



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

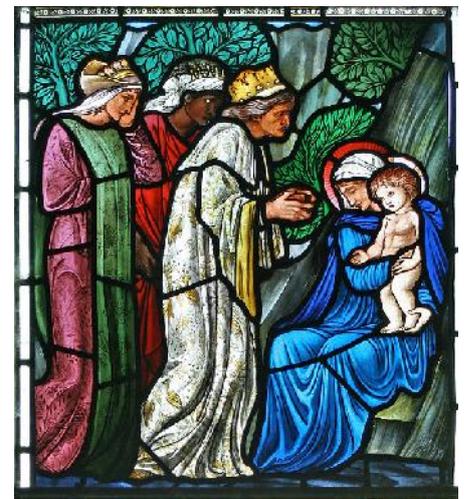
*Fellowship, Hope and Love*

Dear All,

**Happy New Year, Happy Epiphany!**

An old friend of mine always badgers me, at this time of the year, about the feast of Christmas. His gripe is that there is too much hype pre-Christmas and when it at last arrives it's over in a flash. According to him tradition dictates that the festival lasts twelve days, starting on the 25th December and ending on the 5th January, when it is rounded off with the final celebration known as Twelfth Night. I am sure in the past it was just like that and true whilst it is possible to attend carol services in November - I know I went to one - I must agree that I have not seen announced any, as such, during the 12 days – unless I failed to notice.

However, on the 26th December, I had the privilege of spending a day in a Pyrenean town in northern Spain. There were plenty of reminders of just how a Spanish Christmas plays out in the days between *Nochebuena* (Christmas Eve), when there is an exchange of presents, albeit token ones for the children, and Epiphany Eve (January 5th): the long-awaited night when children place their shoes on windowsills or balconies, hopefully to be filled with presents brought by the Magi: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. In the



The Magi -panel of east window in St. Peter's Church, Ugley, Essex, attributed to Edward Burne-Jones (1833-98)



Children's Epiphany decorations on a balcony in Spain - Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar

larger towns there will be a *cabalgata* or parade, the three sages can be seen riding through the streets on their camels, loaded with presents accompanied by royal pages who distribute sweets and goodies. In the build up to the big day there is a lot to be done, children are encouraged to write a letter to the kings, making their requests known, or if lucky may even be able to meet them in one of the larger department stores, while parents are busy doing their Christmas/Epiphany shopping. It seems a very logical way to cover the whole of the Christmas period and satisfies any campaigner for a feast of 12 full days.

But following the narrative in Matthew's gospel, we read that the Magi had been asked by King Herod, to report back to him when they had found the baby Jesus, so he could equally honour him. However an angel tells them not to do this, as his intentions are quite the opposite. Joseph is equally warned and instructed to take the child, and mother, to Egypt. Herod then orders the execution of all newborn male children in the vicinity of Bethlehem. These "Holy Innocents" became in fact, the first Christian martyrs and the Holy Family refugees seeking asylum from persecution. This part of the story has a very contemporary ring, it could have taken place in 2014; refugees escaping persecution, the murder of young children ordered, in one form or another, by the head of a local militia. Pakistan, Gaza, Syria, Nigeria...along with others all spring readily to mind and are never out of the headlines. The Nativity story is today's news; the story of a child who grew up to make an impact on mankind and to give us hope for the future, not for 12 days but 365. (MG)

What a wonderful world we would live in / With hatred and love reconciled  
If we only showed each other / The faith in the heart of a child...

From "The Heart of a Child" (1957) song written by Michael Austin and Cole Bourne



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

**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 25th January 2015 10h30/ Third 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

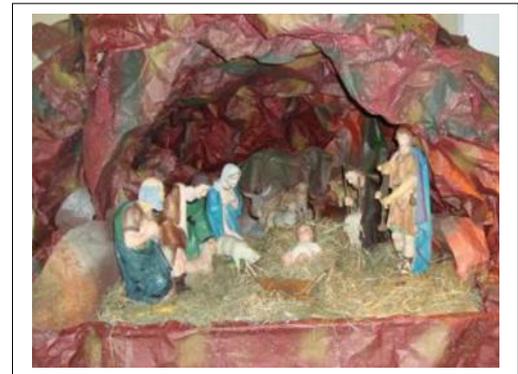
**Sunday 1st February 2015 10h30 Third Sunday before Lent, Septuagesima** – Our annual Candlemas Service led by Graham Hughes

**Sunday 15th February 2015 10h30/ First Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima – (Transfiguration Sunday)** Eucharist service led by Rev. Charles Hill, Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

### News and dates for your diary:

#### Christmas crèches

As in past years, once again there is a display, by the sisters, of Christmas crèches at the Monastère du Carmel. A collection, from around the world, presenting nativity scenes from many different viewpoints; these will be on show in the cloisters every day until the end of January. Hours: 10h00 to 11h30 and 14h00 to 17h00 (or can be visited after one of our January services).



#### Noël en Sainte Russie

The above is the title of a very worthwhile exhibition under the dome of the cathedral in Boulogne, running until Monday 5th January. Unfolding all the mysteries of a Russian Christmas and full of surprises especially when it comes to Matryoshka dolls! It covers celebrations at home in the country *izba*, reached though the snow by troika, the religious celebrations and Fabergé eggs,... best exhibition of its kind, in the area, for years. Admission free; 10 to 12h00 and 14 to 17h00.



Anglo-Catholic Christmas service in Estréelles: Canon Charles Hill and Abbé Jacques Tangombé

#### A report appeared recently in the 'La Voix du Nord' describing our Christmas service in Estréelles on 20th December under the heading: **Célébration de Noël Franco-Britannique**

ESTRÉELLES. *La petite église du village était comble samedi après-midi. Depuis 6 ans, Paul Glaister met sur pied une célébration franco-britannique qui rassemble anglicans et catholiques. L'abbé Jacques Tangombé, de Montreuil, et le chanoine Charles Hill, de Folkestone, la célèbrent tour à tour dans leur langue respective. De nombreux chants rédigés dans les deux langues sont entonnés. Si, cette année, il n'a pas été possible de constituer la crèche vivante, une surprise était réservée par Paul Glaister en fin de célébration. Trois étudiantes japonaises, en vacances dans la vallée de la Course chez une amie, ont interprété une très jolie chanson dédiée aux mamans.*

The little church of Estréelles was packed full on the Saturday before Christmas. For 6 years Paul Glaister has organised a French-British celebration, which brings together Anglicans and Catholics. Abbé Jacques Tangombé from Montreuil and Canon Charles Hill of Folkestone took turns to lead the service in their own language and the congregation sang many songs carols in both languages. Even if the "crèche vivante" could not be staged this year, Paul Glaister had a surprise offering for everyone. Three Japanese students, on holiday with an English friend in the area, performed a charming song in Japanese dedicated to mothers.

### Another successful social event: GRAHAM'S QUIZ NIGHT 29th November

The Anglican Church took over the friendly Salle Communale of Estréelles for another mentally exhausting and enjoyable edition of Graham Hughes's Quiz Nights. The hall was packed, and the freely-flowing wine ensured that there was a relaxed atmosphere, perhaps necessary when faced with Graham's complex yet entertaining questions. After two hours of rigorous testing, the winner was Dick Cooper. We then all shared a large and delicious buffet, and left to find our way home through the winding lanes of the Vallée de la Course.

### The following letter has been received from Canon Reg Humphriss

20 November 2014

To friends in the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy.

Thank you so much for a memorable "Farewell Sunday" at Boulogne. It was good that the Calais congregation was able to join us plus a couple of representatives from Hesdin. After a moving service with the ever-faithful Charles at the organ, we enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch.

Thank you very much for the generous Garden Tokens, some of which I shall use for a new flowerpot and lilies and the rest will go towards something of a more permanent reminder.

I am very glad that the Revd. Canon Dr. Charles Hill is kindly taking over my mantle and in a more structured way, moving eventually to overview the three churches. It has been helpful that Charles has already been over three times, including meeting with the Conseil and the recently appointed Area Dean, Canon Debbie Flack who is the part-time chaplain at Lille and one of the two part-time Rural Deans covering the whole of France. With a new part-time Archdeacon as well as a new diocesan Bishop, there is hope of a new look, though the diocese is stretched for people and money as we are increasingly in the UK.

These 13 years have been eventful, helping during 5 interregna as well as giving four chaplains a hand when needed, together with a team of willing friends who have enjoyed coming over to Montreuil-sur-Mer. Canon Don Ruddle did sterling work from 1995 -1998, including founding Arras which has now gone its separate way. The Ruddles live on the edge of Faversham and it was good to have Don to lunch in order to meet the Hills. Earlier I had a lunch party at Winsole for members of the former team and their wives to meet the Hills. Some are rightly retiring now and some joining Charles's new team. They all send their love.

The set Gospel reading for the day was the parable of the talents, Matthew 25, 14-30, and at the end of the service all were encouraged to write down their own individual talents, which were then offered with the collection. You are the people on the ground and there is need to continue to care for each other and to be on the lookout for new members. It was splendid that a new couple were there who had just moved into Le Touquet for several months each year. On Tuesday when I was in Aldi shopping for a friend, I bumped into a charming English couple who have had a house locally for years though we never met. I leave you with the closing words of the Epistle for my "Farewell Sunday" service with you: *Therefore encourage one another and build up each other as indeed you are doing.* (1 Thess. 5:11)

With my love, best wishes and prayers, Reg

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### 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

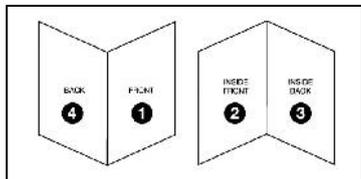
**Hesdin's regular services:** Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – 10h30, Eucharist Service 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Evening Prayer. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin. - Church Warden: Hazel Crompton, ☎03 21 03 31 27 e-mail: james.crompt@free.fr

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.



**Our Newsletter mailing list** continues to grow. It's a vital way of keeping in touch with members of the congregation, friends and supporters on a monthly basis. If you know of anyone who would like receive a copy –better we think than some of the unsolicited advertising directed to mail boxes these days – then please contact the secretary (details below) – their names will be added to the mailing list. In next month's issue Graham Hughes continues his travels, this time, around the Belgian Ardennes

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 ... laugh your way into the New Year!

**A man, who was clearly drunk**, as he smelt heavily of beer, sat down on a seat next to a priest on the London Underground. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked, "Excuse me Father, what causes arthritis?" The priest replied: "Ah well my Son, it's caused by loose living, associating with women of ill repute, too much alcohol, and a contempt for your fellow man."

- "Well, I'll never," the drunk muttered, returning to his paper.

The priest, thought for a few minutes and then deciding perhaps he had been a little too outspoken nudged the man and apologized. "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

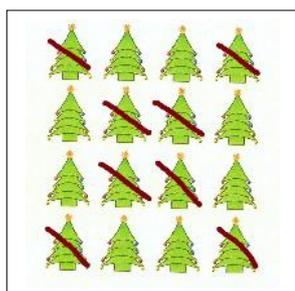
- "I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here in the paper that the local Bishop has. "

**An inexperienced curate was instructed** by his vicar to perform a graveside burial service at the local cemetery for a man with no family or friends. Being new to the area he made a number of wrong turns and got hopelessly lost, as a result he arrived an hour late. Looking around he realised that by that time the hearse and funeral directors must have left. However, there appeared to be an open grave with just a light filling of soil at the base, also there were some workmen, sitting under a tree a short distance away, eating lunch. Naturally the diligent young pastor was, by that time, feeling rather guilty because of his tardiness, so he decided, without any further ado, to make things up to the poor man who had by now been buried in solitude. This he did by preaching an impassioned and lengthy service, providing a farewell for the deceased, fit for a king.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for over twenty years but I ain't seen anything like that before!."



### Solutions to last month's puzzles:



#### ← The tree cutter's problem

**The Equation:**

Given the fact that when adding together two single figures the result will never be greater than 18 (i.e.: 9+9 = 18), we can therefore deduce that the sum of the first set of figures must be 11 as the single symbol □ must equal 1. Continuing by reasoning ★ will be 5 or 6 but in the second sum we discover that logically ★ will be 6, making ● 7 because it cannot now be 5 or 6. The last line will then read 7 - 6 + 1 = 2

# Happy New Year!