiting family from Friday 8th February for a week

Prayers for Christian Unity.

On a cold, bright Saturday, we represented the Anglican Church in a beautiful chapel in a remote outpost of our chaplain's new territory. We were in Hucqueliers, at the invitation of our local Catholic priest, Abbé Christophe, to celebrate the week of Christian Unity in company with the Catholic priests of Montreuil, Le Touquet and Berck, a Baptist Priest and representatives of the Armenian Church.

Most of the service was naturally in French, but the beautiful words of Psalm 85 were read in English. This was a moving and meaningful service, conducted in an atmosphere of warm friendship, despite the chill of the Church. It was followed by a communal meal, which we had to skip to prepare for our participation in the local pantomime, written and directed by Jackie Ley a member of our congregation. [Paul and Lalage G.]

The fascinating story of Our Lady of Boulogne and its East Anglian connection

Last year in August, in the annual Grande Procession in Boulogne, members of our congregation helped carry, through the streets of the town up to the cathedral, a statue which had its origins deep in the rural countryside of Norfolk and is known as Our Lady of Walsingham. This was part of a traditional public celebration the focal point of which was the religious figure of Notre Dame de Boulogne.

The original Notre Dame de Boulogne, a statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus, was apparently discovered aboard an unmanned boat, with neither rudder nor oars, in the year 636, which arrived in the town's harbour. When the statue was removed from the vessel a voice was heard saying, "I choose your city as a place of grace." As a result a shrine was built to house the image and miracles and healings began to be attributed to it. Soon a church and later a cathedral were built to house the pilgrims and worshippers which included both English and French Kings.

The French Revolution ended it all when the cathedral was ransacked and burnt down. Only a hand and forearm from the original statue survived which someone hid and is on display in the present cathedral. In 1938 a new statue of Notre Dame de Boulogne was sculpted out of Lebanon cedar and it is this that takes part in the August procession and also in a re-enactment of its arrival into the harbour at dusk on the eve of the parade to rest overnight in the parish church of St. Nicolas.

However, it was in 1942 that the story gets more interesting. Four years into the occupation of France by the Nazis, and at a point when most French people would be feeling totally despondent, it was decided to make four copies of the statue in white plaster; each to be named *Notre Dame de Boulogne du Grand Retour* and were intended to be sent around France on four separate pilgrim routes. The four statues would eventually end up visiting 16,000 churches, being carried on the shoulders of parishioners between each locality. It is impossible to estimate how many people saw and took comfort from this initiative both during the war and in the first three years of peace after the end of hostilities. These white plaster statues became a symbol of hope and a focus for French men and women lifting the spirits of thousands during the fearful years of occupation and contributed to raising morale. 'Our Lady of the Great Return' symbolised the 'Return of Refugees, Return of Prisoners, Return of Soldiers and moreover the Return of Peace'. To make these journeys around France, permission from the German occupying force was required every step of the way. That this authorisation was given is in itself a miracle.

After the war the pilgrimages around the country continued but this time as a thank offering for freedom. The pilgrimages culminated in an open-air service with one of the four white statues in the Stade de Colombes in Paris in 1948 with over 100,000 people attending. Only three of the four of the white plaster statues returned to Boulogne, unfortunately the fourth was lost.

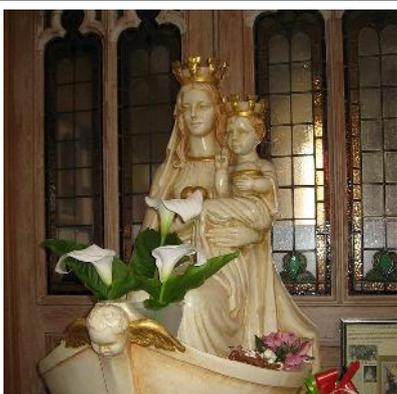
One of the returning statues set off on a pilgrimage cruise to Martinique from Le Havre where the statue resides to this day in the church at Josseaud; the third was given to Britain in the summer of 1948 and can be found today in the church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in the East Anglian fishing port of Lowestoft. The donation of this third statue was part of the peace celebrations and to recognise the ties with France and England. Fittingly it was intended to be taken directly from the port of Boulogne to the port of Lowestoft by sea, but because of bad weather it only got as far as Folkestone, finally completing the journey by road. Over the next few days French pilgrims, who were joined on the way by 14 other similar groups, carried it to the shrine village of Walsingham where over 12,000 people attended the consecration. It remained for a short while in the famous Slipper Chapel at Walsingham before being passed to the care of the church at Lowestoft, where it remains to this day.

After that great French pilgrimage event of the July in Norfolk, a month later pilgrims from England brought to Boulogne a copy of the Franciscan Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and joined in the annual August Grand Procession through the streets to the cathedral.

The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham later returned to England but was brought back shortly afterwards to Boulogne as a gift where it has remained ever since, now on display in the cathedral. Since 1948 it has continued to be carried by an English contingent in the Grand Procession who travel over from the Suffolk fishing port especially for the event.



The copy of *Our Lady of Walsingham*, housed in Boulogne Cathedral which we helped carry in the August procession



Our Lady of Boulogne carefully looked after in Lowestoft



The importance of the English statue should not be underrated. It is an English gift to France to celebrate the peace and the bond between our two countries, just as the white statue of Notre Dame de Boulogne du Grand Retour in Lowestoft, is the gift of the French people to Britain.

Sadly however, exactly 70 years after the first appearance of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham and all that it symbolises to Boulogne, only two people came over from Britain last year to carry it proudly through the town's streets. This is where we stepped in to swell the numbers. Undoubtedly with time interest diminishes but the procession is an important reminder to us all how central our faith is at times of despair. Some of our congregation may be uneasy about these religious displays in the modern age and perhaps may focus too heavily on the statues themselves. But Our Lady of the Great Return turned despondency into hope for people of all persuasions, giving them the strength and comfort to see that some things do not change and that good will succeed over bad.

It would be sad if finally no-body carried, in procession, the English gift to Boulogne. Hopefully in 2019 there will be more volunteers from our number who will decide to help, therefore keeping this valuable Anglo-French tradition alive.

[Thanks goes to David F. for researching this article

Nominated charities: Our nominated charities need to be decided on and adopted at our AGM on 3rd March. For ease of administration any charity should be based in France –please pass any suggestions on to our Churchwarden - e-mail: georgemurray@sfr.fr

Bible Study: contact Colin Ley: leycj@aol.com ☎ 0688792185

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. 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.

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@dbmail.com

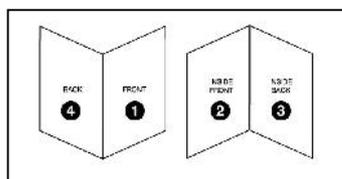
- ☎ 03 21 31 83 57

Port: 06 99 09 60 44

Deadline for the March issue: 23rd February 2019



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handy A5 size four-page leaflet – of course remember to pass the paper through your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

