



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

May 2014 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

Of caves, a poet and a former archbishop

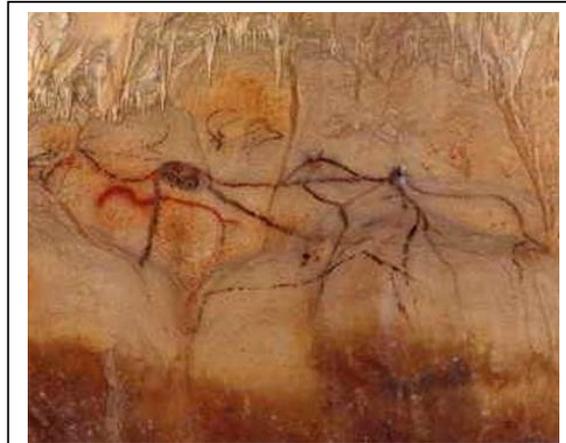
Every so often, I suppose, we all think for a moment or two, about time and space and the tiny role we play in the incomprehensible vastness of creation. Although we may be good at measuring it, time is a very difficult thing to get a handle on; some things change very little, others rapidly through natural processes of growth and decline; everything has its own pace; the essence of time is the speed of change.

A few weeks ago Carol and I made the long car journey back to Boulogne from Perpignan; not being in any hurry we decided to make a couple of stops overnight on the way. One of them was at the small medieval market town of Gourdon in the département of Lot. The quaint, centuries old, limestone streets twist and turn upwards, culminating at the castle mound with its stunning views across the rich green uplands of the Quercy region. I had been here briefly once before in the early 70's, when, as a young man, a friend and I were on a trip of discovery through France and Spain. In those days one could buy a return railway ticket, usually handwritten by the clerk, in the form of a booklet, indicating the final destination and route. Usefully it allowed unlimited breaks of journey throughout its validity. Gourdon is still a minor station on the Paris-Toulouse line and was of interest because I especially wanted to visit a set of little-known caves with prehistoric wall paintings, just over 3 kms. out of town, known as les grottes de Cougnac. I can just recall the walk there, the small hut that served as a ticket office near the entrance, and the lack of visitors. We had a tour all to ourselves. On this recent trip I took the opportunity to return to the caves. I discovered little had changed; the hut had gone - replaced by a modern building with a toilet block and shop, however, just as before the man selling tickets doubled up as well-informed guide, ran the shop and served refreshments. Once again there was an absence of visitors, there were just only 3 including myself. I explained to the chap my last visit was 40 years back and he was curious to learn of my impressions – I told him the little I could remember. But what was 40 years in the history of these caves; but the twinkling of an eye. As a result of radiocarbon dating, the experts agree that our ancestors made their homes here somewhere between 14 and 25 thousand years ago. Being off the beaten track and the low visitor numbers has saved the paintings from damage; so through the tiny entrance, a keyhole into the past, we came face-to-face with the ancient works of art in red ochre, on the contours of the wall, made centuries ago, but as fresh as yesterday. Did the hunter-gather occupants create these sketches in the firelight for their own amusement, or was it to leave behind a mark of their lifestyle for the enlightenment of future post-cave-dwelling generations? Did they peer with imagination into the future, yearn for change or felt what they had was the status quo?

In the early part of the last century, English poet James Elroy Flecker wrote a poem entitled 'To a poet a thousand years hence'. It is an emotionally charged attempt to communicate, through verse, with another unknown poet living a thousand years after his passing. He questions what manner of thinking prevails in that distant world outside his reach. He asks is there time for... *'wine and music still'*,... *'And foolish thoughts of good and ill'*. His unconcern for material achievements is echoed in the wonderful lines: *'I care not if you bridge the seas, Or ride secure the cruel sky'* His hand is extended, hoping above all, that what his generation found important, will continue to remain of value.

Fast forward one hundred years to a week or so ago, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, when giving an interview for The SundayTelegraph, said Britain, in his opinion, is no longer "a nation of believers" and that a further decline in the sway of the Church is likely in the years ahead. He defined the country as "post-Christian" and that the era of widespread worship was over. We seem to be living in a epoch of rapid change, what do we want of those who fill our shoes, in say a hundred years let alone a thousand, will they still hold onto the faith we dearly treasure? The speed of change in the material world comes too quickly nowadays but we need not worry, if we continue to embrace the spirit to love one another, as Christ taught us, the future will then be bright. Love above all is timeless. MG

He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does. Ecclesiastes 3:11 (Good News Translation)



The rock paintings at Cougnac

Our services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Boulogne St Martin

- **Sunday May 4th 2014 / Second Sunday after Easter** – No service
- **Sunday May 18th 2014 10h30 / Fourth Sunday after Easter** - Eucharist led by Canon Charles Hill. Readings: Acts 7:55-end; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14: 1-14
- **Sunday June 1st 2014 10h30 / Sunday after Ascension Day** - A service of morning worship, with hymns and readings led by Lalage and Paul Glaister
- **Sunday June 15th 2014 10h30 / Trinity Sunday, First Sunday after Pentecost** - Eucharist service led by Canon Reg Humphriss Readings: Isaiah 40: 12-17,27-end; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-end; Matthew 28:16-20.

News and dates for your diary:

The reconvened Chaplaincy AGM was held on Sunday 27th April after a special service in the Chapel conducted by Rev. Paul Bennett from Dunkerque who also chaired the meeting. The treasurer's report was submitted and points for the progress of the Chaplaincy were also discussed, it was followed by a meal.

Following the suggestion of Canon Reg Humphriss, for more congregation participation, authorisation has been sought for more members to be chalice bearers at communion – the full list will now be (in alphabetical order): Michael Bown, Malcolm Gale; Lalage Glaister; Graham Hughes Jean Karsen and Linda Pillière.

- **Tuesday 20th May** at the Monastère du Carmel, Boulogne St Martin starting at 10h00. There will be **a meeting** on the future of the Chaplaincy and a Eucharist, this will be led by The Revd Canon Debbie Flach, Chaplain of Christ Church Lille, member of the General Synod and Area Dean- - open to all.



- On **Sunday 1st June** at the Cathédrale Notre Dame de la Treille in Lille, there will be a chance to hear the **Choir of Canterbury Cathedral** sing Vespers at 16h00, preceded by a short concert of music in remembrance of the First World War, starting at 15h30.

➤ The basilica in Boulogne is taking part in the region's '**Night of the Cathedrals**' on **Sunday 11th May** – starting at 18h00 there will an evening-long programme of special events in the nave and under the dome with music and light bringing to life the cathedral in an unique and novel way.

- **Sunday 8th June:** - once again this year Paul and Lalage Glaister will be offering delicious **Strawberry Teas** in their lovely garden at Estréelles (156, rue du Moulin) from 14h10 till 17h00– details ☎03 21 81 47 65

Paul Glaister writes about:

A HOUSE IN FRANCE

We realise that it is twenty-five years since we bought our house in France. Why did we buy it? We already loved France and came here often on holiday and it finally came to us that it would be as cheap to buy a place as to continue paying for hotels. This was in 1989, and the exchange rate was ten Francs to the pound

– very simple to calculate. We also found out that property was remarkably cheap and easy to find. We looked at various options using English agents, usually with cute names like The Bolthole, but realised that they offered poor value compared to their French counterparts. The great problem was that they assumed all Englishmen would want a completely derelict farmhouse with crumbling barns and no sanitation at all, so we laid down our basic ground rules: Water / Electricity / Bathroom / Within one hour of Boulogne.

Then we were away with long tours of the French countryside, following a French agent who always drove very fast, with a brief pause outside another ruin where we would shake our heads and set off again. We finally met an eccentric solicitor in Montreuil, who always looked very hung-over, and would sweep up to us in a long swirling coat that raised the dust around his feet. He showed us one house, and as usual we shook our heads. But back in the Montreuil hotel we reflected, and crept out on our own for a fuller investigation. It fitted all our basic requirements, and was at a reasonable price. The solicitor offered to show us the inside, but could only make a Sunday morning. When he arrived in his long green coat, he looked so hung-over that we doubted if he would last the day. He turned up with the son of the previous owner, a builder from a neighbouring village, and within ten minutes or so, it was all settled. We had bought our house!

We came over regularly from Folkestone to Boulogne on our day off, eating our picnic breakfast on one of the lovely old Sealink boats, and then roared down the RN1 to our new home. We found that all the interior walls were made of very thin wood coated with what turned out to be old mail bags belonging to Queen Victoria and dated around 1850. When we investigated further we found details of the house and adjoining farm dating back to 1740. Our first major purchase was a wood burning stove, which is still with us and provides reliable heat and comfort throughout the year. In time we added an extension, rewired and enjoyed life in France. Even the garden was cooperative, and everything we brought over took off and flourished.

At various times we have discussed selling up and moving to something newer, or older, or bigger or smaller, but the children and grandchildren would never forgive us, so I suppose we are here to stay, happy in our green, French, valley.



Other services in the Chaplaincy

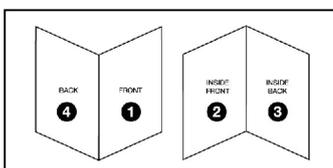
Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The place of worship is the Salle de Culte of the New Calais Hospital, Pôle Santé du Virval, Bd des Justes, 62107 Calais (enter by the main door, the chapel is above the cafeteria off the central hall.) Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr

Hesdin's regular services - our services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – 10h30, Eucharist Service led by Rev. John Porter; 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Evening Prayer. 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.cromp@free.fr

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: Lalage Glaister: - ☎ 03 21 81 47 65, e-mail: paul.glaister@wanadoo.fr or otherwise the secretary.

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 the secretary 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.



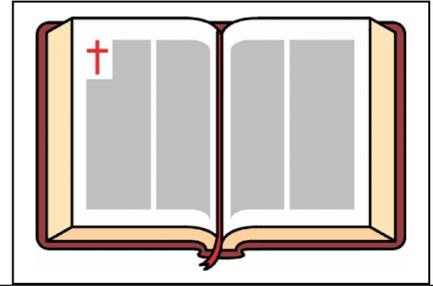
Printing your newsletter: This newsletter is designed to be printed at A5 size - select the 'livret' or 'booklet' printing format on the print management page of Adobe PDF Reader, this turns it into a handy A5 size four-page leaflet – of

course remember to pass the paper through your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

And now the 'just for the fun of it' column ...

Our resident quizmaster Graham Hughes has set this puzzler, which he calls: "**Biblical Number Equations**"

If your not sure how it works here is a sample question with the answer: 3 K of O; Answer: 3 Kings of Orient! Easy – so off you go...



* 10 C	
* 4 H of the A	
* 3 T P d J	
* 7 S of J plus 3 D	
* 3 D and N in the B of a W	
* 30 P of P	
* 40 D in the W	
* 14 E by the A P.	
* 5 B in the P.	
* 10 P on the L of E	
* 4 D that L was D	
* 66 B in the B	
* 12 A of J	
* 12 T of I	
* 40 D and D of the G F	
* 66 C in the B of I	
* 3 P of the H T	
* 176 V in the L P	
* 10 C in the B of E	
* 3 K to the K of H	

If you get them all correct you just might be able to find the answer to the last equation...

(Answers next month)

And to end with ...a number of disgraceful errors that have been spotted recently in parish magazines:

- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind – they may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoons.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00pm in the Methodist church hall – please use the large double doors at the side of the building.
- Our drama group are presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet next Saturday night at 7.30pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

