



# Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais CHAPLANCY NEWSLETTER

May 2019

No. 78

Fellowship, Hope and Love

## In the Front Line

We don't need to turn back the pages of these newsletters very far to read the words 'Terrorism, by definition, is incitement to terror, designed to rob us of joy' - a line from an article written by a member of our congregation, Jackie Ley. She was putting her thoughts together on the terrorist carnage in Nice and the murder of 85 year-old Father Jacques Hamel while celebrating mass in his church at Rouen in 2016.

This year, along with Christians worldwide, we celebrated in our own church the good news of Christ's resurrection on Easter Day; this was also the case in far off Sri Lanka. But for our brothers and sisters in three of their churches on Easter morning, everything changed. Devastation was brought on the congregations of innocent, lovely men, women and children by the senseless and selfish actions of a group of suicide bombers who had entered their places of worship. Blood splattered walls and rows of coffins later replaced the happiness of Easter.

Likewise back in March this year, those attending Friday Prayers in two different mosques situated in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, were indiscriminately gunned down and many more were injured. Prince William on a visit to the Masjid Al Noor mosque described the attacks as an "unspeakable act of hate." By attacking people while at prayer, what do those who perpetrate these crimes think they will achieve? But in a world where our measure of human brutality is all too frequently being re-evaluated, are we now reaching a new low point?

There was a time when the lines were drawn very firmly in the sand with only a murmur from members of different faiths, but increasingly enlightened representatives are now spontaneously speaking out to condemn these outrages unconditionally and extend genuine hands of friendship in solidarity across the religious divide; this trend needs to continue. We are all vulnerable to those who attempt to propagate extreme ideologies with their distorted interpretations and the use of violence to achieve it; history has shown they will never succeed.

As Christians over Holy Week and Easter we recalled the death of Jesus on the cross, remembering that his death was not in vain. A few days ago at the funeral service in St Ann's Belfast of the talented young journalist Lyra McKee, shot dead while observing rioting in Londonderry, Catholic parish priest Father Martin Magill addressed the congregation in the Anglican Cathedral. His words were clearly aimed at those seated in the front row of the congregation; leaders at opposite ends of the political spectrum. He said: "why in God's name does it take the death of a 29-year-old woman with her whole life in front of her..." to bring us all together under one roof? The priest's words received a standing ovation; a wake-up call to break down the existing divisions.

Our world should not be defined by our worst citizens, but by our best whatever our differences. Sometimes out of enormous tragedy can come new hope yet our prayers go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones and those injured in these horrifying atrocities.

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:9-10)*



*Thick with Palms - Parque García Sanabria, Santa Cruz, Tenerife*



## Forthcoming services in the Chaplaincy:

*Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne*

**Sunday 5th May 2019 15h00 - Third Sunday of Easter** Afternoon Eucharist service

Readings: Acts 9:1-6; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19; Psalm: 30

**Sunday 19th May 2019 10h30 - Fifth Sunday of Easter** Morning Eucharist service

Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; Revelations 21:1-6; Psalm: 148; John 13.31-35

**Sunday 2nd June 2019 15h00 - Seventh Sunday of Easter** Afternoon Eucharist service

**Sunday 16th June 2019 10h30 - Trinity Sunday** Morning Eucharist service

Church Warden: Lalage Glaister ☎03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

*Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais*

**Sunday 12th May 2019 10h30 - Fourth Sunday of Easter** Eucharist service

**Sunday 26th May 2019 10h30 - Sixth Sunday of Easter** Eucharist service

**Sunday 9th June 2019 10h30 - Day of Pentecost** Eucharist service

**Sunday 23rd June 2019 10h30- Second Sunday after Pentecost** Eucharist service

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

*Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin*

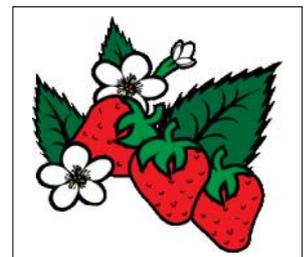
**Normal pattern** - 1st Sunday: 10h30 / 3rd Sunday: 17h00 Church Warden: Michael Spriggs

☎ 03 21 81 61 79 email: mjspriggs@mail.com

All services will be conducted by our chaplain Rev. Kirrilee Reid

## News and dates for your diary...

**Message from Lalage Glaister:** June is the month when I have an insignificant birthday but Paul and I also celebrate 40 years of marriage. Therefore we would like to invite anyone attending the afternoon service in Boulogne on **Sunday 2nd June** to come back to our house for a buffet supper. Members of the Hesdin and Calais congregations would also be more than welcome to join us. To help with catering please let us know by Friday 31st May if you are able to join us.



### Strawberry Tea - Sunday 9th June

Everyone is welcome and tell all your friends. Who can resist sandwiches, scones, cakes and strawberries? There will be a bowl for those who wish to give a donation to the Anglican Church and a stupendous raffle. Don't worry if it rains come anyway. Estréelles (156, rue du Moulin) from 15h00 – 17h00 –further details ☎03 21 81 47 65 e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

### Bible Study Groups

The next Bible Study in the Montreuil area: the subject will be the Resurrection and will be on Friday **3rd May 15h00** at the home of at the home of Peter Wyart, 138 rue Jean Ducrocq, Sorrus For further details, please contact Lalage as above. The following study will be on Friday 24th May.

Pauline Cecchin and Linda Pillière are planning to start a **bible study group for those living nearer Boulogne**, although anyone willing to travel is very welcome! The idea is to take a film as the starting point and look at it in the light of the Bible's teachings. The sessions would last for an hour and a half and be followed by a soup and cheese supper. If you are interested in joining us, please let either Linda: linda.pilliere@free.fr or Pauline ☎ 03 21 92 14 70 / e-mail: cecchinp@wanadoo.fr so that we can fix the first date.

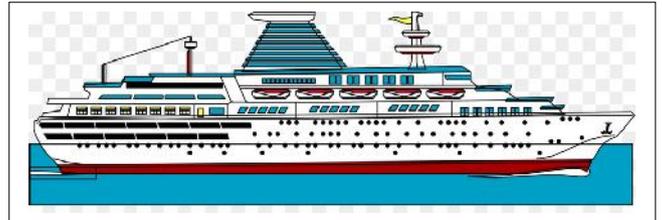
**Many have asked** about the ongoing needs of Maria Skobtsova House in Calais and would like to know what to donate. Below is the latest list of items currently required to support the refugees; Milk; Tinned tomatoes; Pasta; Olive Oil; Onions; Boxer shorts (small & medium); Socks- sports style (sizes 38-42); T-shirts (white, black or navy blue). If you can help with any of items listed they can be taken to any of the Sunday services or contact Kirrilee (see below)

**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.

## Jackie Ley recounts Easter Aboard...

**A**pril 7th this year marked a first for us. We embarked from Southampton on a two-week cruise. Excitement and anticipation were tempered by a twinge of regret that we'd be missing the Pas de Calais Holy Week services, but as it turned out, God honoured the promise of Psalm 139 verses 9 and 10: *...if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me...*



On Palm Sunday, we docked at Santa Cruz in Tenerife and boarded a tour bus for the 'Gardens of the Valley' excursion which took in the sub-tropical Botanic Gardens of Puerto de la Cruz and the Jardín de Orquideas Sitio Litre, the oldest surviving garden in Tenerife, now 240 years old and owned continuously by British families since 1730. Still a private residence, the current owners have opened the gardens to the public, so that, to quote the guidebook, visitors can savour this 'Vision of Eden'. The description was apt. The gardens were breathtakingly beautiful, and the lines of Dorothy Frances Gurney's poem came to mind: *One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.*

But Palm Sunday without church still felt a little hollow, until we discovered a tiny fisherman's chapel beside the marina. The morning service was over, but we joined a handful of others on the wooden pews for some quiet moments of prayer and reflection. The flagstones in front of the altar were strewn with palm branches. We followed the example of local worshippers and snapped off a few fronds to take away. They lay on a ledge in our cabin for the rest of Holy Week and they came home with us to Montreuil, a sacred souvenir and a reminder of a land where palms grow in leafy abundance.

On Maundy Thursday, when the ship docked in Lisbon, Father Peter Geldard, retired Dean of Chaplains and formerly Catholic Chaplain at the University of Kent, came aboard. We attended his 8.30 morning service on Good Friday. The devotions based around a series of artworks depicting the Stations of the Cross were reminiscent of our reflections on sacred art at Rev Reid's mid-week Lent services. A heartening reminder of home and the services taking place there.

We'd been mystified and a little outraged that the Good Friday communion was scheduled for 11.30pm, until Father Geldard explained that the late hour was intended to allow the crew to take part at the end of their working day. Caring for the needs of 3,500 passengers on a cruise ship is a hugely demanding task, carried out by a multi-national crew, many from India, Malaysia and the Philippines. The majority were young, at sea for several months at a time, and often homesick for family and friends. They were a conscientious workforce, unfailingly courteous, patient and good-humoured. At the end of a long and arduous working day, with the prospect of a very early start next morning, a large contingent, still in their work uniforms, attended the Good Friday communion and Adoration of the Cross. They took an active part, with a dramatic reading of the gospel passion account, with sacred singing and obvious fervent devotion. It was a privilege to worship with them, and one of the most precious memories of our holiday.

Easter Sunday provided a lovely re-entry into our French church family when we enjoyed a stopover with church members Graham and Jean Hughes at their Surrey home and received a warm welcome at the family communion at St Lawrence Chobham. Even the drive on the congested M25 to catch the Shuttle back to northern France didn't mar our deep sense of well-being. *Truly God gives us richly all things to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17*



*Easter Garden at the front of St Lawrence Chobham. Each symbolic red ribbon was nailed to the cross by individual church members.*





Mary Wood tells us about

## The Good Friday Meditation in Calais

For many years now, AOL (*Association Oecuménique du Littoral*) has organised an ecumenical Good Friday meditation in Calais. This year it was inspired by Alain Nouis's lectures, when he imagined seven spectators at the crucifixion and their reactions to Jesus' last words on the cross. Over the centuries public executions have drawn crowds of spectators, most are just curious, on a day out ; some are motivated by hate, friendship or love ; others are there on duty. As our time was limited, we chose just four of these 'characters' and shortened the pastor's commentaries.

**Festus, the Roman soldier**, didn't know what to think of 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' He didn't know Jesus said we are to pardon, even our enemies : if we do not, we, in turn, will not be pardoned. Forgiving has nothing to do with understanding or intelligence and can be heart-wrenching. Jesus does not say **he** forgives, but asks God to do so. When too hurt to forgive, we too can always ask God to do so for us. Bringing our enemy in prayer is a way of putting Christ between us and hopefully forgiving our offender.

That Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of '**John the disciple**' is only mentioned in St. John's Gospel, so we may presume this is the John here. An apostle's life was usually dangerous : Paul mentions his perilous journeys, the beatings, stoning, imprisonment, ship-wrecks... But even he says that without love he is nothing (1 Cor.13). The commandment tells us to love, but how can it be commanded? In the Bible, love has nothing to do with sentiment and emotion. The contrary to love here is not hate, but sloth or indifference.

The **Centurion, Claudius**, is by no means proud of himself, although only obeying orders. He had listened to Jesus and knew he was no political agitator. Unlike others who were crucified, Jesus didn't shout out or insult anyone and when he cried 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Claudius thought 'This prophet and idealist was surely the Son of God.'

**Mary of Bethany** remembers her times with Jesus. On hearing he was to be crucified, she made for Jerusalem, in fear and trembling, but remembered him saying 'If the grain dies, it bears many fruit.' She now hears the words, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' Jesus died, but in her heart he had never been so alive. For Jesus, being alive was much more than just having a beating heart and breathing lungs. For him it meant loving, sharing, praying, being together... If the cross was only the martyrdom of an exceptional man who had set out to destroy a tyrant, it would be just another stone in the wall of our history of injustices. The cross means that whatever life may throw at us, we can be assured of God's love. He calls us to love not only each other, but ourselves, and allows us to call Him Father, saying...

Here followed the Lord's Prayer, the Benediction and a final hymn before everyone left the room in silence. Not to go home, but to share a bowl of hot soup, a picnic lunch and... togetherness.



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

Any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send to:

malcolm.gale@dbmail.com ☎ 03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44

Deadline for June issue: 23rd May 2019

Apart from downloading on to your iphone for easy reference 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).

