



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

November 2015 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Foreign Fields

November is for remembrance. On the road into Boulogne from Le Touquet and Étaples-sur-Mer at Saint-Étienne-au-Mont, on a ridge in the communal burial ground, is one of the many war cemeteries carefully tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC); an organisation which maintains a staggering 23,000 separate sites across the world, commemorating those who died during the two great wars, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed. The one at Saint-Étienne may, apart from the unfamiliar central memorial, appear at first glance similar to the other war cemeteries, with its rows of standardised Portland headstones. But it's one, of only a small number, dotted across the region, where the inscriptions are in Chinese characters.

In Rupert Brooke's often quoted poem 'The Soldier', a young Englishman speaks of dying in a corner of some foreign field proudly making that place untainted and 'forever England'; a noble sentiment that carries with it the fine values of his beloved homeland. It was written in 1914, at the commencement of the First World War. Later however, as the war pressed on and dying on foreign fields was becoming all too common, the verses from the trenches were framed in less blissful terms. Witnessing the same patriotic young men cut down in a hail of bullets 'as cattle' is how

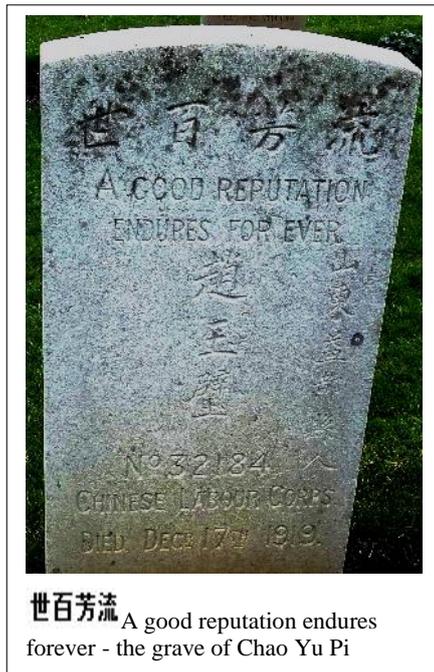


The Chinese memorial at Saint-Étienne-au-Mont

Wilfred Owen expressed it in his sonnet: 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.

As the 1914-18 war stumbled on, more and more nationalities, from all corners of the globe, were being drawn into the conflict and their ultimate resting place was a foreign field. Faced with the alarming losses being suffered by the British and French troops, there was a desperate need for a dependable labour force to carry out essential logistic duties; loading and unloading ships, repairing roads and railway lines and other wide-ranging tasks.

France was the first to turn to China for help, the British followed and the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) was officially established in February 1917. Most of the workers came from the north-eastern region of Weihaiwei (威海卫) which between 1898 and 1930, was a territory leased by Britain. The climate had many similarities to northern France, especially important when the details in the brief read: '*strong peasants capable of withstanding the difference in climate*'. Over a 13-month period some 84,000 Chinese embarked on the long journey from home, first by sea across the Pacific, to be continued overland by train to eastern Canada, finally by boat to Britain and eventually Boulogne. Conditions were hard; they were expected to work 10 hours a day, 7 days week for poor wages, part of which was sent back home. Holidays were only allowed if they appeared in the Chinese



calendar. Those that died in France were largely victims of illness and explosions while clearing the trenches; Saint-Étienne-au-Mont was in fact the site of the No.2 Native Labour General Hospital. Here in the cemetery are 160 Chinese workers laid to rest, alongside 10 members of a similar task force: the South African Native Labour Corps.

The contribution made by the Chinese during and after the First World War, is only now being more widely researched, and doubtless, in the very near future, with the easing of visa restrictions, it will not be a rare sight to see visitors from China coming to honour the foreign graves of past family members, who like so many others, have been 'washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home'. MG

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Written under the name 'John Oxenham' by William Arthur Dunkerley (1852 - 1941); in 1908 for the London Missionary Society's exhibition 'The Orient in London'.



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

▷▷▷ **Sunday 8th November 2015 10h30** (NB: 2nd Sunday in month) / **Remembrance Sunday - Twenty Third Sunday after Trinity (or Twenty-Forth Sunday after Pentecost)** - for the fallen of the two great wars and other fields of conflict; led by Paul Glaister and Graham Hughes.

▷▷▷ **Sunday 15th November 10h30 / Twenty Fourth Sunday after Trinity (or 2nd Sunday before Advent)** Eucharist service conducted by Canon Reg Humphriss; Readings: Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm: 16; Hebrews 10:11-14,19-25; Mark13: 1-8

▷▷▷ **Sunday 6th December 2015 10h30 / Second Sunday in Advent - Christingle** or 'Christ Light' service led by Malcolm Gale. An advent service with oranges, representing the world and candles representing the light of the world.

▷▷▷ **Sunday 20th December 2015 10h30 / Fourth Sunday in Advent** Eucharist service with carols conducted by Rev Charles Hill, Readings: Micah 5: 2-5a; Psalm 80:1-8; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55);

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As in other years there will be no first Sunday service in November, this is because Remembrance Sunday falls on **8th November 2015** therefore we feel it is more appropriate to hold our service of remembrance on that day. Poppies will be on sale at the service, also the collection taken will be donated to the Earl Haig Fund.

If you want to obtain your poppy before the service then below are a few addresses where they can be found: Boulogne-sur-Mer : Office de Tourisme, Nausicaa, Boulevard Sainte-Beuve/ Calais : Office de Tourisme, 12 boulevard Georges Clemenceau and Hotel Meurice, 5-7 rue Edmond Roche / Étaples-sur-Mer: Office de Tourisme,, boulevard Bigot Descelers.

Joint Chaplaincy Service. There will be a joint Eucharist service conducted by Rev Charles Hill at Hesdin in the Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal – **29th November 2015** at 11h00 followed by a light lunch.

Mozart's Requiem in D minor will be performed in the Basilica Notre Dame – Boulogne, on 6th November by choir and soloists of the Prague Opera and the Czech Philharmonic - 20h30.

Saturday 19th December at 16h00: our traditional village carol service at Estréelles church, with members of the local community.



It was a pleasure to welcome back Canon Gerald Greenwood who took the service on Sunday 18th October, Rev Greenwood last led a service for us at Easter 2014; unfortunately his wife Liz was unable to join him as she was suffering from a heavy cold. We wish them both well and look forward to meeting them once again in the near future.

Another successful Quiz Night was held on Friday 9th October

The calm and peace of a typical small French village was quite rudely disturbed when Graham's Quiz Night took over the *salle communale* of Estréelles in early October. Twenty-four contestants were packed into the limited space and welcomed with a glass of sparkling kir. Jean had the

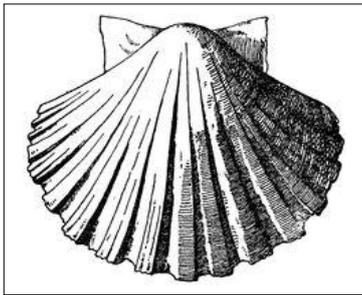
difficult task of organising the seating and movement for the evening – quite a tricky task when twelve ‘nominal’ women remained in one place while twelve ‘nominal’ men moved round the tables, but she managed it with calm authority; perhaps the result of a background teaching recalcitrant children while trying to organise Graham’s home life.

The questions, as always, were fiendish and provoked a great deal of discussion, particularly when Graham’s answer grated with a contestant’s firm belief! Throughout the evening Paul ensured that glasses remained filled, and the evening concluded with a generous supper of pâté, cheese, and apple tart, prepared and served by Lalage with her customary flair.

Almost as an afterthought, there was a prize and a winner, who proved to be our own churchwarden, George. Thanks to PG

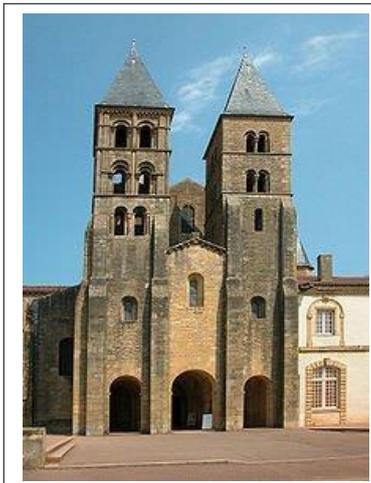
Travel...

Graham Hughes on the trail to Santiago de Compostela and a memorable meal...



Ever since the year 813, when the tomb of St. James was claimed to be (re)discovered there, the city of Santiago de Compostela in north-western Spain has attracted many thousands of Christian pilgrims from all parts of Europe, particularly in the Middle Ages. As a result, there is no single route or trail. Doing pilgrimage walks is not exactly my thing but one ex member of our congregation may well be walking one of the trails next year and when she returns perhaps she might be encouraged to write a travelogue!

As noted above the trail take many routes – I came across one of them quite by chance recently. I had been attending a conference in Evian-les Bains in Switzerland: at the same time a friend, Martin, was also conferring in Monte Carlo. We decided that it would be nice to meet up on our way home and play some golf in the Loire Valley where we had played earlier. But where to meet up? Both our conferences finished mid-afternoon on the Wednesday and so if we wanted to get together that evening then the Orléans area was rather too far. How about somewhere in the Auvergne? I picked out a small town of five thousand inhabitants: Paray-le-Monial, which is actually in the Saône-et-Loire department, in the region of Burgundy. We agreed to meet for dinner at a hotel, which I had booked for Martin and his wife, plus of course ourselves. This town is not well known (at least by me) except to those who have made the very long pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela or to the town itself. But as it is an important pilgrimage place on the route from Aachen it is thus full of simple inexpensive hotels, it seemed therefore like a good stopping off point and so it proved.



The town is mainly known for its Romanesque Basilica of the Sacré-Coeur, which was started in the 12th century as a small-scale version of the Abbey of Cluny, some 50 km to the East. It was finished in the 14th century, while the cloister dates to the 18th century. Pilgrims can also visit the Chapelle de la Visitation where Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, revealing to her his heart burning with love for man. A young girl from the region, Marguerite-Marie entered the Monastery of the Visitation in Paray-le-Monial in 1671. She experienced numerous apparitions, which were confirmed by her confessor, a Jesuit, Saint Claude La

Colombière. In a vision Jesus requested the introduction of the feast of the Sacred Heart, which would take place every year in June. Following on from these apparitions, the spirituality of the Sacred Heart has spread throughout the whole world. Because of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and the Chapel, Paray-le-Monial has become a much-frequented place of pilgrimage in its own right, and over 100,000 pilgrims from all parts of Europe and America are reported to visit the town every year.

We had left Evian mid-afternoon and arrived in good time for dinner at our hotel. Our friends drove from Monte Carlo some six hours away. Being a pilgrimage hotel its serving hours were

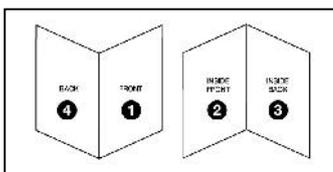
rather less flexible than most French hotels. We were told the dinner was strictly 7.30 to 8.30 but at 7.30 our friends called to tell us that they had been delayed and that we should go and eat but they ought make it by 8.30. Oh the joys of mobile phones! We went down to the restaurant at 8 o'clock and told the Maitre d'Hotel that our friends would certainly join us by 8.30. We ordered our meal and while we were waiting our friends called again. They were half an hour away. The solution was simple, we read out the menu, they chose and we ordered their main course to arrive at the same time as ours. On the dot of 8.30 our friends arrived, simultaneously with the main courses. No problem at all. The meal was not memorable except for one thing: the cheese trolley. This must have had at least 50 varieties, hard and soft, goat, ewe, local, and from other departments. Whenever we eat at restaurants with our friends our standing joke is that the cheese trolley is not like the one at Paray le Monial.

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 regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – Morning Prayer 10h30; 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Eucharist Service. **Special Joint Chaplaincy Service** 29th November 2015 at 11h00. All 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 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 just for the fun of it...

A grandfather was taking a moment to tell his grandson what he did in the war.

- "You see, at the end of the First World War, I was awarded for my bravery after saving a group of my men," he recounted.

- "We were fighting in northern France and one of the enemy threw a grenade at us. I went forward and managed to pick it up and hurled it out of the way before it exploded. When the war came to an end, my General gave me a sword, engraved with the words 'Awarded for the portrayal of extreme bravery and valour in World War I'."

The grandson thinks about the story for a minute and then says to his grandpa, "that story isn't true!"

How did the grandson know?

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Solution to last month's dog lovers' puzzle: weights from the lightest to the heaviest –

7/4/6/2/1/3/5

