



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas de Calais
BOULOGNE CONGREGATION
July /August 2017 Newsletter
Fellowship, Hope and Love **No. 59**

From the rising of the sun...

Next summer NASA is planning to send a spacecraft to the Sun. The purpose of this first, is to unravel some of the mysteries of our nearest star which has been constantly providing the planet Earth with energy for several billions of years and hopefully will continue to do so for a few more. Not that the probe will be able to get very close to the surface, it will have to orbit a reasonably safe distance away – as much as 6.2 million kilometres, and even then at that distance it must withstand temperatures of a mind-blowing 1,377 °C, which makes our recent heat wave and cries of 'Phew what a scorcher' look rather puny.

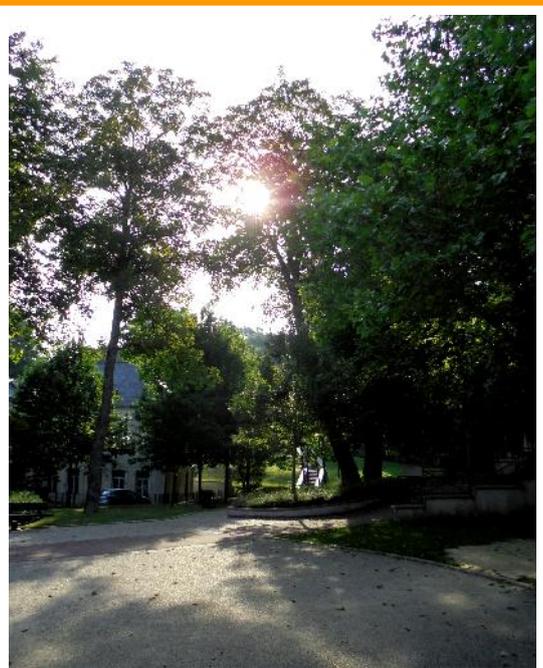
However, I am sure that even after the space ship has completed its mission, if it does not fry in the process, we will still be no further forward scientifically in understanding how this giant ball of fire got started and how it can continue to endlessly radiate heat and light, without losing any of its brilliance.

In the 1961 sci-fi classic: *'The Day the Earth Caught Fire,'* the film starts with the news that a series of simultaneous nuclear bomb tests, by the major powers, has caused the Earth to leave its normal trajectory and

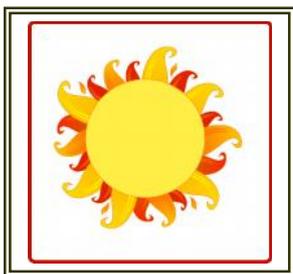
is slowly being drawn inwards towards the Sun, Images of abandoned streets sizzling in the ever increasing heat abound and it appears the only solution is to explode more bombs to push the planet back on course again – but no-one is sure if that will work. The world has to wait and hope things can be put right.

Fortunately that scenario is just fiction and let's hope it stays that way, nevertheless here is a parable and cautionary tale of man's ability, in his foolishness, to destroy the ordered world. We may cross continents and encounter new cultures, but it is the same golden orb that reassuringly radiates its blessings on us, as it has unfailingly done for our ancestors. The same sun that lit the path of Christ on his journeys from Nazareth to Jerusalem - what better reminder do we need of the power of the Almighty? And like his love the sun is always there, even when the sky is cloudy. (MG)

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.
Psalm 113:3



Mid-summer morning, with the sun already high in the sky on the longest day - Boulogne



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

Sunday 2nd July 2017 10h30/ Fourth Sunday after Pentecost -
Eucharist service led by Rev David Houghton; Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday 16th July 2017 10h30/ Sixth Sunday after Pentecost -
Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Jean Karssen and George Murray

Cont:-

Sunday 30th July 2017 11h00 / Eighth Sunday after Pentecost -Joint service at Hesdin
- see below.

Sunday 6th August 2017 / Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **NO SERVICE**

Sunday 20th August 2017 10h30/ Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist service led by Revd Chris Bedford; Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-28

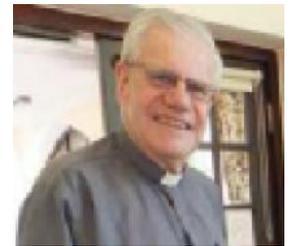
Sunday 3rd September 2017 10h30 / Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings

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News and dates for your diary:

As Sunday 30th July 2016 is the fifth Sunday of the month, there will be a joint congregation Eucharist service at Hesdin, in the Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, led by the Archdeacon of France Meurig Williams. The service starts at 11h00 and will be followed by a meal.

We warmly welcome, on 20th August, the Revd Chris Bedford who is Assistant Priest at St Lawrence and St Saviour's, two churches serving the villages of Chobham and Valley End in Surrey.



House Group

On the afternoon of June 7th a new initiative began for our church in the form of a house group. Nine people gathered at the home of Peter Wyart in Sorrus for our introductory meeting.

We began by discussing why we were there and what we hoped to gain and contribute from joining this informal group. Our reasons were basically twofold: desire to get to know the Bible better through preparing for our fortnightly sessions; desire to get to know one another better in true Christian fellowship through sharing our insights and encouragements as well as our faith struggles and doubts.

We're planning to base our study over the next ten sessions on a devotional book: '*Jesus and Peter: Growing in Friendship with God*' by Michael Perham (ISBN: 9780281067541) available via Amazon in paperback or Kindle e-book.

The venue for our meetings will probably rotate, broadly among homes in the Montreuil area. All are warmly invited; including any not involved in the Pas de Calais congregations who are nevertheless keen to discuss faith issues. We're hoping to attract enough members to warrant a second group eventually, and then a third...

Our next meeting is on Friday July 7th at 3pm, again at Peter's home at 138 rue Jean Ducrocq, in Sorrus. Any questions, requests for directions to Peter's house etc, please email either Lalage Glaister, lalageglaister@gmail.com or Colin Ley, leycj@aol.com (JL)

Strawberry Tea

The annual strawberry tea at the home of Paul & Lalage Glaister in Estréelles has become legend, keenly anticipated by their numerous friends, neighbours and fellow members of the Pas de Calais Anglican congregation.

This year the weather was kind enough for afternoon tea *al fresco* in the Glaisters' beautiful garden, although the term 'afternoon tea' doesn't do justice to the sumptuous feast on offer. The extended table groaned with a variety of home-made cakes, scones complete with jam and cream, traditional cucumber sandwiches and, of course, generous bowls of luscious strawberries from a local farm.

The garden echoed with chatter and laughter, a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. 60 to 80 people thronged the lawn or sought shade (and the chance to reload plates) in the dining-room. The event raised 470 euros in aid of



Strawberry tea gardens with Estréelles church as backdrop

the Boulogne Anglican church, a truly heartening result. But the afternoon was about so much more than fund-raising. Although they'd be the last to take credit, it was testimony to one couple's unflinching hospitality; their compassionate heart for people; their willingness to work hard to make this annual event happen.

'Outreach' is a one of the bits of jargon that gets bandied around in churches. We know it should happen; we're not quite sure how. Maybe we're missing an important point, that outreach is primarily about winning hearts and minds, not about filling pews.

'You will eat the fruit of your labour' Psalm 128:2

The annual strawberry tea involves a lot of labour but its fruit can be far more satisfying than berries, however delicious. That fruit is people, coming together in fellowship and dialogue, engaging with one another, sharing in the trials and joys we all face.

'Then saith he (Jesus) unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.' Matthew 10:37,38

So how do you turn a garden into a harvest field? You stage a strawberry tea! (JL)



New Bells for St George's

Church towers in the built landscape are as common and familiar in Belgium and France as they are in Great Britain. The sound of church bells has for centuries resonated in lives – marking time, celebration, sadness, as well as calling the faithful to worship. The sound of bells was an echo from home for many soldiers of the First World War.

The Anglican church at Ieper (or Ypres), St. George's Memorial Church, was built between 1927 and 1929 to serve the British community that settled in Ypres after the First World War. The design was by Sir Reginald Blomfield, a prolific architect who designed the Menin Gate Memorial and also the Cross of Sacrifice that stands in hundreds of Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries across the world. St George's is an Anglican church within the Diocese in Europe. It has a small resident congregation, but the church has also been central to the pilgrimage to Ypres for many. All items in the church, such as chairs, windows, flags, wall plaques and kneelers, commemorate individual soldiers, regiments, battalions, and many others. It is a place of great poignancy: a place of a thousand stories.

Over half a million British and Commonwealth troops died in the three battles fought for the Ypres salient, a bulge in the British lines in 1914, 1915, and finally between 31st July and 6th November 1917. This third offensive became known as the Battle of Passchendaele, infamous both for the scale of its casualties and for the mud in which the fighting took place. Finally the village of Passchendaele itself, or what was left of it, lay barely five miles beyond the starting point of the offensive, at a cost of 315,000 Allied and 260,000 German casualties. Nevertheless Field Marshall Haig claimed a victory.

The centenary of this battle is marked on 31st July 2017. Among other commemorations the event has ignited a great deal of interest amongst the bell-ringing community worldwide. Bells have been rung to commemorate the men lost from towns and villages and, of course, the ringers themselves. The remembrance of these men can be particularly poignant for today's ringers as they stand in ringing chambers, often little changed, to ring the same bells as their predecessors who lost their lives. As with many aspects of life, WWI had a big effect on bell-ringing. Towers fell silent as so many ringers enlisted to fight but the number of female ringers, before the war just a handful, increased greatly in their absence.

Now, at the time of the centenary, a UK charity *Bells4StGeorgeYpres* is fulfilling the original intention that the tower of St George's be completed by the installation of change-ringing bells. Change-ringing is a type of bell-ringing that is almost unique to the UK, but can also be found in areas of historical English influence around the world, such as North America and Australia. Its beginnings are closely linked to how high a bell could be swung. Change-ringing bells are swung 'full circle'. Starting with the mouth of the bell pointing upwards they

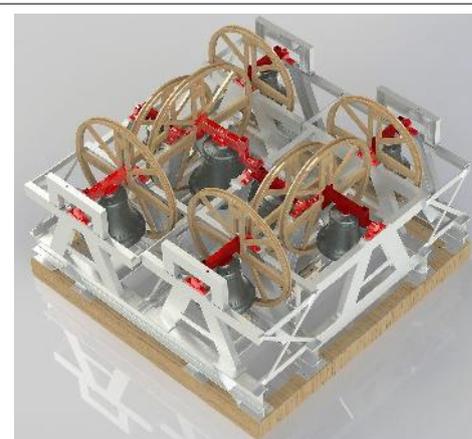


Diagram of bell configuration

swing first one way and then back to the upright position. The ringer (in a room below in the tower) creates and controls this movement using a rope connected to a full wheel fixed alongside the bell. This arrangement gives the ringer a high degree of control over the bell. It can be paused for a fraction of time when balanced at the top of the swing or it can be checked slightly and not allowed to swing so far. By this, the striking of the bells is either at a longer or shorter interval. This allows bells ringing next to each other in a sequence to change place in the order.

Bells4StGeorgeYpres aims to install a new set of eight bells, All of the bells have now been cast – the last on 15th June - at the bell foundry of John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough. A set of sixteen Victorian hand bells previously owned by Great War veteran Charles T.Coles (and donated by his grandson), is being restored by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London. The existing ringing room will be renovated using fine European oak panelling and fittings. A comprehensive sound control system will be installed to allow the bells to heard when ringing for services or significant events but to preserve the tranquillity of the church as a place of remembrance at other times. There will be an audiovisual system to allow the bells and ringers to be viewed by visitors to the church when ringing is taking place, and to inform and educate.

Fundraising has now achieved its target of £195,000 but donations continue towards a permanent maintenance fund for the bells.

The above is an adapted version of an article, which originally appeared in the periodical 'News and Events' published by the Old Etonian Association, and is reproduced with the permission of the charity's trustees. Bells4StGeorgeYpres is not an Eton charity. (GM)

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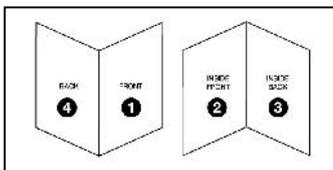
Prayer Diary / Intercessions - A book is now available for the entry of names of those who anyone wishes to have included in the intercessory prayers during the service. Otherwise please pass a note to the person responsible for the intercessions on that day.

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 e-mail: kmspriggs@fsmail.net

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 or otherwise the secretary.

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 -

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course remember to pass the paper through your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

