



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

January 2017 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 54

The pendulum swings

There is a strong desire, at this time of the year, to reflect back over the last twelve months and attempt to predict how the next year will pan out. Whatever our views on 2016, the only thing that proved certain was it lasted 366 days plus one second, to compensate for the Earth's rate of rotation. It was a year of surprises, giving the pundits and opinion pollsters a hard time. We always knew forecasting anything with conviction was a very tenuous activity. But now, when the analysts get it wrong, we have a new term for this apparent weakness; it's called a 'Michael Fish moment'. Whatever else the good Mr Fish might have said, he will always be remembered, on the eve of the great storm of 1987, for affirming: 'There's no hurricane coming but it will be very windy in Spain!' So 2016 finally proved, once and for all, that it is no use banking on dead certs, there is less chance the favourite will win, any more than the outsider.

With all the headlines being taken up by Brexit and Donald Trump, little space was given over to the fact that Pope Francis launched a year of events to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (who would have believed that!). Back in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his reactionary theses to the church door in Wittenberg in Germany, which as a result, split Christianity in two. Hard liner Pope Leo X saw this as the work of a heretic and wasted no time in excommunicating him, but fortunately history does not always repeat itself, as could be seen from the Pope's pleasure at attending the ceremonies in Sweden. Clearly one of the greatest rifts in Christianity isn't what it used to be. Hopefully 2017 will bring a host of other positive surprises, enough to make us catch our breath to say, "we would have never imagined that!"

There is plenty of scope in this world for change, but change for the good, not just simplistic change for its own sake; we always need to be careful not to 'jump from the frying pan into the fire'. To steadfastly aim to help others, in our daily life with... Fellowship, Hope and Love, is our simple mantra for the year ahead and the next... ad infinitum!

(MG)

A Happy New Year to everyone

'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' John 13:34



Planned services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, 2 rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne

Sunday 8th January 2017 10h30 / First Sunday after Epiphany Service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings for Epiphany led by Malcolm Gale

Sunday 15th January 2017 10h30 / Second Sunday after Epiphany - Eucharist service led by Rev David Houghton; Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Sunday 29th January 11h00 IN CALAIS / Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) - Eucharist service joint with all our congregations, led by Rev. Sara MacVane Readings: Malachi 3: 1-5; Psalm 24: 7-end; Hebrews 2: 14-end; Luke 2: 22-40. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT CHANGE OF VENUE (Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais)**

Sunday 5th February 2017 10h30 / Fourth Sunday before Lent Service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Linda Pillière

Sunday 19th February 2017 10h30 / Second Sunday before Lent - Eucharist service led by Archdeacon of France: The Ven. Meurig Llwyd Williams at Condette, open to all congregations -see next page for details.



Winter in Jardin Bucciali, Boulogne

News and dates for your diary:



We welcome back on Sunday 15th January, the Rev David Houghton who will be leading our Eucharist service. David was brought up in Birmingham and commuter-land Essex. As a keen church bell ringer he never left the orbit of church life and after a degree in economics trained for the priesthood at Cuddesdon, Oxford and was ordained in Gloucester Cathedral in 1971. He served in parishes in Cheltenham, London (three times) and also across Europe, where he worked in Gibraltar, Madrid and Paris. As Chaplain of Warwick School he combined church and teaching of economics. A love of travel and especially railway journeys owes a lot to his father, and in retirement he does a nice sideline as occasional tour manager for a railway

based tour company.

David enjoys assisting at local churches, and serving in locums; also accompanying individuals on their own spiritual journey. Remaining single, he enjoys and rejoices in a very wide circle of friends in many parts of the world.

Special service with the Archdeacon of France on Sunday 19th February 2017 10h30 will take place at the Maison Diocésaine 'Les Tourelles' 12 avenue de l'Yser, 62360 Condette. An outline of the day's programme is as follows: Meeting at 11h00 followed by reflections; lunch served at 13h00; Eucharist service at 14h00 with close of the day's events at approx. 16h00. There is a charge of €15 per person, which includes lunch and refreshments.



In the news: shortly after the carol service on 10th December at Estréelles church, the *Journal de Montreuil* published a report – see boxed text left.

Calais report that their annual service of Christmas carols was well attended with over 70 people, both French and English participating. A total of €90 was raised for the charities: *L'Arche*, *les Trois Fontanes* and *Able Child Africa*. The mince pies and hot-spiced apple juice went down well after the service.

There is still time to see the traditional display of Christmas crèches by the sisters of the Monastère du Carmel... on show until the end of the month in the cloisters.



ESTRÉELLES

Catholiques et protestants rassemblés

Samedi après-midi, une célébration de Noël anglo-française a eu lieu à l'église d'Estréelles. Des catholiques et des protestants se sont rassem-

blés pour fêter la Nativité. Les familles qui ont rempli l'église ont apprécié des lectures en Français et en Anglais. Des chants ont résonné sous des mélodies connues « Il est né le divin enfant » « Mon beau sapin », avec la participation de la chorale franco-anglaise « Fir Tuesday Club » et de M. Van de Zande à l'orgue. Des enfants du village ont fait vivre la crèche. Ils sont arrivés du fond de l'église : Marie avec l'enfant Jésus, puis Joseph, un ange et les bergers. Paul Glaister est un britannique installé dans la commune depuis de nombreuses années. Intégré à la population, il participe à de nombreuses activités. Il a eu l'idée, voici quelques années, d'organiser une cérémonie de Noël avec la collaboration de la paroisse.

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Prayer Diary / Intercessions - A book is now available for the entry of names of those who anyone wishes to have included in the intercessory prayers during the service. Otherwise please pass a note to the person responsible for the intercessions on that day.

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; 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.



The Travelling Aspidistra by George Murray

The story of a family and how this symbol of respectability and social values got from Boulogne to Sydney

In 1885 an elderly lady travelled from her home in Boulogne-sur-Mer to Australia with, among her baggage, an aspidistra plant. It was a long voyage. It began in Marseilles, where she boarded the “*Salazie*”, first to Rio de Janeiro to take on fresh supplies, thence via Cape Horn to Tahiti, New

Caledonia, and finally Sydney. Among her descendents is Diana Cumming Cornwell, who lives at Turramurra, a northern suburb of Sydney.

The traveller’s name was Sophia Lucy Morel. Her father, a lace-maker in Nottingham, sent her from England to finish her education in France. She attended the academy of M. Bélin in the Grande Rue, Boulogne-sur-Mer. Aged about 24 she married Louis Amedée Morel, whose sister Louise was the wife of Louis Bélin. It was in the Grande Rue that her married life began. Sophia and Amedée had two children, Florence Alice and Henri Louis.

The house still stands, the distinctive petal fanlight above the front door bearing the date 1734. In its garden the aspidistra once flourished. The wrought iron balcony running the full length of the house carried, until at least 25 years ago, the slogan “English Church”. The part that served for worship was originally the ‘academy’ section of the building. Diana Cornwell, who wrote to me to discover just what had happened to this English Church, brought the church connection to my attention.

Amedée, despite his age, went off to fight in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71), alongside Emile Patriarche the second husband of Louise (M. Bélin having died young). Amedée was awarded the *Légion d’Honneur*, but both men lost their lives. Sophia Lucy’s children were sent to England during the war, to stay with their grandfather John Perry in Nottingham. Henri Louis developed an interest in photography. Florence Alice met and married a Scot, Anthony James Cumming. Cumming, like his father, was a painter, specializing in historical Scottish battle scenes. But Anthony James preferred to spend more time next door at the “Scotsman” newspaper devising improvements for printing machinery. He also invented new machinery for lace-making. In the course of a visit to John Perry’s laceworks to demonstrate his latest invention, the director introduced Cumming to his granddaughter, Florence Alice, who later became his wife.

Meanwhile in New South Wales, one George Sands, launched a new paper the “Australian Star” and hearing of Cumming’s inventions requested him to deliver printing machinery to Sydney and set it up before returning to Edinburgh. Florence and their small children accompanied Cumming. But a grief-stricken Florence died shortly after their son succumbed to a ‘flu epidemic in Sydney. She left behind a little girl Sophie aged five, behind. As a consequence her mother Sophia Lucy, by that time an elderly lady, decided to take matters in hand and embarked on the long and perilous voyage to Australia. She took only a small number of personal possessions with her, which included a writing slope, some sweet-pea seeds, and the aspidistra plant. The thought of her using precious water intended for drinking and washing to keep her aspidistra alive shows courage and determination.

In the interim her son-in-law had become a journalist on the “Australian Star” where he remained until 1905. He was then appointed Queensland Government printer. He held this post for the rest of his life, while his mother-in-law kept house for him and brought up little Sophie. He never remarried. Every Sunday for the rest of her life Sophia Lucy wrote back to her son Henri in England. He in turn had one son, named Louis Amedée after his grandfather. This Louis joined the merchant navy, travelling mainly to China, then Brisbane, to see his grandmother and his cousin Sophie. Diana remembers her late father, who was born in 1911, saying he always brought with him a singing canary in a cage, and once an exotic vase from Canton, all of which (except perhaps the canary!) are still in Diana’s possession. Tragically, Louis Amedée perished in 1916 in the Battle of Jutland aboard HMS Turbulent. Sophia Lucy herself passed away in 1918. There is a sad sequel to the story however. In 1945 Diana’s father, who served in Europe in WW2, before returning to Australia visited Louis’ mother and sister in Boulogne. He wrote: *“I did not recognize the daughter when she came to the door, she looked so old. The mother was bedridden, and both slept downstairs in the sitting room. The daughter produced the Légion d’Honneur*



This photo, taken in 1913, by a travelling photographer outside their Queensland home, shows Sophia Lucy seated on the left and her son-in-law Anthony Cumming on the right, with young Sophie and her husband Henry Cornwell in the centre, plus the new generation of twins in front.

from her handbag, white enamelled, badly battered and worse for wear". It must have been after that that the house was sold. A letter from the Red Cross in the early 1970s stated "We regret to inform you that the missing person you are inquiring about died three years ago as a result of injuries sustained during a mugging in London, in which her handbag was stolen.

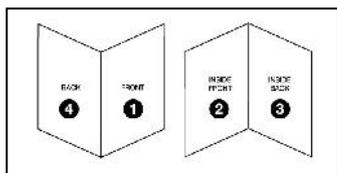
As Diana writes, the original Légion d'Honneur probably ended up in a London refuse bin. She still has in her possession the writing slope, the 'dress' version of the *Légion d'Honneur*, the vase, and the aspidistra, which still flourishes in her garden at Turramurra. If only it could speak! What a story it could tell.

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: Hazel Crompton, ☎ 03 21 03 31 27 e-mail: james.crompton@free.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 or by post to 76, rue de la Paix, 62200 Boulogne sur Mer.



The next edition of this newsletter will be the February 2017 issue – please send your contributions to the editor (contact details above) before January 24th.

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).

Last month's question: What happen in the United States at thirty-four minutes past noon on 6th May 1978 and at the same time in Paris, but on June 5th of the same year?

Answer: The time and date could be was written as follows: 12:34 5/6/78

Sometimes you just have to prove to people how good they are!

