



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

January 2019 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 74

Advent is for life, not just for Christmas.

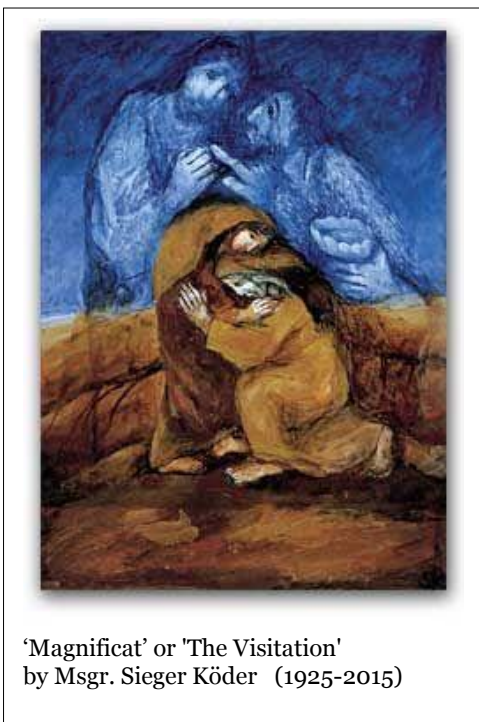
December can be a hectic month. Ironically, the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace can engender more stress than any other festival throughout the year. So, when our new chaplain Rev Kirrilee Reid announced three mid-week sessions of Morning Prayer for Advent at her home in Wimereux, my initial reaction was that I'd love to attend, but wasn't sure I could spare the time.

Predictably God challenged me on that one, and I'm very grateful He did. For me, it turned out to be an attitude-changer. Each session was based around the words of Psalm 27. *Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.*

We gathered in an informal group, our focus a low table covered in a simple hessian cloth, where the flicker of advent candles, an empty terracotta bowl and a piece of enigmatic artwork stimulated prayerful meditation. We pondered the scripture we'd read together, our Advent prayers and how the artwork spoke to us. Sharing our thoughts and reactions was an illustration of how God responds to each individual need and personality. The feedback was honest and heart-felt, ranging from the mildly sceptical to explosive at times, but no-one remained untouched by their own private meditation.



New Year greetings card circa. 1919



'Magnificat' or 'The Visitation'
by Msgr. Sieger Köder (1925-2015)

My personal highlight came at the end of the final session. We had reflected on Mary's Song (the Magnificat) in Luke 1:46-55 and The Song of Zechariah, Luke 1: 68-79, along with a painting called 'Magnificat' by the late German priest and artist Msgr. Sieger Köder, which shows Mary at the start of her three month stay with her older relative, Elizabeth. The picture depicts Elizabeth as aged and afraid, cowering in Mary's embrace while the younger woman comforts her. The picture surprised me. Surely it was Mary who needed comfort and reassurance, a teenage girl, inexplicably pregnant, faced with society's disbelief and censure. On the other hand, Elizabeth's release from the shame and heartache of barrenness, was surely cause to rejoice. She had been chosen to bear John the Baptist. But Elizabeth was advanced in years, and old age brings particular fears, including a sense of inadequacy. We begin to equate decreasing physical strength and occasional forgetfulness, with diminished usefulness. We feel we're past the time of daring anything new, of taking on fresh challenges.

Elizabeth illustrates that God never thinks this way, that the Almighty is not time-barred, and that *'nothing is impossible with God'* Luke 1:37.

One of our closing responses to the Advent sessions was **Come, Lord Jesus. Come and surprise us.** Let's add our **Amen** to that, for the year ahead.

[Jackie L.]



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

Sunday 6th January 2019 11h00 - The Epiphany - Eucharist service. Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:10-15; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 Combined service with members of Calais and Hesdin congregations, followed by a bring and share lunch. A great opportunity to meet with other members of our Chaplaincy at the start of the New Year.

Sunday 20th January 2019 10h30 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany - Eucharist service
Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

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 Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Unless shown otherwise all services will be conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. Kirrilee Reid

From our Chaplain...

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE. We have now journeyed through the season of Advent, celebrated the birth of our Saviour at Christmas, and are now approaching Epiphany on 6th January. This will be a combined Chaplaincy service in Boulogne, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch. This significant feast day provides a great opportunity at the beginning of the year for our whole Chaplaincy church community to worship and share together. I very much look forward seeing as many of you as possible there.

PATTERNS OF SERVICES - at our recent Chaplaincy Council we had a discussion around the patterns of services across the Chaplaincy. As things currently stand, Hesdin never have a 10:30am Sunday Eucharist service and in terms of equity, we have agreed to hold one there on a monthly basis. This will affect the Boulogne congregation in that once a month there will be an afternoon/evening Eucharist. The timings are still to be confirmed. This new pattern will commence on the 1st Sunday in March so we have some time to sort out the details.

INFORMATION SHARING - you will have all, no doubt, heard about the new rules concerning the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which cover the sharing of personal information (who, when, how much, why etc.) This is something that the Chaplaincy Council are addressing and are developing a process to ensure we manage this well and within legal and diocesan guidelines. Keep an eye out for further information in due course.

REFUGEE PROJECT OFFICER ROLE - Having spent the first couple of months focussing on establishing myself as your Chaplaincy priest, something I am thoroughly enjoying, my role as Refugee Project Officer is now beginning to take shape. This will involve working with other agencies to provide pastoral and spiritual care to those who have experienced considerable trauma and unsettledness as they have fled situations of conflict and upheaval. I recognise there are many perceptions and views around this situation here in France but the focus of this aspect of the ministry is a human one... to offer the love of God to all, regardless of background, ethnicity, gender or personal circumstances. It will take me some time to gain a full understanding of the current situation here in the north of France before establishing any particular projects. Many of you are already aware of the ministry of Brother Johannes in Calais and I will be working alongside him initially, as well as developing a volunteer support programme with *Secours Catholique*. The demands of this role may occasionally pull me away from Sunday worship but my aim is to keep this to a minimum. Thankfully we have a strong laity with opportunities for lay led services.

I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and look forward to what God has install for us in the coming weeks and months.

***** Friday 25th January : BIBLE STUDY** at 103 rue Pierre Ledent, 62170 Montreuil, time to be confirmed when Marilyn Catchpole Dossat will be leading a session based on the 'Promises of God.'

For further information, contact Colin Ley: leycej@aol.com ☎ 0688792185





*** **Tuesday 29th January from 10h00: COFFEE MORNING** 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: cecchin@wanadoo.fr

Monastère du Carmel: Once again, as in other years, the sisters have mounted a display of **CHRISTMAS CRÈCHES** in the cloisters, continuing to the end of January. The community take great please in having members of our congregation visit the exhibition.

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 - Holy Communion – 17h00. 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.



David Furbur has thoughts on how to start the New Year

In 1968, my wife and I went on our first New Year holiday abroad to Benidorm. It was a completely new experience with an odd language, strange food and the sun shining every day despite it being in the middle of winter; England seemed a long way off. The holiday was cheap, cheerful and memorable. I had made it my goal to swim in the Mediterranean on New Year's Day, nevertheless regardless of the sea looking clear, blue and warm, it felt freezing cold. Unwittingly I had done

what many cultures apparently do, that is to jump into the sea at New Year to literally wash the slate clean. Furthermore there was also another tradition that I, and my fellow countrymen missed out on, simply by our ignorance; eating twelve grapes at midnight. When we arrived for the New Year festivities we were touched to see on the table, in front of each person, a bowl containing twelve grapes. Nobody explained to us why, so naturally we ate them all many hours before midnight. At midnight the reason became clear, gulp down one on each strike and make a wish. The Spanish guests looked at us questioningly, mind you, I would have found it difficult to find twelve things to wish for! These traditions bring me circuitously onto our own tradition of making New Year Resolutions.

The New Year is an important time for reflection, on the past year, what we got wrong, what we could have done better, could we have helped someone or did we inadvertently cause hurt? We profess to being Christians so by self analysis we can then determine what we can do better in the New Year. Therefore may I respectfully suggest six resolutions, which may be considered appropriate for the New Year.

Speak from the heart. Let people know how much you love and care about them.

Forgive someone. Think of one person, past or present, towards whom you have ill feelings. Ask yourself if you can find it in your heart to grant them forgiveness.

Listen with compassion. When someone talks to you, listen properly even at first you do not agree with their views or you do not immediately like them, persevere. Do not immediately judge them. And don't keep looking at your phone when you are in company it tends to give the impression that your phone is more important than the people you are with.

Stop and notice. Life is being run at frenetic pace. Try to slow down. Look around you and wonder at God's beautiful creations.

Make a difference for someone in need. Think what can you do to make a difference in someone's life, look out for opportunities to help someone.

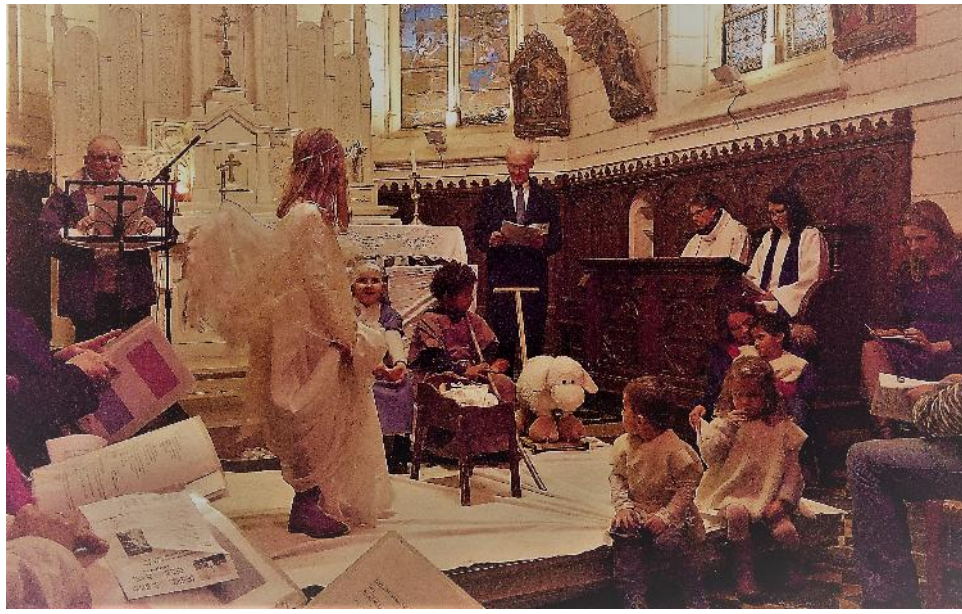
Keep up these good intentions all year long. We can each be the candle that helps to light the world. It might be difficult trying to be nice all the time, but it must be at least worth a try.

'Lord , we ain't what we want to be; we ain't what we ought to be; we ain't what we gonna be, but, thank Good, we ain't what we was'

Prayer of a former slave preacher.



CHRISTMAS IN PICTURES



At Estréelles

On Saturday, 8th December, the little Church of Estréelles was packed with French and English people for our annual *Célébration de Noël*. This event goes on year after year, always with the same success. Nobody can remember exactly, but it must have been part of our Christmases for over 10 years by now. As always, I [Paul] led the service with the wonderful help of the local Catholic matriarchy, Michael, our French organist, and the mothers and children of the village. We were doubly blessed this year by having two priests to participate. Abbé

Christophe was, as always, ready to help, and was delighted this year to join with our Reverend Kirrilee Reid.

It must have been something of a baptism of fire for her to be thrust into the joyful confusion of our service. The ceremony went well, everyone sang loud and heartedly in both French and English, helped tremendously by Eloise our granddaughter as soloist and by the scratch choir we had recruited from the First Tuesday Club in Hesdin, and by the children of the village who performed enthusiastically, if not as accurately as scripted. Afterwards we all went to the Salle Communale to appreciate the mulled wine and mince pies that Lalage had provided. A wonderful start to Christmas in Estréelles.

Many thanks to Paul Glaister for that report for all those who contributed to our newsletters during 2018.



Christmas Day 2018 in Boulogne

We had great pleasure in welcoming, to our Christmas morning Eucharist, members of the local Église Réformée, who also participated in the service. The act of worship was followed by a chance to exchange greetings and enjoy traditional English mince pies and mulled wine together.

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 February issue: 25th January 2019

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).

