



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

May 2018 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 67

## Walking the ramparts of Montreuil

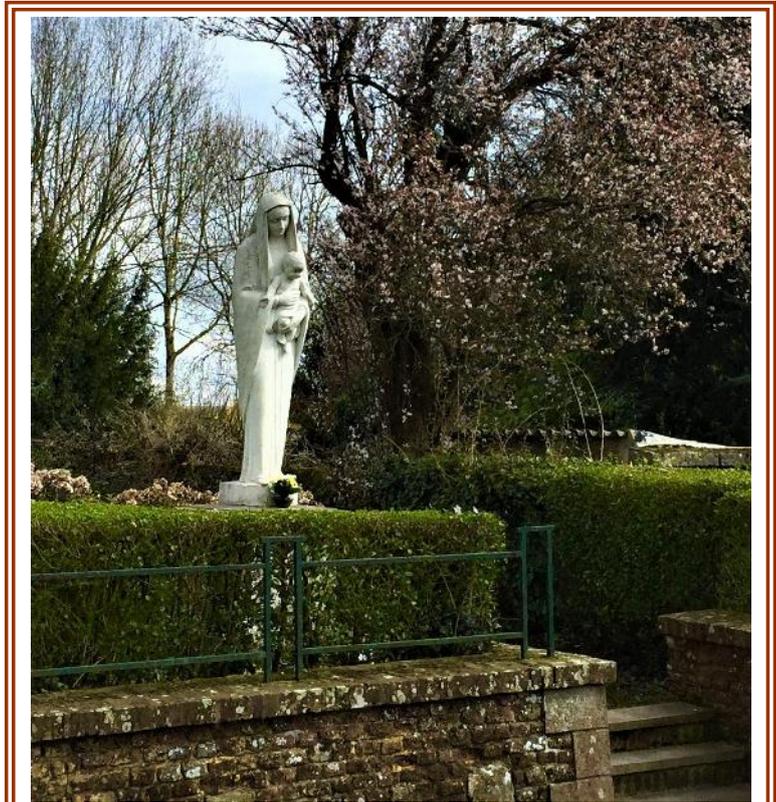
Last summer Montreuil sur Mer became our home and we began to discover the delights of walking its famous ramparts. Dating from the 11th century, the impressive structure encircles the *haute ville* of Montreuil, its 13th century archers' towers providing protection against invaders.

Walking the town's ancient fortifications is a favourite pastime for tourists and locals, for young and old alike. The views across open countryside are breath-taking. Even the hypnotic screen of the mobile phone doesn't manage to compete.

The circuit of the ramparts provides an inspiring prayer walk too. On the town-side, the backs of houses, schools, administrative buildings, the glimpses of cathedral and church spires are all a prompt to pray for the inhabitants of the town, for its young people, for its churches and clergy, and for the town's decision-makers. I like to pause at the simple white stone statue of the Madonna and child, Notre-Dame de Grâce, Protectrice de la Cité 1939-1945, testimony that even in our secular society, God's grace and protection continue to be acknowledged.

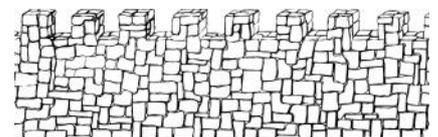
Many features of the ramparts walk have parallels with the walk of faith. In the season when trees along the path are coming into new leaf, lilac, cherry, forsythia, magnolia, resplendent with blossom, others appear dead and barren, their branches still bare. Closer inspection reveals the tightly furled buds, an encouragement to trust God for the seasons of our lives, a reminder that a time of seeming barrenness may presage new growth and fruitfulness. Benches along the path invite the walker to take time to stop, rest, take in the spectacular view and listen to the birds that throng the trees. Psalm 23 speaks of a similar invitation, to take time out from our hectic lives, to rest, contemplate and enjoy God's magnificent creation.

The ramparts walk also features a steep drop to one side of an unfenced path. This can be unnerving, especially if, like me, you don't have a great head for heights. But the path of life has its perils too, and just as I refuse to let vertigo spoil my favourite walk, by God's grace, fear will not rob me of life's joy. Yesterday, as I walked the ramparts, I was aware of the dichotomy this ancient bulwark represents. It speaks to our need to feel protected, secure, enclosed by the love and strength of God, yet responsive to His challenge to look outwards, across the wide, open countryside to far horizons, to embrace new landscapes and unfamiliar territory. As we pray for the appointment of a new chaplain, we should bear Montreuil's ramparts in mind.



The gardens and statue of Notre-Dame de Grâce erected by the inhabitants of Montreuil sur Mer after WWII in gratitude for having been spared the bombings.

Jackie L.





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

△ Sunday 6th May 2018 10h30 / *Sixth Sunday of Easter* Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by Jackie and Colin Ley.

△ Sunday 20th May 2018 10h30 / *Pentecost - Whit Sunday* Eucharist service, celebrant: Rev. Gordon Warren. Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:22-27; John 16:4-15

△ Sunday 3rd June 2018 10h30 / *Second Sunday after Pentecost* Simple service of Morning Worship with hymns and readings led by Linda Pillière

△ Sunday 17th June 2018 10h30 / *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost* Eucharist service, celebrant: Rev. David Houghton. Readings: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10,14-17; Mark 4:26-34



**The Churchwarden's Report for the Boulogne Congregation was presented at our AGM on Sunday 5th April 2018, below is an abbreviated transcript.**

The year 2017 was quite an eventful one. It began with preparation of the Chaplaincy Profile as an aid to recruiting a new priest. That was a thought-provoking task.

Visiting priests have maintained the pattern of monthly Eucharists. This costs money, even though some waive all or part of their expenses. We acknowledge the generosity of those who provide visitors (and often their wives) with accommodation and meals. What is really missing is pastoral care, and more consistent input on growing our congregation. Eucharists alternate with lay services, which maintain a very high standard.

During the year we have had to comply with new safeguarding provisions. We have all - and especially those who lead lay services, been a bit bewildered, and frankly reluctant to engage with the necessary procedures. The process is however under way, and we have a better appreciation of the background since our Area Dean Debbie Flach joined us for a day at Condette in February of this year.

In 2017 we saw the start of bible studies, at the initiative of Peter Wyart, usually led by Colin and Jackie Ley. These sessions have become a regular fixture with a loyal following, and dates are announced in our monthly on-line newsletter. This newsletter too, continues to be one of the jewels in our crown.

At chaplaincy level the new charitable association *Solidarité Anglicane du Pas de Calais*, created to simplify the process of raising money for charity, also saw the light of day in 2017. Its objective is to raise the equivalent of ten percent of our income, or about €1000. We, like the two other congregations, are represented on its board. In Boulogne itself, I continue to be hugely impressed by how much we can raise for chaplaincy funds thanks to the efforts of a small number of people - €500 at a single tea party last year for instance. I would like to see more joint events, but the distance between our three congregations is our enemy.

We in Boulogne, thanks to having Peter Wyart a professional artist among us, were instrumental in the design of a new chaplaincy logo, to be used on our stationery and in other communications, and reflecting each of our three centres.

We are very fortunate in having the ongoing use of this wonderful chapel, and our relations with the sisters continue to be excellent. As to our music, we are sorely missing Charles Vandezande, not only as a dear friend but also for his splendid organ playing, a feature of our services for nearly 20 years. The celebration of Charles's life on February 4th was a truly memorable occasion. While Charles can never be replaced, we are presently coping well with several volunteer players.

Finally, I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me for this past year, and in turn I thank you all for your continued support in circumstances that are not always easy, but that make the Boulogne congregation the wonderful fellowship it is.

George M.

# Winning at all costs is just not Cricket

by David Furbur



The cheating by three professional Australian cricketers using sandpaper on a cricket ball brings into question our conflicting standards as to what is, and what is not, correct behaviour in sport and for that matter life. The 'win at all costs' attitude has changed sport out of all recognition. The cricket incident is unfolding as I write, just before Easter, and there will be new revelations to come which may overtake my comments, but I have found the contrition shown on TV, with lots of crying by those involved, to be totally unconvincing. They have been found out and know they have to appear remorseful so they can garner forgiveness and play again.

But so far the judgments of their peers and the press pack are based on such criteria as whether it was premeditated or just happened at the time. If the latter, then it is considered not to be so bad. I watch a sport to enjoy the competition and want to know that it is a fair battle, intense and focused, more importantly not fixed for financial or political gain or tainted by drugs or cheating.

In football we have the 'professional foul' - now in my mind a foul is a foul. But a 'professional' foul is condoned. Why? It is a cleverly carried out cheat. A tug of the shirt, a trip of the boot or worse; the more professional it is, the more difficult it is to spot. The commentator remarks: "He had no alternative but to make the professional foul, the player was past him and otherwise he would have scored a goal!" They look on with admiration at his cheating skill. Then the player is given a yellow card. One more cheat and you will be off - shown the red card. So the player is more restrained, but will still cheat. The referee is more judgemental and has to watch more carefully to decide if the next foul is a 'really really' bad foul. The game is to break the rules and not be found out. Is this being sporting? Ironically this attitude stops allowances being made for genuine unintended mistakes.

By contrast, consider the player who is tripped in the penalty box but rides the trip and goes on to try to score and misses. The commentator then berates that player for not deliberately falling and getting a penalty. They are condoning cheating as a way of winning in the name of sport. Professional sport might be a game but it is not a charity; it is a business. It is how a very large number of people around the world earn their living with others depending on sport for their livelihood. Many sportsmen become disgustingly rich. It pays handsomely and in sport it pays to cheat as the more you win, the more you earn. Additionally a lot of poor people around the world use their limited resources to watch and enjoy spectator sport. They deserve a fair deal. Unarguably cheating in business is not acceptable; it leads to prison. Why is it condoned in sport, which for professionals is a business..?

Now to my question: should Christians play sport in a different way to non-Christians or should we regard sport as different? Is it a place where we can break the rules and cheat, as in some way it is accepted or expected? Or should a Christian player refuse to cheat or bend the rules? But in a team-playing situation is he letting his fellow members down by not cheating where 'to win at all costs' is the game. They may say it is only a sport, just a pastime. But to win do you have to be competitive whatever that entails?

A final thought - Mexico World Cup 1986...why was Maradona's cheating described as 'The Hand of God'?

## the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell





## For your diary...

### Bible study

The last Bible Study meeting continued to discuss examples of Jesus praying. Our next meeting is on June 8th, 3pm, at the home of David Furbur in Camiers when we'll be discussing various faith questions. We can't promise answers but can promise lively debate. For further information, contact Colin Ley: leycj@aol.com ☎ 0688792185

**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 services:** Services in May 2018 Sunday 6th May – Lay Led service – 10h30 / Sunday 20th May - Pentecost - Holy Communion – 17h00. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin – Below are details of Hesdin's Summer Picnic to which everyone is invited (advance booking via Church Warden: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79 )

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 the church warden: George Murray ☎ 03 21 36 53 87, e-mail: georgemurray@sfr.fr.

**This newsletter can be found, together with other information about the Chaplaincy, on our website at: <http://www.anglicanspdc.com>**

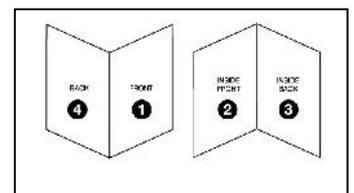


La Chartreuse de Neuville

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

Deadline for June issue: 18th May 2018

**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).



## 2018 Summer Picnic

A date to look forward to on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

At:- La Chartreuse de Neuville

1 allée de la Chartreuse - 62170 - NEUVILLE SOUS MONTREUIL.

After much interest expressed in visiting this historic site and buildings we have been lucky to be able to arrange a guided tour of the La Chartreuse followed by a shared picnic.

Meet at 11am

Guided Tour 8€ per person, paid to la Chartreuse

Followed by Picnic in the Garden.

Parking, Toilets, and Shelter provision in case of rain.

If you wish to reserve a place on this tour, please do so as soon as possible as places are limited.