



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais CHAPLANCY NEWSLETTER

June 2019

No. 79

Fellowship, Hope and Love

At the service on Sunday 19th May in Boulogne, Rev. Kirrilee Reid gave us her reflections on a second Holy Week held at Maria Skobtsova House. Below is a transcript of that address:

After leading the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy through my first Holy Week as its chaplain, I was a little concerned about moving into Maria Skobtsova House prior to its temporary closure, in order to lead Orthodox Easter services and celebrations. The question, 'Do I have the strength to journey through another Holy Week?' haunted me. But despite my tiredness and my doubts, the week held treasures, insights, beauty and the presence of the Spirit. The treasures came in various forms; the first was the peaceable co-operation of four women: Joelle, a Belgian religious sister; Danielle a French lay member of the Community of Charles Faucauld; Gill, a Church of England deacon; and me, an Australian/Scottish Anglican priest. During an incredibly busy week we found time to support one another through prayer and conversation.



Asmara: Enda Mariam Cathedral, the seat of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church (photo: Sailko)

The second treasure was the week's rhythm, generated by the strong purpose of the Orthodox Eritreans in organising the house and its daily routine. Each morning the small community would walk a couple of blocks to St Joseph's Catholic Church to pray. Joelle supervised everyone's needs in these crucial preparations for the celebration of the Risen Christ on Saturday night. Each day the prayer time grew longer until, on the Friday (Orthodox Good Friday) a group of 22 prayed from 9am until 6:30pm. Having fasted since the previous evening, there were 30 in the house for the evening meal to break their fast.

The first time I attended morning prayer with the Eritreans, I was nervous. To go from the highest celebration of the liturgical year to the lowest... from our Easter Sunday back to Good Friday. But gradually, the worship and physicality of the prayers permeated my being. Immersed in our prayers, my gaze rested on the cross in the nave of the church. The crucified but risen Christ – arms outstretched – blessing this group of faithful followers. I experienced such clarity in that moment. Beyond the church walls, these exiles were living a perpetual Good Friday, yet here was their hope; despite suffering and death, love and life had the final word. I prayed they would experience this blessing, so profound for me in the light and shadow of the early morning. Meals also held depth of meaning and blessing. The numbers around the table fluctuated, but as the week went on, there was more smiling, talking and sharing amongst volunteers and guests. We became a community, if only for a short time. Fleeting moments became timeless treasures. On Thursday evening, we shared in a bowl of mixed grains, a traditional Maundy Thursday dish, prepared by a young Eritrean woman. We were invited to share this last meal before the long fast of Holy Friday. It was such a gift to be handed a spoon, as we, the hosts, became the guests, receiving far more than we could ever give.

Holy Friday was another busy day ... a steady stream of young men ringing the doorbell, making their way through the hallway to the back door to change shoes, shed dirty clothes and find clean towels and soap for showers. At lunch, a group of young Muslim men made a meal from left-over lentil curry. We'd already eaten this dish two nights in a row. Delicious though it was, I balked at eating it a third time. With the curry as its base, our chefs had added beaten eggs, tuna, fresh tomatoes and sautéed onions, served in a bowl, along with chunks of baguette. It was one of the most satisfying taste sensations of my life, at the generous hands of those who shared the little they had with those who have so much. I discovered later that this was their first meal in at least 24 hours, since it had been too dangerous for the charities to distribute food to the refugees the day before.

Saturday was the busiest day. The showers, washing machines and tumble-dryers could barely keep pace with the turnover of clothes and towels. This was the last day Maria Skobtsova House would be open for a while. Many were arriving on its doorstep with laundry, and to carry out ritual washing before the Easter prayers and celebration. While the machines ran full tilt downstairs, the visitors rested upstairs, often four to a single bunk bed. Meals were prepared and eaten in waves that day, always with the invitation for the hosts to share. In rare moments of calm, meaningful conversations took place around the table. Hopes shared ... the



steps required to visit desired countries; dreams of experiencing other places and cultures ... America, the UK, Australia etc. Other conversations were not so hopeful: the sharing of lost hopes, the painful reality of facing hostility and rejection.

On Sunday morning, the glowing faces revealed that the Easter celebrations the night before had indeed nourished these faithful followers. At Secours Catholique we delivered food from the Refugee Kitchen and in the day centre, at least 150 people were fed on Orthodox Easter Day, served joyfully by volunteers. Gold-wrapped Easter eggs sat in baskets on each table. Chicken, lentils, curry, salad, pasta, oranges, bread, and eggs (lovingly shelled on the go for each guest that came with their plate of food). A wonderful celebration to break the fast of the Eritrean Orthodox Christians, alongside those of other faiths and none.

A good day and yet...also a stark reminder that Calais is a continuous Good Friday and Holy Saturday, laden with suffering, numbness, absence, sacrifice, grief, disappointment and loss. My heart sinks at this reality. Only the image of the outstretched arms of the Risen Christ on the cross kindles my hope and my faith. The Crucified Risen Lord embraces, loves and blesses the ones whose suffering continues.

Forthcoming services in the Chaplaincy:



Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne

Sunday 2nd June 2019 15h00 - Seventh Sunday of Easter Afternoon Eucharist service

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-end; Luke 24:44-end

Sunday 16th June 2019 10h30 - Trinity Sunday Morning Eucharist service

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Sunday 7th July 2019 15h00 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Afternoon Eucharist service

Readings: Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-8; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11; 16-20

Sunday 21st July 2019 10h30 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Eucharist service

Readings: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Church Warden: *Lalage Glaister* ☎03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais

Sunday 9th June 2019 10h30 - Day of Pentecost Eucharist service

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104: 26-36 (37b); Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Sunday 23rd June 2019 10h30 - Second Sunday after Pentecost (Refugee Sunday)

Eucharist service Readings: 1 Kings 19:1-4; 8-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

Sunday 30th June 2019 11h00 Third Sunday after Pentecost

Joint Congregations Service at Calais - venue to be confirmed

Readings: 1 Kings 19:15-16; 19-end; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1; 13-25; Luke 9:51-end

Sunday 14th July 2019 10h30 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist service

Readings: Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-4; Luke 10:25-37

Sunday 28th July 2019 10h30 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Eucharist service Readings: Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

Church Warden: *Pat Page* e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr ☎ 03 21 35 07 65

Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin

Sunday 2nd June 2019 10h30 - Seventh Sunday of Easter Morning Eucharist service

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-end; Luke 24:44-end

Sunday 16th June 2019 17h00 - Trinity Sunday Afternoon Eucharist service

Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Sunday 7th July 2019 10h30 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Morning Eucharist service

Readings: Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-8; Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11; 16-20

Sunday 21st July 2019 17h00 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Afternoon Eucharist service

Readings: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Church Warden: *Michael Spriggs* ☎ 03 21 81 61 79 email: mjspriggs@mail.com

All services will be conducted by our chaplain: Rev. Kirrilee Reid



News and dates for your diary...

Reminder from Lalage Glaister: As mentioned in last month's newsletter June is a special month for the Glaisters, a birthday and 40 years of marriage. Therefore anyone attending the afternoon service in Boulogne on **Sunday 2nd June** is invited to come for a buffet supper. RSVP ... ASAP ☎ 03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com



The traditional Strawberry Tea - Sunday 9th June. Who can resist sandwiches, scones, cakes and strawberries? There will be a bowl for those who wish to give a donation to the Anglican Church and a stupendous raffle. Don't worry if it rains come anyway. Estréelles (156, rue du Moulin) from 15h00 – 17h00

Ascension Day, Thursday 30th May.

Thy Kingdom Come study -part 1, Walking the Emmaus Road via the Boulogne Ramparts. Meeting 10h30 at 13 Parvis Notre Dame, Boulogne-sur-Mer, the walk will be round the ramparts then back chez Pauline and Pierre Cecchin, for coffee and cake. Please email or text: Pauline 06 32 93 04 07 or Linda 06 51 73 06 07 to let us know if you will be walking just to make sure there will be enough cake!

Bible Study Group

There will be a meeting in June but the venue is yet to be confirmed, please contact Colin Ley email: leycj@aol.com. ☎ 0688792185

Presentation to George Murray at the afternoon service on May 5th

Elected as Churchwarden in 2015 George took on the job with enthusiasm and verve and after the retirement of Revs Humphriss and Hill embraced the task of booking and contacting visiting priests with an impressive businesslike efficiency. This during our long interregnum brought colour and an impressive variance of preaching styles, which enhanced and inspired our worship. Everyone knows the churchwarden's job is never an easy one, but he could not have done it better and as a big thank for his tenacity and devotion, members of the Boulogne congregation decided to say a big thank for all that hard work and mark their esteem by a well merited gift. It was presented by the current churchwarden, Lalage Glaister, who took on the role at the last AGM.



News of the Newsletter

Putting together these newsletters over the last seven and a half years has been both a stimulating and interesting experience but now is the time to give someone else a chance. I will be stepping aside after this issue and passing on the editorship into the very capable hands of Jackie and Colin Ley. A big thank you to all those who have contributed with articles covering a really wide range of subjects and for readers quietly putting up with my home-spun editorials, puzzles and cartoons! I am sure the new editors will garner the same measure of support and genuine feedback as I have received over the last 79 editions! New contact details on the back page.

-Malcolm Gale

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.



Jane Langlet remembers Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche



When I was asked to write an article about Jean Vanier, who died on 7th May, it was difficult to know where to start! Jean was best known as the founder of L'Arche, he was also a philosopher, a writer, - but perhaps above all was a peacemaker. Jean discovered through his life with people with disabilities, that the one who is different is not a threat to be

feared, but a gift to enrich our lives. In his acceptance speech for the Templeton prize 2015 he said *“Before being Christians or Jews or Muslims, before being Americans or Russians or Africans, before being generals or priests, rabbis or imams, before having visible or invisible disabilities, we are all human beings with hearts capable of loving.”*

Son of the Governor General of Canada, Jean first embarked on a successful career in the British Navy, and could potentially have risen high in the ranks. But horrified by the war, he felt increasingly drawn to prayer, and finally followed an inner call to leave the navy and devote himself to peace-making.

The turning point in his life was when in 1963 he visited an institution for people with intellectual disabilities. He was overwhelmed by their suffering and heard their profound ‘cry for relationship’. His response was immediate and simple: buy a house, and invite a few men with an intellectual disability to come and live with him. This was the start of L'Arche, in the village of Trosly near Compiègne. At that time, Jean had no big plan, no idea where this would lead, just the conviction that this was a call from God.

Since then, Jean has had a huge impact worldwide in revealing the gifts of people with disabilities through his writing and films. Today L'Arche has 154 communities in 38 countries, communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities can find a place of belonging, simply sharing life together.

When looking back on his life Jean would often say with a smile, “Wasn’t it fun? Didn’t we laugh?”. He wanted each person to discover, what he had discovered: how friendship with a person with intellectual disabilities can free us to truly live a life of celebration and hope and so build a better world. He believed that we can change the world, one heart at a time, the first heart being our own.



Jean Vanier

Born: Geneva 10th September 1928 – died: Paris 7th May 2019



This newsletter can be found, together with other information about the Chaplaincy, on our website at: <http://www.anglicanspdc.com>

Any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send to: Colin or Jackie Ley email: leycj@aol.com. ☎ 0688792185

Deadline for July issue: 23rd June 2019

Apart from downloading on to your iphone for easy reference 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).

