



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

March 2019 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 76

Be mindful of the gap

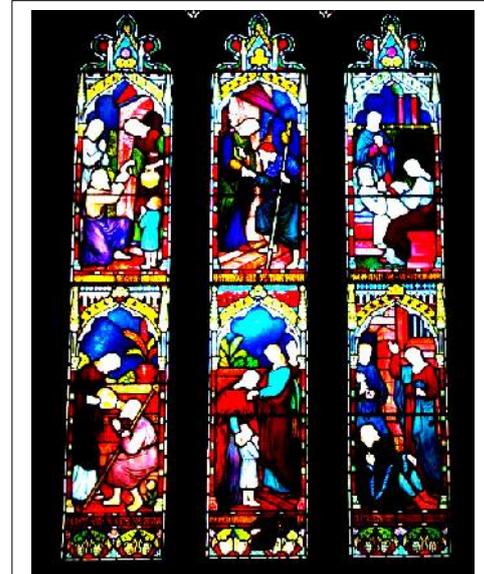
We must wait this year for the very last day of March before moving the hands of our clocks on to summer time. Daylight saving in Europe differs from that of North America where sensibly, in my view, they bid farewell to the dark nights three weeks earlier. However this seasonable adjustment to clocks only changes how we perceive time in relation to the position of the sun, nothing more.

A few weeks back I was drawn into a debate as to whether we really are now living in the best of times. This old chestnut has been pondered on by countless generations, including the Greeks and Romans. One can easily fall into the trap of believing that we most certainly are in technological terms at least, but as for the pinnacle of social order, that is another question. Charles Dickens in his historical novel 'A Tale of Two Cities' set during a period of far-reaching social and political upheaval, the French Revolution, struggled to put a finger on the period he was describing. In the opening sentences he begins: *'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...'* and concludes: *'in short, the period was so far like the present period...'*

The concept of the 'best of times' is largely relative to one's own expectations and standard of living. We occupy now a world where the level of medical care and life expectancy far exceeds that which could be offered, in the past, to even the wealthiest of kings and princes, let alone their hapless subjects. Even electric lighting was a long time coming. But the abundance of the material advances has only resulted in widening the gap between rich and poor to an extent never seen before. The World Bank estimates that while fewer people today live in extreme poverty there is the shocking fact that half of the globe's wealth amassed by individuals is in the hands of just 1% the world's population. In contrast nevertheless, 50% of the planet's masses, equal to 3.4 billion, are struggling just to meet basic needs: the poorest are often living on less than \$3.20 per day.

Sometimes it is hard to grasp the reality of this unless we have personal experience. Just after New Year I received a phone call from someone I had known a long time back. Once the owner of a successful west of England hotel, he had for various reasons been living alone in France for the last few years. Although mildly aware his fortunes had taken a tumble, I had never truly understood to what extent until he admitted how grateful he was now to his local 'Resto de Coeur.' The charity provides unconditional support and enough provisions to get him through most of the week. A local market trader had also given him a job assisting with the setting up the stall twice a week; his remuneration paid in fruit and veg. Stoically he reassured me that he was far from unhappy but just the same it served to remind me that a cup filled to the brim is easy to spill.

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:36-40



Six Corporal Acts of Mercy, window (1872) by Frederick Preedy (1820 - 1898) in All Saints Church, Legbourne, Lincolnshire



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

Sunday 3rd March 2019 15h00 - Transfiguration Sunday/Last Sunday before Lent Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. Kirrilee Reid. This will be followed by **Boulogne congregation's AGM.**

Readings: Exodus 34:29-end; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

Sunday 17th March 2019 10h30 - Second Sunday in Lent - A lay led service: Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-end

Listings continued on next page...



Sunday 31st March 2019 11h00 – Fourth Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday) Joint congregation Eucharist service at Hesdin followed by the **Chaplaincy AGM** Readings: Exodus 2:1-10; Psalm 34:11-20; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:33-35

Sunday 7th April 2019 15h00 - Fifth Sunday in Lent Afternoon Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain: Rev. Kirrilee Reid. Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday 21st April 2019 10h30 – Easter Day Eucharist service conducted by our Chaplain: Rev. Kirrilee Reid.

Lenten Prayers 2019 - There will be 4 Wednesday mornings of prayer and reflection for Lent at the home of our Chaplain at 10h30 on March 13th and 20th followed then by April 3rd and 10th. (Contact details on back page)

Ash Wednesday Service 6th March will be at Calais 19h00 Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde

News and dates for your diary...

Please note the times of services on Sunday 3rd March and Sunday 7th April. This is being done on certain Sundays as an experiment to make things fairer with other congregations who would like a morning Eucharist. Based on attendance numbers this time change will be carefully assessed in the coming months.

Important – the QUIZ NIGHT planned for Friday 8th March, has now been postponed.

Bible Study: Thursday 7th March 15h00 at the home of Colin and Jackie Ley in Montreuil. Discussion topic, favourite Psalms. **Friday March 29th 15h00** at the home of Marilyn Catchpole Dossat (Hesdin congregation) in Beaurainville. Topic to be decided. Further information, please contact Colin Ley email: leycj@aol.com. ☎ 0688792185

Friday 1st March at 14h30 World Day of Prayer ‘*Venez tout est prêt!*’ will be observed at the Monastère du Carmel. For further details please contact Pauline on: ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 or e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr

It is with great regret that we report the passing of one of our longest standing and founder members: Dora Bown, wife of Michael Bown of Le Touquet. Dora died peacefully on 19th February. The funeral was held at the church of Sainte Jeanne d'Arc in Le Touquet, led by our Chaplain, on Monday 25th February. Many members of our congregation attended the service, which was followed by a private cremation the next day.

A week at Maria Skobtsova House

Kirrilee, our Chaplain, during her address Sunday 17th February gave us an outline of the week she recently spent at the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais with Br Johannes Maertens and his team. The house takes its name from Maria Skobtsova, who was born in Riga in 1891 and after a varied and intellectual life she finally ended up in Paris, becoming a member of the French Resistance, during World War II. There she opened her house to refugees, the hungry and those in need of spiritual refreshment. Because of her activities with persecuted Jews amongst others, the house was closed down and she and her associates arrested by the Gestapo to be sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp where she ended her days in the gas chamber. She was finally canonized a saint in 2004 by the Eastern Orthodox Church.



Maria Skobtsova (1891-1945)

The house in Calais opened its doors in February 2016 as a private initiative, supported by volunteers from Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and follows in Mother Maria's footsteps. It provides much needed hospitality, safe shelter and care, away from the often squalid and inhospitable conditions which refugees and migrants have to endure in the channel port town, especially after a long and gruelling journey; it also furnishes much-needed pastoral support and spiritual care.

During Kirrilee's time in Calais she stayed in the volunteer accommodation, a short distance away and was able to assist with, and learn about, the running of the community so as to gain a clear insight into its working seven days a week. Some of those welcomed stay just one or two days, others longer but despite the property



being only small, Kirrilee noted that one night 24 were given shelter. Periods of prayer are held 4 times a day and can often incorporate many of the Eritrean Orthodox traditions, as the majority of Christians who arrive are in fact Eritrean. Kirrilee described how personally she gained enormous benefit from the calm gratitude of those staying there, it was a pleasure being able to help with evening meals, collecting food from the community kitchen, visiting refugees in hospital and assisting *Secours catholique* with the distribution on the streets of tea and coffee. Despite a very busy week Kirrilee and Brother Johannes also spent time furthering plans for the Prayer Bus Project which will provide a multi-purpose mobile space reaching out wherever refugees are sleeping.

Volunteers needed

If you feel you would like to volunteer your time to help at the house or with any of the other refugee associated organisations or projects, even if it is only for an hour or two per week, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Kirrilee (contact details on back page); she can also provide anyone who is interested with copies of a new study course exploring migration and the global movement of people, entitled: 'Migration and Movement' published by USPG.



En route for La Vendée with Graham Hughes

The drive from the Pas de Calais to the Vendée takes you through numerous places of interest. It is probably worthwhile to avoid the ghastly ring-road around Rouen and go rather north and cross the Seine by the impressive Pont de Tancarville and proceed, as we did, to our lunchtime stop at Pont-l'Évêque home of the famous cheese, the oldest Normandy cheese in production. Although 65% destroyed in 1944 by the Allied forces this small town (population 4500) has been largely rebuilt so that the old typically Norman houses are indistinguishable from the new. The main source of visitor attraction is the church of St Michel, a former convent.

Some 18 km further south is a town, which holds greater interest to the congregation at Boulogne: namely Lisieux. The town is in the heart of the Pays d'Auge, of which it is the capital. Lisieux is surrounded by Normandy's typical hedged farmland, where there is a mix of livestock farming (mostly milk cows) and cider apple cultivation (from which cider and calvados are made), but the main interest in the town is the Basilica of Sainte Thérèse, which is built on a small hill overlooking the town. Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face, lived and died in the nearby Carmelite convent at Lisieux. In 1925, she was canonized as "St. Thérèse of Lisieux" and devotion to the saint has made Lisieux France's second-most important site of pilgrimage, after Lourdes.

The Basilica is nothing if not impressive. Construction started in 1929 and was completed in 1954, funded entirely by donations and special contributions from several countries from around the world, which poured in as a result of the strong allegiance to Saint Thérèse. The basilica thus contains 18 minor altars offered by different

nations to Saint Thérèse. In November 1929, Pius XI made it known that the new basilica would have to be "very big, very beautiful, and as soon as possible!" The basilica was blessed on 11 July 1937, by the papal legate Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli (the future Pope Pius XII). Works stopped for some time due to the Second World War, but then resumed and the basilica was completed in 1954. The basic structure, which was completed before the war, suffered little damage during the bombing, which destroyed two-thirds of Lisieux: the resulting basilica has a total surface area 4,500 m² and a dome 90 m in height. On days when there are large crowds, 3000 pilgrims can be seated inside and participation in the ceremonies at the sanctuary is unhindered and there are no columns to block one's view. The Basilica's interior is decorated with many religious themed mosaics covering the main construction material of reinforced concrete and although, as I have said, the building is impressive, it is hardly what one would describe as beautiful in the normal sense.

Our final destination on this first day of our short trip was Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, a delightful small town with hotels built around a small lake. Hiding in magnificent forests, this charming thermal spa town nestles in the Normandie-Maine Regional Nature Park. With an elegant casino and racecourse as well as its renovated thermal spa centre, Bagnoles-de-l'Orne can make for a relaxing break. This thermal resort became particularly popular in the Belle Epoque and retains something of a turn of the century feel as the 19th gave way to the 20th, so prettily is it set around its lake. Some grand period buildings still occupy prime positions, including the casino, which has pride of place beside the water, and the palatial Résidence du Lac, standing out in patterned brick.



The Basilica at Lisieux



Local legend tells of the medieval lord, Seigneur Hugues de Tessé (no relation of mine!) Believing that his once-glorious horse, 'Rapide', was reaching the end of its life, the noble Seigneur Hugues decided to abandon it



Mouilleron-en-Pareds

in the forest. He was amazed when the animal returned home some time later, strong and totally revitalized. Without resentment, 'Rapide' took its master along to the waters of Bagnoles which he drank and was likewise rejuvenated. The spa was born.

From Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, to the Vendée you pass through a succession of delightful towns such as Laval, one of the France's designated 'towns of art and history,' and certainly with the credentials to merit the accolade. The town has an impressive 12th century château built on a rocky spur in its centre. The Cathédrale de la Trinité de Laval and the Basilique Notre-Dame d'Avesnières are also fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture with more than 1000 years of history. You can wander its winding streets lined with half-timbered houses in faded colours; today some are filled with quirky antiques and clothes shops.

Then there is Angers with its superb chateau, and just before reaching the Vendée itself, Cholet, a "ville fleurie 4*^o". There was a cataclysmic battle there in 1793, when much of Cholet burned down and the battlefield has been marked with an orientation table, and the municipal museum recounts the the gory details. The town was also one of France's big textile manufacturers, making snazzy handkerchiefs for all of France. Beyond that there are two picturesque lakes, and many hectares of parkland for walks, water sports and picnics.

We stayed at a very small but charming village Bazoges which was a good centre for visiting typical Vendée towns such as Parthenay and Fontenay le Comte. Nearby is also the village of Mouilleron-en-Pareds. This hamlet is famous as the place of birth of Georges Clemenceau (head of the French government during World War I and Marchal Jean de Lattre de Tassigny (who led the French First Army during the liberation of France with the Allied forces in 1945) and one of France's most distinguished soldiers. You can visit Clemenceau's birthplace and view de Lattre's house. In the grounds is a small chapel where he was laid to rest beside his only son, Bernard, who had been killed fighting under his father's command in Indochina about eight months earlier. De Lattre's widow became a recluse in her grief and the family died out on her death.

Close to Mouilleron-en-Pareds is also the home of France's largest garden centre: Pépinières Ripeau with its 2 million plants, in 100 hectares of grounds, with a staff of over 50. It is an extraordinary place with plants from all over the world from New Zealand to Costa Rica as well as hundreds of cultivars of thousands of European plants. Mouilleron-en-Pareds has quite a reputation for a tiny commune and well worth the visit – and of course the journey there.



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 e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr ☎ 03 21 35 07 65

Hesdin's services: Normal pattern - 1st Sunday: 10h30 / 3rd Sunday: 16h00. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin –Warden: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79

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.

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@dbmail.com ☎ 03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44 Deadline for April issue: 23rd March 2019

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