



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

June 2018 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 68

A chandelier of many parts

Faced with the task of reassembling a chandelier recently, one year after I'd carefully wrapped it and put it in a box as we moved house, it was soon clear that all wasn't quite as it should be.

It's a simple, modern chandelier, which joined us three houses ago and has endured more than its fair share of wrapping and boxing.

When I looked at it this time, however, the necessary putting back together was interesting, to say the least. During its 12-month sabbatical several of the droplets had fallen off and were lying at the bottom of the packaging. Other bits had become entwined in the way that always seems to happen with TV and telephone cables, the minute you turn your back on them.

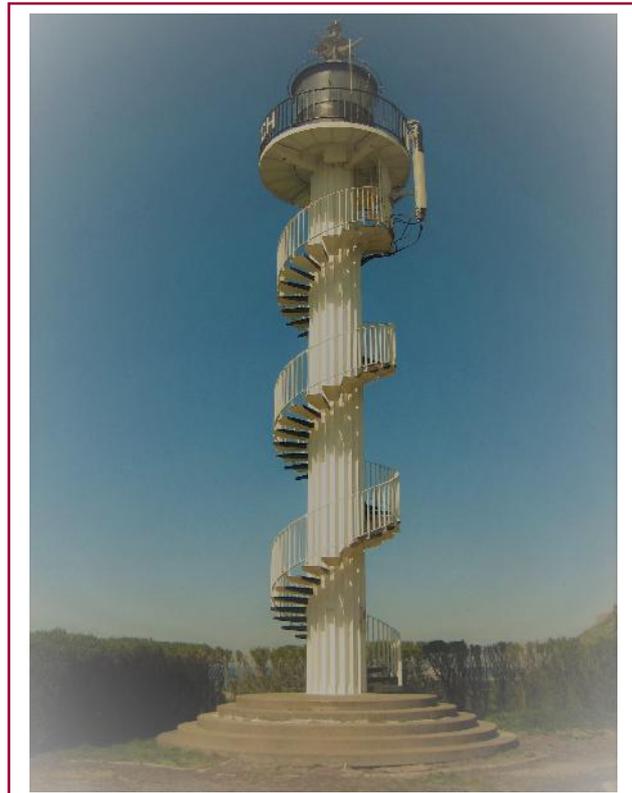
Having already paid the electrician to hang it, throwing the chandelier away and starting again was not an option. As I studied where each detached droplet should go and which linking chains were in the wrong place, I found myself thinking about our congregation and our preparation to welcome a new priest.

Leading a recent lay service, I was greatly encouraged to look out at everyone singing and worshipping God. It struck me then that the Boulogne fellowship is made up of many different parts with each of us having an important role to play as we move forward together.

The chandelier, as originally designed, was attractively shaped around a series of loops. Noticing this helped enormously when I came to choosing between the different droplets and chains, which included a wide range of sizes and lengths. I knew all the pieces were there but the final result only looked right when each droplet and chain was restored to its correct position.



The chandelier of many parts



We sang a hymn in church the other week, which captures this same thought:

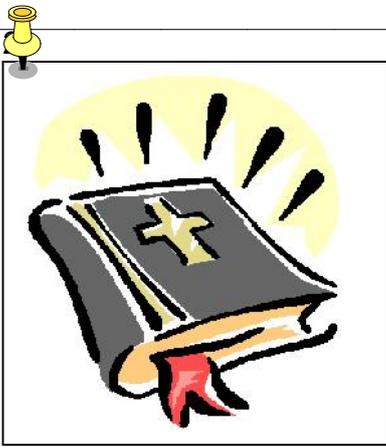
*Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.*

As for preparing for our church's exciting future, one of my favourite verses is Isaiah 54:2. It also seems especially relevant at this time:

"Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitation be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes."

Colin L.

< Lighting the way: the Phare d'Alprech at Le Portel, on the coast near Boulogne



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

➤ **Sunday 3rd June 2018 10h30 / Second Sunday after Pentecost** Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by Linda Pillière

➤ **Sunday 17th June 2018 10h30 / Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** Eucharist service, celebrant: Rev. David Houghton.

Readings: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

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

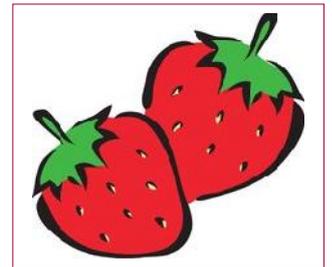
➤ **Sunday 15th July 2018 10h30 / Eighth Sunday after Pentecost** Eucharist service, celebrant: Ven. Stephen Taylor, Archdeacon of Maidstone. Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29



News and dates for your diary...

Strawberry tea

Thanks once again, as in other years, to the hospitality or unfaltering efforts of Paul and Lalage Glaister: **Sunday 10th June** is the day to make for their lovely garden at Estréelles (156, rue du Moulin) from 15h00 – 17h00, where there will be strawberries, tea and of course delicious cakes served, doubtless with lashings of cream! We are also informed there will be an 'imposing raffle,' orchestrated by Brian and Sue – further details ☎ 03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com



Bible study

The next Bible Study is on **Friday June 15th**, 15h00 at the home of David Furbur in St Cecile. Apart from rounding off our focus on prayer, we shall be discussing our programme for the autumn and praying together about the appointment of the new Pas de Calais chaplain. For further information regarding the venue address contact Colin Ley: leycj@aol.com ☎ 0688792185

Coffee morning

At the home of Pauline Cecchin, 13 Parvis Notre Dame, 62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer on **Tuesday 19th June** from 10h00 onwards – all are welcome contact Pauline on: ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 or e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr

Recruitment of new chaplain

There has been considerable interest in the recent advertisement for the post of chaplain for the Pas de Calais, in fact a total of 11 applications – significantly higher than ever before. The next step is the short-listing and finally interviews - more on these developments in future newsletters.

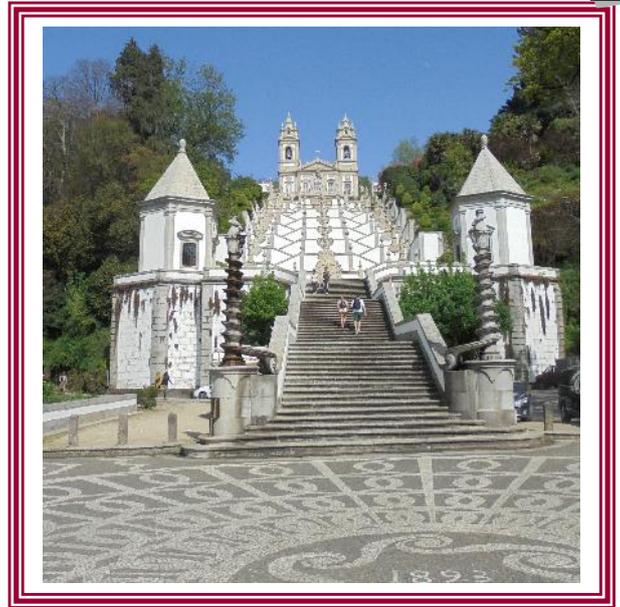
We welcome back

to lead our Eucharist services during the forthcoming summer months, the Rev. David Houghton, who is no stranger to our congregation and recently served at St. James Anglican Church in Porto and the Venerable Stephen Taylor MBE, Archdeacon of Maidstone, who was with us in June last year.



A Stairway to Heaven

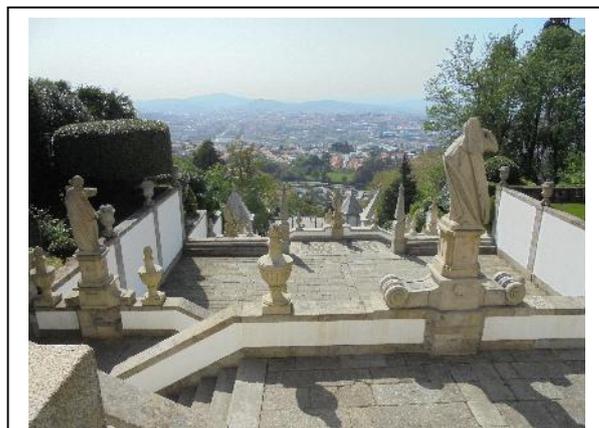
If you have a penchant for a genre of architecture incorporating elements of the flamboyant, esoteric, allegorical and even whimsical, then you will do well to visit Portugal. Nestling around the town of Sintra, just to the west of Lisbon, are some prime examples firmly rooted in the 'wildly romantic' style. Palaces, fairytale country houses, grottos and dantesque subterranean towers stretch the imagination. Then there is the baroque country house illustrated on the label of the distinctive pear shaped bottle of Mateus Rosé wine, situated on the outskirts of Vila Real in northern Portugal, to name one more. I count myself lucky, over the years, to have visited many of these gems but there was one, which for a long time remained unticked on my 'to visit list.' It was the remarkable baroque stairway at *Bom Jesus do Monte*, 5 kms to the east of the city of Braga, in an area of the country known as the Minho.



Braga itself has for a long time been dubbed 'the Rome of Portugal' not only because of the number of churches and other religious buildings it possesses, but for the key role it has continually played in the life of the Portuguese church. Doubtless in the past it was a place of ebullient religiosity, but today it is more a bustling and developing commercial centre with a largely traffic free centre, achieved in the main by an innovative network of tunnels channelling vehicles beneath the city streets. Now oleander and jacaranda have replaced the traffic along the pedestrianised boulevards and squares, making it tempting to linger in one the city's many elegant cafés, where coffee is accompanied by mouth-watering *pastéis de nata*, one of Portugal's enduring specialities, deliciously soft and mildly sweet custard tarts topped with cinnamon.

During his time as archbishop, Dom Rodrigo de Maura Teles decided that something should be done to enhance an existing pilgrimage chapel, dedicated to *Bom Jesus* (Good Jesus,) located on a range of hills overlooking the city. His plans included a grand church and stairway leading up to it. Work started on the project in 1723 and continued over the next 60 years, and although the 18th century church of *Bom Jesus do Monte* itself is fine enough, it is unlikely to remain in the memory of the visitor for long. The grand ornamental zigzag stairways are what visitors, from all over the world, come to see. There are in fact three: the Portico, the Five Senses and the Three Virtues.

Starting at the bottom of the hill the accent is at first gentle and has a rustic feel, the steps are shallow and the way forward is by a series of four long zigzags to reach a terrace with, on one side, a magnificent view over the city of Braga and on the other the impressive white stack of the 'Stairway of the Five Senses.' As the visitor continues the accent, the seemingly endless steps are broken by a series of landings, each centred with a fountain depicting one of the senses. These are portrayed in a deliberately grotesque fashion; 'sight' illustrates a painful face, water spouting from the eyes; 'hearing' represented by water ceaselessly gurgling from the ears. After another terrace the last set of steps is more theologically based, being the 'Stairs of the Three Virtues - Faith, Hope and Charity.' All the way up, which the pious will attempt on their knees, side chapels vividly illustrate the 'Stations of the Cross.'



Bom Jesus – pilgrims' view from the top, overlooking the city of Braga

Peeping through the latticework grilles we soon realised that the artistes, with their life-size tableaux representing aspects of the passion, the arrest, scourging and crucifixion of Jesus, had not pulled any punches – of course these were made well before 'viewer discretion advised' signs had been invented. But from the spiritual point of view it is a poignant journey of the senses, a way to understand the suffering of Christ and underline the virtues of life the Good Jesus (*Bom Jesus*) has brought to us.

The overall effect of the stairways at Bom Jesus is what makes it stand out as a fine and original work of art, the fan-like whitewashed walls dramatically cascading down or depending on your view point, up the hillside, embellished with twisted columns, pinnacles and statues all skilfully carved from the hard, but enduring, granite rock.

For those who don't feel like attempting the stiff, uplifting climb to the top, there is a water-powered funicular, running parallel to the stairways built in the 1880s and still going



strong. Bom Jesus is a popular excursion with places for refreshment or an overnight stop in one of the turn-of-the century hotels. Needless to say it offers wonderful opportunities for woodland walks, rewarding panoramas of the city below and further more, to prove it's the place for all the family, there's even a lake with boats for hire.

St James Anglican Church

We stayed a couple of nights in Braga but rest of our week in the area in Porto, rediscovering this hilly and fascinating city. On the Sunday morning we joined worshippers for the morning Eucharist at St James Anglican Church. The Rev. David Houghton who is a regular visitor to Boulogne (he will be leading our service on 17th June) served here as locum chaplain during the latter part of last year. The church celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2015 and is a well-maintained building in a cheerful neoclassical style within its own grounds. It is also endowed with some fine stained glass. Needless to say it was a joyful occasion and were afforded the very warmest of welcomes by members of the congregation.

Malcolm G.



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 July issue: 18th June 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).

