



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

March 2014 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

The picture this month, by the notable Victorian English painter Ford Madox Brown, who was incidentally born in Calais, illustrates the account in John 13:1-17, when Jesus washes the disciples' feet saying: "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you".

Below, Canon Reg Humphriss writes to us about the days before Easter, discipleship and our forthcoming AGMs.

LENT starts on 5th March, traditionally the time in the Christian calendar when we remembered our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness leading up to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. From early times in the Christian church, it has been the final preparation time for those being baptised, confirmed and receiving first communion during the night vigil of Holy Saturday, moving to new life as Easter dawns (note Easter Saturday is not the day between Good Friday and Easter Day, but the Saturday at the end of the week, although we may not be able to convert shops or those promoting race meetings to that thinking).

As time went on, Christians have used this as a special time of Christian discipline and discipleship, starting with Shrove Tuesday, then on Ash Wednesday palm crosses, from the previous year's Palm Sunday, were burnt and used to make the sign of the cross as a symbol of our discipleship and mortality. On the Shrove Tuesday, Christians of different churches, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglicans, and nonconformists have, and do today, stop and are shaven, hence Shrove Tuesday, confess sins and receive God's forgiveness. This Ministry of Reconciliation (confession) has a form in modern prayer books including Common Worship, (the prayer book for the lay people 2008) and the Methodist worship book. It is, of course, part of our services and prayer life. Lent has also been a time of abstinence. Butter was used up to make pancakes and that is often the only reminder left. As well as giving up, it is a time to reflect on giving more time perhaps to worship, daily prayer and bible study and reading. Sometimes there are special house groups and it is an opportunity to look at our giving (whether we are at church or not) and whether we are able to give more generously during Lent for a particular cause.

The Archbishop of Canterbury usually commissioned a Lent book. This year it is *'Barefoot Prayers: A Meditation a Day for Lent and Easter'* by Stephen Cherry (SPCK Publishing) - "they are about being as real as one can be in prayer; it is a wonderful resource" commented Catherine Welby, from Lambeth Palace. There are of course many other excellent books, old and new, out there. Do ask for suggestions.

A recent book that I have found so refreshing and stimulating is *'Words of Spirituality: Exploring the Inner Life'* published by SPCK 2012. This has 45 short and accessible chapters. Our former Archbishop, Rowan Williams, writes, 'Enzo Bianchi is one of the most significant Christian voices in Europe... His is a perspective that the English-speaking Christian world should welcome enthusiastically'. The Lent book that I have returned to time and time again is 'Pray, Love,



*Jesus Washing Peter's Feet'* (1876) Ford Madox Brown  
(1821- 1893) - City of Manchester Art Galleries

Remember' by Michael Mayne, a former Dean of Westminster Abbey (published by Darton, Longman & Todd 1998). In early retirement at Salisbury, he reflected with the aid of his diary on his 10 years at the Abbey and arranged those reflections round the six weeks of Lent and beyond Easter. Perhaps one day I'll say more about his superb and profound writings and perhaps you will use a quotation from him in my funeral service.

### **Training for lay-led services**

If you were not able to be present to the first session on worship, its service books, the bible and prayer books, the churches lectionary and the Christian year; Graham Hughes has kindly scanned my notes and will be pleased to email them to you. Let him know at: [graham.hughes1805@gmail.com](mailto:graham.hughes1805@gmail.com) - they are not in my writing! The next session is: 'Principles and guidelines for celebrating services of the word'. This will be at Paul and Lalage's house on Friday, 14th March at 2.30 and the final one, to which I hope many will come, is: 'Writing and leading intercessions at eucharistic and lay-led services' and is to be held at the home of Graham and Jean Hughes, 130 Impasse du Moulin Merlimont, on 11th of April once again at 2:30 PM, all are welcome.

I am aware that the above series only briefly refers to our monthly eucharist and therefore I just wonder if a little time might be used at our AGM to consider a few things more fully. It is so good that lay people share in the leading of worship. But we do all need to be heard: maybe to use the lectern as the normal place reading the Bible would help. Could it be moved if practical for the services of the word, if it would help audibility?

The Common Worship Lectionary offers the possibility of three readings and a psalm. One of the reasons for this was the praiseworthy effort to include the Old Testament readings when so often people do not go to Matins or Evensong. However, can it be a bit indigestible? We have a good number of readers kindly organised by Jean Hughes. Do volunteer if you're not on the list. Many churches have introduced the offertory procession of bread and wine, as well as the collection. Perhaps now we shall all look forward to having a rota of intercessions and the session on 11th April will offer some help. Do come!

Also in recent years, lay people are assisting with the distribution of communion. Up to date, we have two or three who kindly help. Is it time to involve more people? They should be recommended by the church council to be authorised by the Archdeacon. Hopefully our excellent monthly newsletter can have the names of those involved in each service, so that we can get in touch with them for particular thanksgivings and intercessions. It would also be very helpful for the president at each Eucharist to have the names of those involved on that Sunday.

Almost last, but not least, could more people take a turn with providing and serving coffee etc. perhaps there could be a sides-person to welcome people, put books out (and away!). Otherwise it can be left to the churchwarden and priest. If rotas could be prepared for 4 or at the most 6 months we would be able to count in friends who have secondary homes and come now and again, but on a fairly regular basis. As one of these we welcome you.

### **Come to our AGM!**

This is a time when we both reflect on the last year and plan for the future. Our newsletter is a great improvement as is the up-to-date website. However, remember a personal invitation is the best. Please also continue to look out for new church members. At the AGM we appoint three representatives to the Chaplaincy Committee comprising ourselves Calais and Hesdin. Please also make a special effort to attend the Chaplaincy AGM in the delightful setting in St Omer. Sadly Boulogne has not been represented well in recent years, please try and do better this year.

The next stage is the synod of France. Like with most other offices it is good to have a change now and again in our representation. We await a new bishop of this diocese of Europe, a second meeting of the appointing group meets this month. Do pray for them. Meanwhile Bishop David Hamid is the overseer of this vast diocese to and has for some time been particularly responsible for France.

Whilst it has been recently hoped to have a 'freestanding' Archdeacon, i.e. one without also having a chaplaincy, unfortunately this has not been possible, although some extra help is being

provided. Our fairly new Archdeacon is Ian Naylor who is also a house for duty priest at Pau (Pyrénées-Atlantiques). A sensible improvement has been to appoint area deans to assist him. Our nearest clerical neighbour is Canon Debbie Flack who is part-time chaplain at Lille and also a member of the General Synod. Perhaps it will be good if she could be invited in the near future to one of our joint services with Calais and Hesdin. Over to you! I look forward to our service on 16<sup>th</sup> March, the AGM and the sandwiches. Have a good Lent!!

With my love, prayers and best wishes *Reg Humphriss*

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**Our services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Boulogne St Martin (unless otherwise shown)**

- \* \* **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 10h30/ First Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima**  
- **Please note: no service planned for this day**
- \* \* **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 10h30/ Second Sunday in Lent** - Eucharist service led by - Canon Reg Humphriss. Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 - this service will be followed by the **Boulogne Congregation's AGM and a sandwich lunch.**
- \* \* **Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 11h00 /Fourth Sunday in Lent, Sunday next before Easter-** Service conducted by Rev. Paul Bennett from Dunkerque followed by the **Chaplaincy AGM** and meal; to be held at the **Relais Chrétien Sainte Catherine - Allée Honoré de Balzac, Longuenesse, near St Omer**
- \* \* **Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 10h30 / Fifth Sunday in Lent** - A lay led service of morning worship, with hymns and readings
- \* \* **Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 10h30 / Easter Day-** Eucharist service led by Canon Gerald Greenwood.

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**News and dates for your diary:**

**Training for lay-led services**

As mentioned by Cannon Humphriss in his letter, he will be conducting the second of his afternoon training courses on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, (at 156, rue du Moulin Estréelles) and the third on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April (at 130 Impasse du Moulin Merlimont). These sessions are open to anyone interested in learning more about leading services. Starting time is 14h30.



**Saturday March 8th: Quiz Night + cheese and wine buffet 19h00**

Following on from the very successful event last October, it's once again time to pick your brains with another Quiz Night at Estréelles village hall. An evening of strictly entertaining puzzlement particularly planned to provide perplexing propositions... devised by our own resident quizmaster Graham Hughes. The charge will be 10 Euros per head for the refreshments. Venue: Salle Communale, rue du Moulin, 62170 Estréelles Details: Lalage Glaister:

☎ 03 21 81 47 65

**Annual General Meetings**

March sees two AGMs that concern us all, firstly our own, after the service on 16<sup>th</sup> March followed by a sandwich meal, and then the Chaplaincy AGM two weeks later on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Longuenesse near St Omer (full address in service listings), again followed by a simple meal. Anyone on the Electoral Roll may vote at these meetings (if you are not on the roll and would like to be added, please contact the secretary for details). At the Boulogne AGM we must elect a PCC

