



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

July/August 2018 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 69

Summertime is for taking time out and in tourist offices, on both sides of the Channel, the racks of brochures have all been neatly restocked with publicity extolling the high points of the local 'visitor attractions.' The choice is great: theme parks, stately homes, vintage railways, castles, magnificent gardens, and not forgetting aquaria, especially as Boulogne now claims Europe's largest aquarium.

But a quick scan of the brochures reveals that nostalgia, in all its many forms, features high in the selling points. Living history museums are far removed from those traditional showcases full of Greek urns and dusty amphora or flint axe heads; here the kids can buy sweet rations from a 1940s shop, play on the penny arcades, sit in a 19th century school room or discover the pleasure of an outside loo. And whilst yesteryear exhibits may not always trigger those warm comfortable feelings associated with the euphoric state of nostalgia in the adults, the museums' administrators will still think it well worth a try.

The stimulus for this phenomenon is different for each individual. It may come on when trawling through a batch of old photographs or turning the pages of a diary kept donkeys' years ago, or on hearing a certain piece of music. But there is one other causation that is scientifically known to bring the sweetness of times remembered flooding back and that's a long, hot summer. L.P Hartley's novel 'The Go-between,' an account of lost innocence remembered, opens with the much quoted line: 'The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.' It comes then as no surprise that the story unfolds in an extended summer; that of 1900. In the past, as we all know, summers were constantly hot and went on forever. This year the weather conditions look poised for one of those unforgettable L.P Hartley periods once again, so we should be on our guard for nostalgia by the bucket load.

What can we do about it, is there any form of preventative action? A few good suggestions have been advanced: for example avoid excessive use of your radiogram; store away the Teasmaid and only use a public phone box if absolutely necessary, at least until the cooler weather arrives. This may help.

Well in this summer of the World Cup, especially if either England or France are the winners, then we will have plenty to look back on – phew! What a summer we have in store! God bless us all.

Malcolm G.



A peep over the hedge into the world of a perfect summer's day and strawberry teas .. at Estréelles.
(Photo David Furbur)

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

☞☞☞ Sunday 1st July 2018 10h30 / *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost* Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by George Murray

☞☞☞ Sunday 15th July 2018 10h30 / *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost* Eucharist service, celebrant: Ven. Stephen Taylor, Archdeacon of Maidstone. Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

☞☞☞ Sunday 29th July 2018 11h00 / *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost* Joint congregation Eucharist service led by Revd Chris Bedford and followed by lunch at Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin

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☺☺☺ Sunday 5th August 2018 / NO SERVICE

☺☺☺ Sunday 19th August 2018 10h30 / **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Eucharist service, celebrant: Rev. Roy Kilford. Readings: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

☺☺☺ Sunday 2nd September 2018 10h30 / **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Eucharist service, celebrant: Rev. Caroline Pinchbeck, Director of communities and partnerships Diocese of Canterbury. Readings: Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



News and dates for your diary...

We are very pleased to welcome on Sunday 19th August the Rev. Roy Kilford. Certainly no newcomer to the Pas de Calais, Roy was our chaplain from 2002 to 2004 covering, at the time, Calais, Boulogne and Arras, and through his initiative services were started in Hesdin in 2003. Ordained at Canterbury in 1984 by Archbishop Robert Runcie, Roy spent most of his ministry in Kent before a spell as chaplain at Paphos in Cyprus. He recently held 'house for duty' posts in Yorkshire, East Sussex, and lately in the Midlands before finally retiring in 2017 and moving back to live in Canterbury. Roy is married to Myrtle, they have two daughters and four grandchildren.



Bible study The next meeting of the Bible Study Group is on Friday 3rd August, 15h00, at the home of Peter Wyart in Sorrus. We'll be beginning a new study topic of Paul's letter to the Galatians, taking one chapter per meeting, so the August 3rd meeting will focus on Galatians 1. For maximum benefit in the discussion, it's best to do some prior preparation, but a theology degree is not required, although perfectly acceptable if you happen to have one! As ever, all are very welcome. For any further details, please contact Jackie Ley, ☎: 688792185 Email: jackieley@aol.com

Private gardens open to the public in the Vallée de la Course - a wonderful opportunity to discover some beautiful flower gardens in this outstanding part of the region. Just €5 (children free) for admission to all the gardens on show (buy ticket at first garden visited.) The gardens on show will be clearly signposted in the following villages: Courset, Estrée, Estréelles, Hucqueliers and Inxent. For further information: Lalage Glaister ☎03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

Help! As in other years, since 1948 in fact, there will be a small group from Walsingham in Norfolk coming to Boulogne to take part in 'La Grande Procession' on Sunday 26th August. Because many of their number are now less able, they are asking if we can provide some helpers to carry the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the town centre to the Cathedral. Seats are reserved at the service and tea is on offer at Pauline's house afterwards. If you think you may be able to help please contact: Pauline Cecchin, on: ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 or e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr

Marriage Just a couple of weeks after another celebrated couple, Harry and Meghan, tied the knot, our very own Vaughan and Hilary did the same. Now Mr and Mrs Johnson, the ceremony took place in the grounds of Shortmead House, Biggleswade in Bedfordshire on 1st June. It was followed the next day by a choral service of prayer and dedication at St Andrew's church in the town, conducted by Rev. Guy Scott. We wish them both every happiness and look forward to seeing them again when they are next back in France.



Paul Glaister writes: 'Strawberries a go-go' Another June, and another Strawberry Tea in Estréelles, and this year proved to be a glorious day; the weather just right, plenty of parking and an endless stream of friendly people squeezing into our small garden. Punnet after punnet of strawberries were consumed and innumerable sandwiches, cakes and cups of tea. Some people tried to count the numbers for us, but all we can say is that we ended up with over a hundred people here, and over 600€ raised for our church. (Picture on front page.) But perhaps the greatest compliment was in a card we received a few days after the Tea. Our friend wrote: 'The Strawberry Tea has become one of the highlights of our summer and it was such a joy to sit in your lovely garden chatting to old friends and making new ones.' See you all next year!



BAALBEK ~ A VISIT

by George Murray

A wine writer's column in a recent English magazine was promoting wines from the Lebanon. The writer correctly noted that most Lebanese wines come from the Bekaa valley, where long ago the Romans spotted the vine-growing potential of chalky soil, warm days and cool nights. She noted that in the 2nd century AD the Romans built, in homage to Bacchus, god of wine, a 'huge temple' called Baalbek. Some Temple! Baalbek is no less than a Roman town, complete with town hall and theatre. It was described by the late Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the distinguished British archaeologist, as "*one of the very great monuments of European architecture.... Its temples rank among the most magnificent that the Romans ever built*". These temples were built over ruins dating from the Hellenistic period when the site was known as Heliopolis.

The site of Baalbek, in its fertile valley, has for millennia been a crossroads. That remains true, although its role on international trade routes between Beirut and Damascus has, for the present, been supplanted by that of a huge refugee camp. Miraculously the Roman structures largely survived the prolonged Lebanese civil war from 1975 to 1992, and so did the wine industry, which has today as the writer pointed out, gone mainstream (if pricey!)

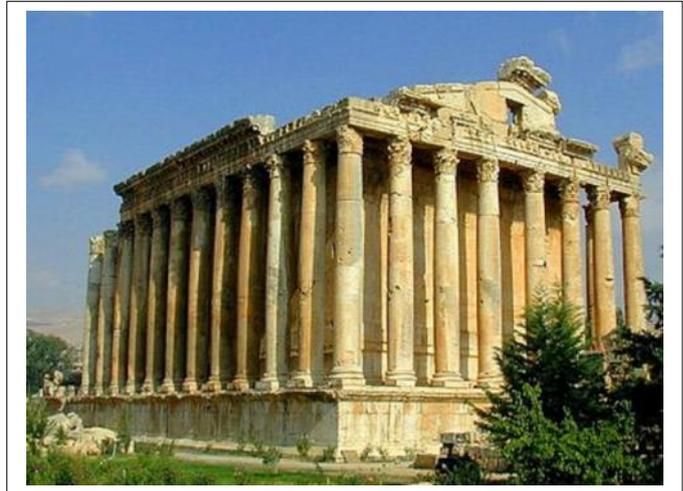
Many years ago now, I accepted a commission to write a study of the Lebanese economy. It was the time when the Lebanon, and in particular its capital Beirut, could legitimately call itself the Switzerland of the Middle East, with the bonus that a morning's skiing could be followed by an afternoon swim in the Mediterranean. The economy was prosperous and Beirut hosted dozens of foreign banks. During the cumulative months I spent there, I visited many parts of the country. I declined however an invitation for a helicopter ride over the southern part of the country, to view the ancient sites of Tyre and Sidon; we would certainly have been picked up on Israeli radar, with possibly unwelcome consequences. Among such visits, thanks to the unfailing generosity of my hosts, was a half-day spent in Baalbek. A hair-raising ride over Mount Lebanon, the central spine of the country, was prelude to the breathtaking sight of Baalbek itself. The Romans built big. The 'little' temple on the so-called acropolis of Baalbek is larger than the Pantheon that dominates Athens.

Three Roman gods were worshipped at Baalbek: Jupiter, Venus and Bacchus. The site is colossal. It has suffered earthquake damage on several occasions, been besieged, survived Ottoman conquest and the dismantling of its fortifications. Despite this the site remains remarkably intact, but even as a UNESCO World Heritage Site its future remains uncertain, on account of the conflict marking the entire Middle East region.

The Temple of Jupiter is remarkable for its 20m high columns, six of which survive intact, and the gigantic stones of its terrace. The temple was 48m wide and nearly 90m long. The adjacent temple dedicated to Bacchus is exceptional for its rich decoration and its monumental gate sculpted with bacchic figures; it is the best-preserved Roman temple of its size anywhere.

For the visitor, Health & Safety are (or were) notable by their absence. At one point my wife and I were called on to leap across a gap of at least a metre between two temples. Our guide went first, but my wife made the mistake of looking down, and might well have fallen to certain death had he not caught her outstretched hand. If for no other reason, the visit will be forever marked in my memory.

Baalbek, despite its astonishing longevity, is not the only aspect of Lebanon that remains fragile. Carved out from Greater Syria in the 1920s under the French mandate, its constitution reflected the religious or "confessional" composition of its then population. Christianity has had a long and continuous history in the Lebanon. The Maronite church originated with a 4th century monk Saint Maron, its inspirational leader





and patron saint. Today the Maronite church is a self-governing part of the Eastern Catholic churches.

When the Lebanese constitution was set up in 1926, Maronite Christians were a majority. The President was to be a Maronite, the Prime Minister a Sunni Moslem, and the Speaker of Parliament a Shia. The composition of the Chamber was also laid down on confessional lines. In today's terms the country is a presidential democratic republic, functioning within an overall confessional structure. Despite various attempts to reform the system, the structure remains basically the same and, mostly, it works. On notable occasions though, it has spectacularly failed to do so.

Lebanon has been a magnet for refugees, essentially from Palestine following the creation of the State of Israel, and more recently fleeing from the civil war in Syria. Inevitably the structure of the population has changed. Groups such as Hezbollah, which were non-existent when the republic was created, have acquired great influence. No census has been carried out for many years, as it would of course reveal the truth that Christians are now in a minority. Currently Lebanon is working with the Assad regime to return refugees to Syria. The UN says Lebanon has one million Syrian refugees, but the Government puts the number at 1.5 million, equivalent to 25% of the population.



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 services: 1st Sunday – Lay Led service – 10h30 / 3rd Sunday - Holy Communion – 17h00. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin – Church Warden: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79

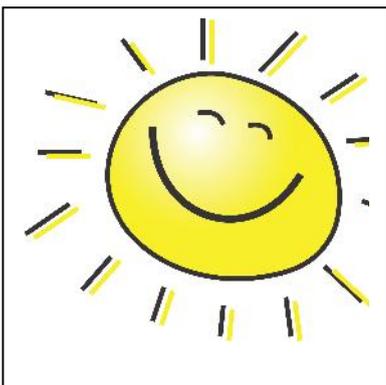
If anyone needs any form of help or assistance or if you are aware of someone who is ill, either in hospital or at home and would appreciate a visit, or alternatively if you know of anyone who you feel may benefit from prayer, please contact the church warden: George Murray ☎ 03 21 36 53 87, e-mail: georgemurray@sfr.fr.

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 September issue: 18th August 2018

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).



Happy Summer Holidays