



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

March 2017 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 56

Dear All

Many thanks to Michael Spriggs of the Hesdin Congregation for providing the introduction this month...

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ.

Lent is upon us.

Lent is the period of 40 days, which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Lent, which comes from the Old Germanic word for springtime, can be viewed as a sort of spiritual spring cleaning: a time for cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him.

The Tuesday immediately before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, sometimes referred to as "Shrovetide" in England.

In the past few centuries, Shrove Tuesday has turned into more of a day of feasting in preparation for the fasting that is to occur during Lent. The feasting aspect of Shrove Tuesday originated due to the need to get rid of the foods restricted during the Lenten fasting, such as sugar, leavened flour, eggs, etc. The need to use up these ingredients has resulted in Shrove Tuesday also becoming known as Pancake Day.

But there are still days to celebrate during Lent. Nowadays, St Patrick's Day, 17th March, has become a huge occasion – Guinness and shamrocks, etc. Interestingly, the corresponding Welsh (1st March) and English (23rd April) Saints' Days pass almost without notice. But then there is another Saint's Day to be celebrated in March: that of Saint Joseph.

Saint Joseph's Day, March 19, is the feast day of Saint Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary. He was the foster-father of Jesus Christ. This day is venerated throughout Europe in the Catholic Church but, curiously, not amongst us Anglicans.

Whatever, let us all move forwards in faith towards Easter!

On 26th February Pope Francis paid a visit to All Saints' Anglican Church in Rome, presiding over an evensong service with our bishop: Robert Innes. This was the first papal visit to the Anglican Church in Rome and part of the church's 200th anniversary celebrations.

Simple tips from Pope Francis for fasting this Lent: ▶ Fast from hurting words and say kind words. ▶ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. ▶ Fast from anger and be filled with patience. ▶ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. ▶ Fast from worries and trust in God. ▶ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. ▶ Fast from pressures and be prayerful. ▶ Fast from bitterness and fill you heart with joy. ▶ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to other ▶ Fast from grudges and be reconciled. ▶ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Detail from *Kampf zwischen Fasching und Fasten* ("The Fight Between Carnival and Lent") 1559 by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (ca. 1525–1569) - Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna



Planned services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, 2 rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne

Sunday 5th March 2017 10h30 / First Sunday in Lent - Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Jackie and Colin Ley

Sunday 19th March 2017 10h30 / Third Sunday in Lent - Lay-led service -

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; 1 Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Sunday 2nd April 2017 10h30 / Fifth Sunday in Lent - Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Paul and Lalage Glaister

Sunday 16th April 2017 11h00 / Easter Day - Eucharist led by Sara MacVane, Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

News and a date for your diary:

Maundy Thursday Supper. A lay-led service followed by a traditional lamb supper will be held at the home in La Capelle les Boulogne of Linda and Jean Marc Pillière, starting at 19h00. Please let Linda and Jean-Marc know by April 6th if you will be attending. Tel: 03 21 32 49 76

UPDATE ON THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SITUATION

A visit took place on Monday 27th February to Calais and Grande-Synthe to assess the current migrant and refugee situation in the context of the project to find a new resident chaplain. It was organized by Debbie Flach, who was present along with the Venerable Meurig Williams, Archdeacon for France, Archdeacon Stephen Taylor from Maidstone, David Fieldsend (attaché to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the EU) and Rebecca Boardman from USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel). They were accompanied by Pat Page, Chaplaincy President, and Linda Pillière, Treasurer.

The visit to the refugee camp at Grande Synthe and to the local associations working with the migrants (Emmaüs at Grande Synthe and l'Auberge des Migrants in Calais) confirmed claims that migrants are slowly returning to the area. The only official camp is at Grande Synthe, built at the instigation of the local mayor and numbers there already exceed official capacity by 200. As a result, kitchen areas have been transformed into sleeping quarters and cabins originally built for four may now end up sheltering fourteen.

The problem in Calais is different in that since the closure of the 'jungle' last October, the authorities have refused to accept that migrants are still present. In fact, the charitable associations estimate that numbers are around 500, and increasing rapidly, with an alarming number of unaccompanied minors among them, living rough and in squats and falling prey to traffickers. There are no proper facilities, and although the associations distribute meals, bedding and clothing, they have to operate at night because officially there are no migrants – an absurd situation.

Local associations feel that that the presence of an Anglican priest would be very beneficial, both to coordinate with the Catholic Church and to bring some stability and authority to the scene. The Diocese of Canterbury would welcome having someone based on the French side of the Channel to liaise with in their work with migrants in Kent. Both the Diocese of Canterbury and USPG would be willing to contribute towards a joint post of refugee project worker and local Pas de Calais chaplain based in Calais. A request for a grant is to be made to the Diocese in Europe, who has already supported similar work in Athens. A grant would 'up' our chaplaincy's contribution to the project to the extent of us being entitled to one-third of the priest's time, or two days a week.

Consultations are now in progress to update the job specification and refine the budgeting, before the post is finally advertised. It looks highly promising, but the situation is volatile and still requires everyone's prayers. With the procedures still to be gone through it may well be the end of the year before we see a priest in post. In the meantime, the charities have asked for contributions of small-size men's clothing (trousers, tracksuits) and men's shoes (sizes 42-45) along with backpacks and sleeping bags. Please contact Pat or Linda if you can help in any way.



Headlines in 'Aujourd'hui en France' 22 Jan 2017

In this month's issue Rev. David Houghton takes us deep into Romania by local train and travels...

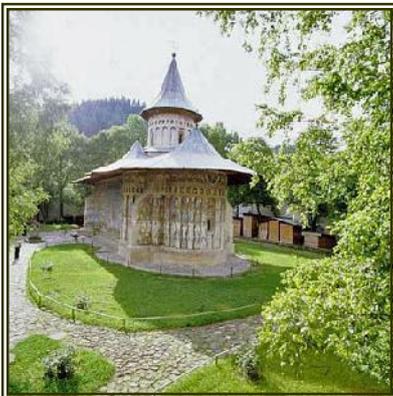


All day to Bucovina

It's so silly to be nervous of another train journey, but I now get that: 'why am I doing this' feeling. Mind you this is an odd trip, raising eyebrows even with the Romanian couple I met yesterday. She, just completed medical school exams, he, working on research on the '*securitat*' of the communist era. By train to Suceava! 7 hours! Do you really want to do that?

So, off by trolley bus to the Gara de Nord, then that particular shiver of excitement as I scan the departure board and find the train on platform 8. Just five coaches are waiting. I have chosen to travel first class, so that I

might expect to find plenty of spare seats in my carriage. Wrong. The train is almost full 15 minutes before departure. Still, one cheer: I have a solo seat. But it would be very foolish to leave it unclaimed while I go to get my 11 am coffee, unless I can really cope with a local argument in order to claim it back. Off we set northwards. It's time to contemplate my fellow travellers, though hardly the phrase they would use. Some old ladies: faded grandeur, old fashioned couples in their 60's returning from a visit to family in the capital; then a big group of overweight youngish men – and a few young women. They were met 3 hours later at Buzau (from the guidebook: 'one hideously modernised town succeeds another, without even the sight of the mountains to liven your spirits...'); I suppose even wretched towns like that must have something going on. It's very quiet in the carriage, no shouting, hardly any use of phones. The train empties gradually as we proceed northwards. We pass very little railway traffic, so I can't but help presume that the railway system is at a critical tipping point of decline. Slow trains and limited facilities,



like zero chance of a coffee or any drink, mean a drop in passenger numbers, leading to a reduction in the service level, causing a further drop in passengers.....

At the grand and dilapidated station of Suceava I change for a local train to Gura Humorului, a town chosen because of its central location for visits to the monasteries. This time there are just two carriages and I count but six loan souls on board. There are no announcements, and since station lighting seems to run on 20-watt bulbs I really need to have done my homework as to recognising my stop. Indeed the guy in the corridor was sure I should have got off at the station before; confusingly bearing almost the same name, but finally a warm welcome greets me at Hilde's Residenz, and soon I am enjoying

vodka and a pork stew.

In November there are very few tourists around. I am a loan pilgrim to the painted monasteries of Bucovina. 'Tourists' would cut a strange surreal picture on the trains around Suceava. My charming hotel manager talks over breakfast and then efficiently arranges a car and driver. I even have, in Mihai, one who has reasonable English. It's exhilarating to take these empty mountain roads at breakneck speed. And it's hard to take in the knowledge that just over that valley we could be crossing into the Ukraine. The houses seem almost prosperous, but among the BMWs and Dacias we are also passing more primitive traffic.

I ask my driver about the horses we see everywhere at work on carts and in the fields. How much does a good horse cost? A 'good horse'? 'A really strong horse'? That will be about 5000 euros. (I have the right number of zeros here). 5000 euros! But wait a minute, that's more than a decent second hand car. In fact I learn later that a new Dacia would only be about 8000 euros. That is indeed true, according to Mihai, but he then points out that 'after all' a horse can go where no vehicle will venture. It will plod up and down that track. It will, that is, until the poor horse stumbles and has an accident. And then it's not like repairing an engine part. How hard it must be to find the money for a replacement. I decide that it's prudent to avoid a discussion on horse insurance, but, I wonder, how would you go about buying this, your essential fellow worker and means of transport? I suppose there must be a horse market, down in the local town?

Mihai dismisses the very idea. And so I learn that trading of horses in Bucovina is not, as you might dream in some Breugel like rural fair, but on Facebook!

Is it time for me to open a Facebook account and join the 21st century?

Prayer Diary /Intercessions - A book is available for the entry of names of those who anyone wishes to have included in the intercessory prayers during the service. Otherwise please pass a note to the person responsible for the intercessions on that day.

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; alternatively if you know of anyone who you feel may benefit from prayer, please contact the church warden:

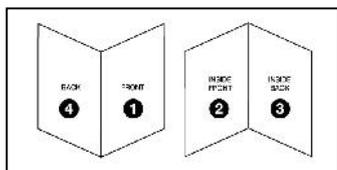
Other services in the Chaplaincy Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church). Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr

Hesdin's regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – Morning Prayer 10h30; 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Eucharist. 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.crompt@free.fr

Our Facebook page can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/Pas-de-Calais-Anglican-Church>

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 or by post to 76, rue de la Paix, 62200 Boulogne sur Mer.



The next edition of this newsletter will be the April 2017 issue – please send your contributions to the editor (contact details above) before March 25th.

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).



Answer to last month's shapes puzzle:

