



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

May 2016 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 47

Dear All,

Here in France the tradition of giving and receiving for good luck, sprigs of 'muguet' or 'lily of the valley' - as it is known in English, on the first day of May, is still very much alive and well. Just the same, considering that all parts of this plant are exceedingly poisonous and the vase water it normally stands in becomes, as a result, also highly toxic, it might seem slightly strange to be passing it around with uninhibited enthusiasm to the point that if you don't present it to a loved one, you might be considered as remiss.

Legend has it that the tradition goes back to 1560 when Charles IX and his mother Catherine de Medici were visiting the Dauphiné in southeastern France, when Chevalier Louis de Girard picked some from his garden and offered it, for luck, to Charles IX. The king was so delighted that he repeated the practice the following year on the 1st of May, by presenting a sprig to each of the ladies of the court, saying, "Let it be done so every year."

Perhaps one reason why the tradition is so popular in a country like France, with its highly regulated trading laws, is that individuals can sell it legally on the streets on 1st of May, without prior authorization or formality. This started in the days of Robespierre and is only subject to a few minor conditions; for example it must be the garden or wood variety, in other words not commercially produced, and picked by the seller. In Boulogne a further by-law states that the vendor should be standing at least 100 metres away from the front of an established flower shop!

Despite its dubious chemical properties the flower often features in bridal bouquets as a sign of good fortune and from the Christian point of view, the plant is a symbol of humility and deemed a sign of Christ's second coming. It is also known as 'Our Lady's tears' or 'Mary's tears' a name derived from the flowers' similarity with teardrops, reminding us of the weeping of the Virgin Mary during the crucifixion of Jesus.

This tiny and delicate flower therefore needs understanding and attention and will repay with its charm and beauty, if treated with due consideration – just as with one another and the whole of God's creations, which we so easily take for granted. Yes, it certainly needs handling with care. MG



Le Muguet de Mai (*Convallaria majalis*) Lily of the Valley



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

Sunday 1st May 2016 10h30/ Fifth Sunday after Easter, Rogation Sunday - a service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Linda Pillière

Sunday 15th May 2016 10h30 / Pentecost, Whitsunday - Eucharist service led by Canon Reg Humphriss; Readings: Acts 2: 1-21; Psalm 104: 26-36,37b; Romans 8: 14-17; John 14: 8-27

Sunday 29th May 2016 10h30 / First Sunday after Trinity

Special Sunday Morning Service arranged by Vaughan and Hilary Johnson with Rev Lesley Bentley from Lichfield – see boxed text on next page...

Sunday 5th June 2016 10h30 / Second Sunday after Trinity - a simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Malcolm Gale

Sunday 19th June 2016 10h30 / Fourth Sunday after Trinity (Father's Day) Eucharist service led by Rev Charles Hill; Readings: Isaiah 65: 1-9; Ps: 22.19 -28; Galatians: 3.23 - end; Luke 8: 26-39

News and dates for your diary:

As listed on page one, everyone is warmly invited to join this special Sunday morning service on 29th May in the chapel. Led by Rev Lesley Bentley, who is Director of Ministry in the Diocese of Lichfield, it will involve a group of young people, mostly active members of Vaughan and Hilary Johnson's church in the UK, together with relatives and friends, who are all staying the weekend at nearby Nabringhen. The service will be a family communion with hymns and songs of worship accompanied by organ, keyboard and a small band of musicians. There promises to be genuine mixture of styles and approaches to Christian worship, making it a exceptional and uplifting event.

Your new PCC was elected at the AGM on Sunday 3rd April 2016 with George Murray remaining as our churchwarden with the following as council members: Pauline Cecchin, Carol and Malcolm Gale, Lalage and Paul Glaister, Jean Karssen, Colin and Jackie Ley, Linda Pillière. Also serving on the Chaplaincy committee for Boulogne will be: George, Lalage and Malcolm.

At the Boulogne AGM George Murray reported on the recent visit he made with the other Chaplaincy churchwardens to Canterbury, this was in an attempt to see if we could play a larger part with the refugee/migrant situation, and if possible to leverage that role into once again having a full-time priest on this side of the Channel. George was delighted to find that he and the delegation from our Chaplaincy was pushing, in George's words: 'at an open door', in fact the request had been anticipated. The Diocese - which works already with bodies such as *Secours Catholique*, Kent County Council, Kent Refugee Action Network and Migrant Help - has already compiled a job specification for a 'Project Officer (Refugees) Calais' and substantial funds have been raised to turn this post into reality on the basis of a five-year contract.

Now, following our visit, and at the initiative of Canon Caroline Pinchbeck (Director of the Communities and Partnerships Framework and Rural Life Adviser) at the Diocesan Office, this post has been extended on the basis of 50% time input refugees/migrants, and 50% our local Anglican Chaplaincy. Naturally the post has to move through the diocesan channels and be advertised, but things are moving in the right direction and it is just possible we could see a local priest on the ground before the end of this year. More news on the progress of this, in further issues of our newsletter.

A message from your newsletter editor – Although I have relinquished the secretary's duties of the Boulogne congregation, I have been asked to continue to produce the monthly newsletter - for better or worse, or for the time being. Naturally, as this is your newsletter and magazine, which goes out, not only to members of our congregation, but also to many other interested people, plus of course worldwide on the internet, I will as ever, be canvassing for articles – please do not hesitate to send me your reports, stories, news items and perplexing puzzles. Address details are on page 3. MG

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



a little local HISTORY by George Murray

I knew that the village where I have now lived for nearly four years had its origins in a Roman settlement, perhaps involved in Caesar's invasion of England In 55 BC (*veni, vidi, vici*). Roman relics have been found on the Mont du Couple, on one side of the valley that contains the village. But I was not aware till recently of some incidents that took place during the Hundred Years War.

Hervelinghen (formerly called Hervemingham, even after the French regained Calais) is a well-heeled little village, population around 230. Farming is the main activity; with a high proportion of second homes (25%) a smattering of gîtes, and the Camping de la Vallée – with its seasonal *frîterie*: 'Mister Bintje!' The countryside is pure Sussex, and from the window of my mezzanine I have a clear view over the Channel and the English coast.

Things were not always so calm. The War was not confined to the siege of Calais. In the countryside most violence occurred on or near the coast. An eye for an eye was definitely the code of battle. In one incident on 28th June 1513, the English came off worst in an encounter with the French forces. Many were killed and "*the bodies were disembowelled and the faces so mutilated, that it was difficult to determine which were English and which were French*". The English consoled themselves by noting that 20 fine French horses lay dead on the battlefield, others were taken and led to market in Calais, whilst the English lost but one horse.

A century earlier, in 1412, nearby Wissant was sacked and burnt by theft, pillage, rape and executions - by the English. Years later when the ruined town was barely back on its feet, it was again attacked by the English, but on this occasion, to avoid the worst, chose to submit. Thy enemy once departed, the inhabitants with no hesitation rushed to the beach, where there lay a wrecked English ship. They pillaged the cargo and captured the crew who they sent off to Boulogne as prisoners of war. The English did not leave this action unpunished. They returned at full gallop, putting Wissant once again to the sword and fire, and summarily hanged fourteen inhabitants. It was the 4th of July, day of the *ducasse*. In 1558 the Duc de Guise re-took Calais for the French. It was when the commissioners charged by Henri II with carving up the surrounding area into administrative districts came to Hervelinghen, there they came upon five English families huddled together in the church. They asked to be allowed to remain under the protection of the King of France, showing the homes where they were born, now in ruins. Their request was accepted. Some of their descendants are said still to live in the village but because of intermarriage and changes of name, it is virtually impossible to identify them.

These five families were just a few of the many English people who, during the prolonged hostilities between England and France, settled permanently on this side of the Channel. It must have been a perilous existence because although a peaceful settlement was frequently sought by both sides, they were received with great scepticism by the French on account of the numerous sorties made by the English garrisons at Calais and Guînes, which greatly undermined confidence in these perfidious early ex-pats. As a relic of the 15th century sack of Wissant, in the centre of the village of Hervelinghen stands a white stone column, which dates at least from the English occupation and is believed to be 14th century. It was threatened with demolition by revolutionary activists in 1793 but was saved thanks to intervention by the *maire* Mr Poivre. Technically it is a *calvaire*, because it is topped with a very small crucifix. But there the religious significance ends. Some like to think that the English wanted, by erecting this column, to point out to any native French person who might think of treachery, that punishment would be swift and pitiless. Others ask, would the victors (the English) have wanted to leave to posterity such a tangible souvenir of their cruelty? That is a French point of view, of course. Call it what you will, the



English column, *la croix des pendus*, the column has never ceased to be an object of some mystery. Why, in fact, erect a gibbet in a village, which in itself played no part in the looting of a ship belonging to the invader? At any rate, the cross is still there, but not in its original location. Where it first stood, and when village life started to develop, the column obstructed access to the workshop of a wheelwright (*charron*), preventing the entry of horse-drawn vehicles or the delivery of timber supplies. So, although it still stands close to the entry to the *Rue du Charron*, it was shifted, probably in the early 20th century, at the artisan's request.

During the move it was damaged. It evidently fell or was knocked over, and broke in half. Close-up, the join is clearly visible to this day. Furthermore legend has it that when the column was re-erected, a parchment was sealed into its foundations. No one knows what was written on the document, or and indeed whether it really exists. And no-one is prepared to move it to find out. Perhaps they are afraid of breaking it again!

With acknowledgments to the article "*Hervelinghen et la Potence des Anglais*" by André Verley, from "*La Semaine dans le Boulonnais*" published 16th October 2013, and thanks to Guillain and Dominique Glorian-Verret for drawing it to my attention.



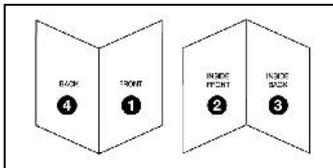
Other services in the Chaplaincy Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. (NB. April's service is at Boulogne). The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church) Church 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

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 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: 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.



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your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

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The power of words ...

