



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas de Calais BOULOGNE CONGREGATION July/August 2015 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

For a touch of history, go underground

We can learn a lot from history or at least we should try. Reminders of the past abound; dramatic life-changing events down to the commonplace happenings on street corners; great achievements or the worst nightmares of human behaviour. The history books record it all.

Boulogne's past could never be described as dull, it has experienced more than its fair share of highs and lows over the years - but how do we make sense of it all? Combined with books, films, pageants and internet resources there are the ever popular visits to castles, cathedrals and other historical monuments, now with hi-tech presentations to help us understand the past better than ever before by informing, educating and entertaining.

The basilica in Boulogne has now joined this premier league of history sharing with the reopening of its enormous crypt, part of which goes back to Roman times and claims to be the largest in France. It has taken 5 years of closure for the detailed archaeological work and renovation to be completed and last month saw queues forming outside to be the first to go below ground to witness the changes. I had one last look five years ago, just before the doors finally closed; then it was a dingy, damp, claustrophobic hole in the ground that had hardly altered since it first opened to the public in 1839, the exhibits were poorly lit and badly signed, in fact its principal attraction was its reputation for being spooky! Now after a spend of 4 million euros it has taken on a bright new life and even doubles occasionally as a concert venue.

The crypt is massive and extends the full length of the cathedral, forming a subterranean labyrinth of passages and chambers and although it might not excite everyone, it certainly is a little different from many other historic monuments. Particularly fascinating are the wall paintings, including a set of 19th century monochrome frescoes, by unknown artists, depicting characters and events in the Old and New Testaments. These had not been seen for more than a century, having been whitewashed over. Initially the self-guided audio tour system was not ready but will be in place from July onwards and there will be formal guided tours in the summer season (7th July – 30th August) every afternoon at 3pm. Even though the crypt is packed with interest the one thing that really caught my eye, situated at the extreme east end, were the giant buttresses of reinforced concrete required to support the dome when it was in danger of collapsing in the early 1920s. Sadly, the well intended, but nevertheless self-taught architect and local priest, Benoît Haffreingue had miscalculated the stresses on the stonework and part of the vaulting had started to collapse making it a very strong possibility the dome itself would fall down, bringing with it much of the cathedral. Fortunately the dome was saved and the experts' efforts at calculating just what was required to keep the massive bulk in place paid off, seeing it through the bombardments of the Second World War. Truly without the basilica's dome, Boulogne would not be the same.



Mediaeval figures on show in the crypt

We cannot travel back in time and tastes have changed over the years but it could be argued that our theme park museums of yesteryear sanitize the past. However, history does prove that we now live in very advantaged times, even though we may not always appreciate it. Using all the skills and techniques we have acquired over the years and using them to good purpose, would undoubtedly receive the firm seal of approval from Monseigneur Haffreingue, the man who made the building of the basilica his life's work. An unassuming man who claimed little of the credit, preferring to inscribe the building: "*A Domino factum est istud et hoc mirabile in oculis nostris*"- The Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes. (Psalm 118 v 23). True of all good works - go and rediscover for yourself this summer (MG).

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

 **Sunday 5th July 2015 10h30 / Fifth Sunday after Trinity (or Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)** - A service of morning worship with the renewal of vows and sprinkling of water, led by Mary Wood from Calais

 **Sunday 19th July 2015 10h30 / Seventh Sunday after Trinity (or Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)** Eucharist service conducted by Rev Charles Hill. Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

Please note there will be no service on the first Sunday in August

 **Sunday 16th August 2015 10h30 / Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (or Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)** Eucharist service conducted by Canon Reg Humphriss. Readings: Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 34:14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6: 51-58.

 **Sunday September 6th 2015 10h30 / Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (or Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost)** A service of morning worship, with hymns and readings.

News and dates for your diary:



We are pleased to give a warm welcome on Sunday 5th July to Mary Wood, the reader at our neighbouring congregation of Calais and founder member of L'association oecuménique du Littoral – please do your best to support this service – **the last of our first Sundays at the chapel until September.**

In the midst of the holiday season Canon Reg Humphriss will be back to lead our service on **16th August.**



George Murray, our churchwarden, has kindly provided this insight to a historic family home with a difference: THE CHATEAU DE FIENNES

Living in a former cowshed under a hay-loft, with walls one metre thick, stepping out over a covered midden, a tower for a bedroom and a chapel in the grounds...Your dream of France? Well it can certainly be interesting if the building dates back to the 17th century, with origins in the 11th, and has associations with a famous English family; even if it is draughty and impossible to heat.

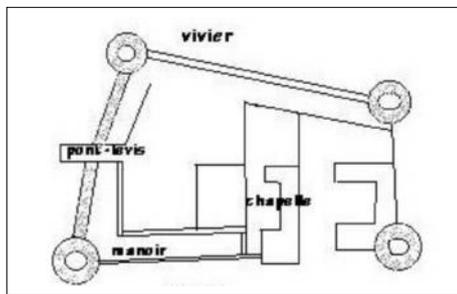


Old post-card showing south wing of castle

The Château de Fiennes was my family home for twelve years. Eustache I, one of four seigneurs appointed under Charlemagne, who became the first Count of Boulogne, and his son and heir Eustache II, built the original castle. Fiennes divided the county of Guines from Boulogne, and its domain extended as far South as Hardelet. After the death of his first wife Godjifu (daughter of Ethelred the 'Unready' of England) Eustache II married Ida of Verdun. Ida gave him three sons, one of whom achieved fame as Godefroy de Bouillon. The square in the Haute Ville of Boulogne-sur-Mer is named after him. Legend has it that Godefroy was born in the Château de Fiennes. He certainly lived there for a while. After his heroism in the first Crusade, Godefroy was named King of Jerusalem, but declined the title on account of the controversial seizure of Bethlehem; his brother Baldwin, Count of Flanders, eventually took the title. Legend has it that Godefroy also returned with the Holy Grail, which he entrusted to the monks at the Abbey of Beaulieu – though this is only one version amongst many.

Around 1100 AD the Fiennes family, related to the Counts of Boulogne, Guines and St. Pol, acquired the castle and its lands. In 1214 William of Fiennes led the knights at the Battle of Bouvines, on the losing side of Renaud de Dammartin, against King Philippe-Auguste. Jean de Fiennes, *Connétable* de France, was one of the six Burghers of Calais offered up in chains to Edward III of England during the Siege of Calais in 1347. Surviving only after the intervention of Edward's queen, Philippa of Hainault, he supported Robert III of Artois, then involved in a succession dispute with his aunt Mahaut. Having lost the battle, Jean's castle at Fiennes was dismantled in punishment.

His son rapidly rebuilt it, but during the siege of Boulogne by Henry VIII, it was burnt and definitively destroyed. It would be many years before it was rebuilt, this time as a fortified farm on the outskirts of the village. The stones show without doubt that the surviving *bâtisse* was constructed from the ruins of the feudal castle. It was of trapezoid form, its corners being defended by towers. Today only a single tower remains, but the façade is intact, with a portcullis entrance over what was once a moat. The site now houses four dwellings.



Since its reconstruction the building has continued to play a role in history. During the 1789 Revolution it was pillaged and largely wrecked, though (or perhaps because) it served as a prison, complete with sentry box in the *salle basse* under the tower. The remains were sold in 1810 to a former doctor to Louis XVI. In 1856 the Autruique family turned it into a farm. These were the ancestors of our neighbour Madame Janine Georget. In 1940 Nazi troops invaded Fiennes, requisitioning the castle. It became a command post for the duration of the

war, with a munitions store just beyond. The ground floor of the part forming our home had previously housed cattle, food coming from the *grenier* above. Originally it led via a dairy to the neighbouring "Manoir", so described because it had for a period been the only dwelling fit for occupation. Its grounds include a tiny chapel created by the Autruique family, one of whom, a *proto-notaire apostolique*, needed premises where he could celebrate mass daily with his family. Our *salle de séjour* of some 45 sq. m. had a fireplace large enough to roast a boar, and a well through which ran fresh water from an underground spring.

Whilst Fiennes remained a French family, a branch became established in England. It is said that today's Finsbury in London derives from Fiennes-bury, where the family were granted permission to bury their dead. James Fiennes of Hever & Knole in Kent fought on the English side at Agincourt in 1415. The actors Ralph and Joseph Fiennes are direct descendants, and of their four siblings two are film directors and one is a composer, while the fourth – the exception – is a gamekeeper. The explorer Ranulph is a cousin. Apart from local knowledge acquired during 12 years of residence (and with great support from my neighbours) I owe the wider perspective largely to Elizabeth Randall-Fiennes, sister of the late Mark Fiennes and Honorary Editor of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain.



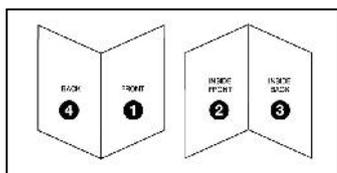
Other services in the Chaplaincy... Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church) - Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 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.cromp@free.fr **Day visit and picnic** on Thursday 9th July to Abbaye de Belval, Troisvaux nr St Pol, details from Daphne on: 03 22 31 49 44

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: george.murray@orange.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 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).

What's in a name?

△△ **WD 40** - The famous problem-solving product gets its name from its inventor, Norman Larsen's 40 attempts to get it right! It means: 'Water Displacement, 40th formula'

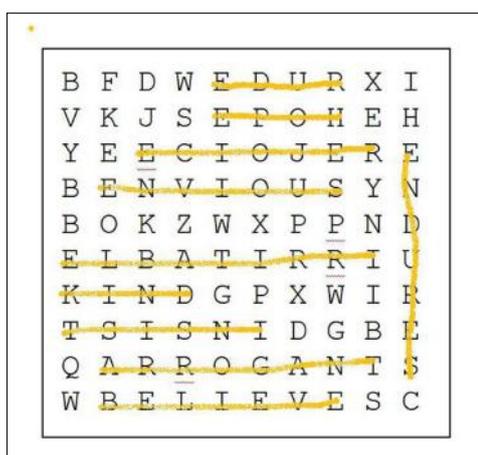
△△ **Google** - The name of the search engine came about as a result of a typing error. One of the many names being considered was 'googol' which is the term for 10^{100} ; in other words the digit 1 followed by 100 zeros – a suitable name for the trillions of web-pages on the internet. But when the domain name was being checked for availability it was misspelt so a check was made for 'google' instead! The name was immediately liked and registered.

△△ **Auchan** - the company opened its first store in the Hauts-Champs district of Roubaix in 1961 and wishing to appear first in A-Z directory listings they decided to modify the spelling of the locality and adopt it for the new store's name, so 'Hauts-Champs' became 'Auchen'.

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Solution to last month's word search

Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or
boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own
way; it is not irritable or
resentful; it does not rejoice
in wrongdoing, but rejoices
in the truth. It bears all
things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all
things.



Happy

Summer!