



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

March 2018 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 65

Pigs, poultry and people

"Could you write something for the newsletter," said the editor, as I arrived in church one Sunday morning.

I started to think about what was happening over the next few days, on the basis that it's usually best to write about what you know, or what's going on in your life at the time.

As it happened, the week ahead for me included a trip to the Pig & Poultry Fair, held each year at the former Royal Show venue in Warwickshire. But how would the Boulogne congregation react to my account of spending two days immersed in the depths of pig and poultry farming? I began by trying to think of a suitably striking 'pigs and poultry' headline.

The phrase that entered my head had another word added - Pigs, Poultry & People! It was an interesting addition certainly and one which changed my approach to the Warwickshire event and to many other farm shows and conferences I've attended since.

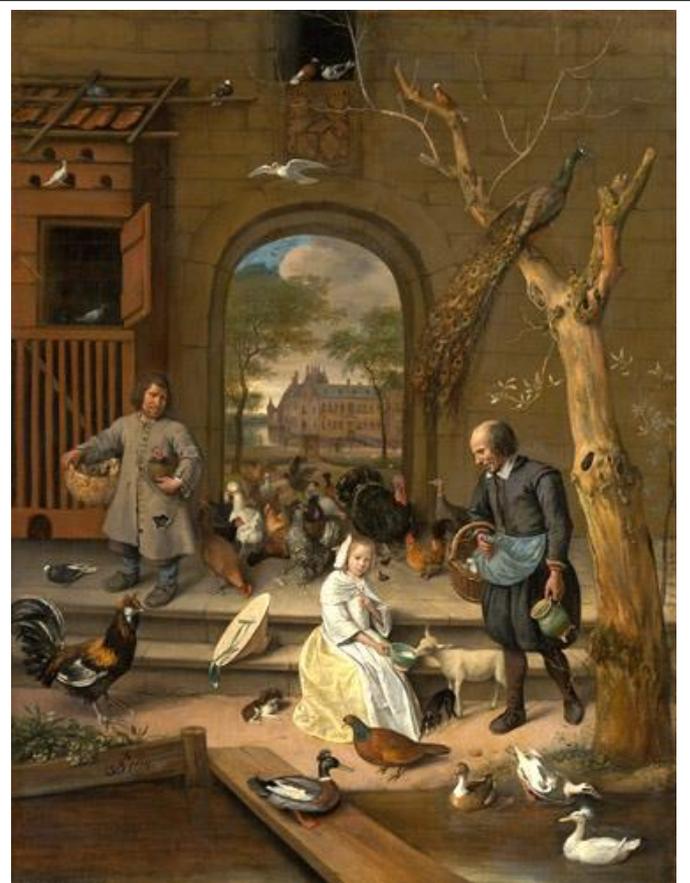
I have to admit that writing Pig & Poultry Fair on my work calendar hasn't always been an exciting moment. The thought that such events are actually more about the people I'm going to meet than the subject itself was therefore a major encouragement.

It also started me thinking about how some of the people I've met at conferences and farm shows over the years have become important to our family, either as long-term friends or as business contacts through whom we've been provided with valuable work and income.

I often approach work events wondering who God might bring across my path, accepting that my part in the process is just to speak to those I sit next to at lunch, or who happen to share the same press table. I've met some interesting people that way and discovered some really good work opportunities.

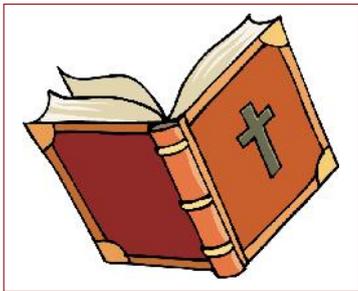
I try to have the same attitude towards talking about my faith to some of these same people. A Christian friend once told me he believed our job was to be 'willing workers' in talking about our faith, leaving God to focus on the task of bringing 'seeking souls' across our path. While I've been pretty hit and miss at doing this over the years I've never regretted the times when I've risen to that challenge.

Proverbs 16:9 (New King James Version): A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.



Jan Havickszoon Steen (c. 1626 – 1679) Portrait of Jacoba Maria van Wassenauer otherwise known as 'The Poultry Yard', (*De hoenderhof*) 1660 Mauritshuis collection - The Hague

(Colin L)



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

/// **Sunday 4th March 2018 10h30 / *Third Sunday in Lent*** Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by Paul and Lalage Glaister (in anticipation of Mothering Sunday)

/// **Sunday 18th March 2018 10h30 / *Fifth Sunday in Lent*** Eucharist service led by Rev. Simon Braid. Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

/// **Sunday 1st April 2018 10h30 / *Easter Day*** Eucharist service led by Rev. Gordon Warren Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

/// **Sunday 15th April 2018 10h30 / *Third Sunday of Easter*** Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings, followed by the Boulogne Congregation's AGM

News and dates for your diary...

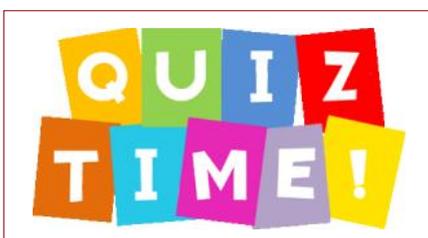
Maundy Thursday falls this year on 29th March and, as in previous years, a service will be held at the home Linda and Jean Marc Pillière, 8 Rés le Ruisseau, La Capelle les Boulogne. Led by Mary Wood it will start at 19h15 and be followed by a roast lamb supper. A contribution of €7.50 will be requested to cover costs. Please let Linda know by March 22nd if you would like to come along.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year women from Surinam, with the motto: '*Voilà, cela était très bon!*' have prepared a form of service which will be observed at the Monastère du Carmel on **Friday 2nd March** at 14h30. For further details please contact Pauline on: ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 or e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr

This month we welcome once again Rev. Simon Braid, Associate Vicar of St John's Hildenborough in the Diocese of Rochester, who led us in worship in May last year.

Bible Study Group The first 2018 meeting of the Bible Study Group took place on 26th January at the home of Peter Wyart in Sorous. Discussion, based on Michael Perham's book, *Peter Friend of God*, focussed on the distinctives of the two different accounts of the Last Supper and the Gethsemane arrest in Luke and John's Gospels. It raised debate over whether Judas' betrayal was more culpable than Peter's denial, the symbolism of Jesus washing the disciples' feet and why John features this account but not Luke. The discussion led on to practical issues in the life of faith, such as the complex nature of our own denial, and extended into our tea/coffee break, along with the chance to chat and catch up with one another's news.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 9th March** at 3pm at the home of Colin & Jackie Ley, 103 rue Pierre Ledent, Montreuil. We'll be discussing the words of the Lord's Prayer, so do feel free to join us, with your insights, your questions and a fresh take on a very familiar prayer. (Jackie L)



Another reminder for GRAHAM'S QUIZ NIGHT, Friday, 2nd March at 19h00. The charge is €10 and there will be, as usual, a paté, cheese and a dessert buffet together with wine or non-alcoholic drink. Venue: Salle Communale, rue du Moulin, 62170 Estréelles. To ensure we cater for the right numbers, please let Lalage know if you are coming: ☎ 03 21 81 47 65 or by e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com



A tribute to the late Charles Vandezande, our dear friend and organist, who passed away on 2nd January by Linda Pillière

At a recent Chaplaincy day in Condette, our Area Dean, Debbie Flach, remarked that “music plays a profound part in worship – it transforms us”. Charles certainly transformed us and our worship in Boulogne.

I was keenly aware when Charles and Jean, his sons, spoke at his funeral, that there is much I don't know about him as a person. We only see certain facets of a person's character. But when I think of Charles and his life here in our church, three adjectives come to mind – all beginning with the letter 'D'. They may not be enough to describe a three-dimensional character – but I hope they will strike a chord (no musical pun intended).

The first D – and it's a capital D – is dedication. Charles was one of the mainstays of our congregation. He played the organ for Boulogne for nearly twenty years – a regular commitment. Charles rarely cancelled because he was sick. Snow did once prevent him and his wife Chrysteen from coming, but on all other occasions – come rain, come shine – Charles was there. Despite our church's ups and downs, he remained faithful throughout. Most of the congregation, at one time or other, have taken on some kind of responsibility: making coffee, organising readers, being churchwarden and writing newsletters. Those who have know how those responsibilities can eat into personal time or other commitments. So most people, understandably, don't carry out the same task for 20 years. Charles's twenty years of service takes some beating and is an example to us all.

He made playing the organ seem effortless. If the priest ever shortened the hymn by a verse, Charles always managed to finish off the verse he had started with a flourish – or end a hymn with an 'Amen'; the result of hours of practice, dedication and hard work.

His dedication to the musical life of the church meant that he would play for other congregations too. When Roy Kilford started the congregation in Hesdin, Charles was there – helping Roy translate and communicate with the French priests, playing the music. He and Chrysteen would come to Boulogne in the morning, drive home for a bite to eat, and then drive down to play at Hesdin in the afternoon. When Arras had a carol service or a confirmation, Charles was there to play (Arras did have a pipe organ which was an added attraction!) And at strawberry teas or church fetes, Charles would play his violin, moving from classical pieces to folk dance music at the drop of a hat. At our ecumenical evensongs, he would play *Thine be the Glory* with great energy – much to Sœur Marie Luc's enjoyment. The one time it wasn't on the service sheet, did we get a telling off from Sœur Marie Luc!

Music was his life. But until Chrysteen told me, I hadn't realised that he wasn't a trained organist: he made it all seem so effortless. He knew how to play the various instruments in the orchestra, because as a conductor he needed to, but he actually taught himself how to play the pedals when he started playing for Boulogne. Our church music was a duty Charles took very seriously – even choosing the music for the services to come before he went into hospital.

My second D is discretion. Charles was, in many ways, a discreet person. Despite being an accomplished musician, conducting at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, at the Berlin Opera House, and all over the world, Charles never boasted about his distinguished career. There was never any name-dropping or suggestion that he had played for far more accomplished singers than our Boulogne congregation. He was even willing to join us for some 'not so professional' Christmas carol concerts in Wimille – singing a memorable solo in *We Three Kings*.

He never put himself forward. When he and Chrysteen first came to Boulogne in 1999, we had a weekly service and our then organist, Robin, wasn't always able to play, so I used to do a really bad one-handed effort at the keyboard, in the hope that the pianists in the congregation would realise they could do a far better job. Unfortunately it didn't work! I cringe now to think what Charles must have thought as he discreetly sat there in the church that first time. But he never imposed himself, and when I made my usual plea at the end of the service for help with the music, it was Chrysteen who raised Charles's hand ... and volunteered him for what was to prove a long-lasting commitment to the Boulogne church.

He was always discreet too about his health. You never heard him moan. The last few services were more of an effort for Charles than many of us perhaps realised. Climbing up to the organ loft was not easy for him, but he never refused to play.

