



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas de Calais
BOULOGNE CONGREGATION
October 2014 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

Preparing for a future harvest

A few days ago I had the privilege of visiting a place that would never have been associated with Boulogne, or for that matter the Pas de Calais – a local vineyard. Tucked away, just a few metres from our house, on the slopes of the Vallon de Notre Dame are two parcels of well-hidden land newly leased from the municipality, planted with just short of a thousand Chardonnay grape vines. The soil is a dry, alkaline, easy-drained limestone, well suited to white wines, another plus the location: a south-facing hillside sheltered by a ring of ancient walls, in fact one can easily be forgiven for thinking this was a corner of Burgundy.



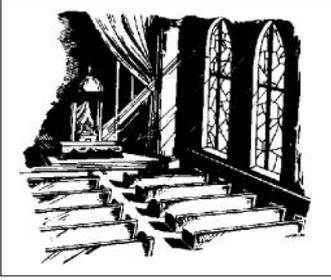
Autumn sunshine bathes Boulogne's only vineyard watched over by the Basilica Notre Dame

The project was inspired and led by the owner of one of the town's top restaurants, turned *vigneron* who showed me and a few other people around. He was at pains to explain that the vineyard was the result of considerable advance planning and study; firstly by the forming of an association of like-minded shareholders (one of which is the town itself) to manage and cultivate the vines, then the selection of the site plus the choice of grape variety. Three or four years of tender loving care, pruning and trimming will be needed before the first wine harvest and the premier bottle of 'Vallon de Notre Dame' is produced; even so there is no guarantee of success for the new *terroir*, that elusive combination of climate, soil and landscape, which makes each wine so distinctive, ordinary or outstanding. Rather amazingly for a Frenchman, he admitted that he had been encouraged and motivated by the success of the Kentish vineyards - was I hearing right - the English teaching the French how to make wine? Nevertheless our friendly restaurateur guide repeated the fact: "Patience is the keyword, we have only just started, the first harvest is still a long way off, we must see a few more autumns before we are picking and pressing the first *cuvée*".

Apparently before the 1500s and commonly up until the end of the 1700s the season we call 'autumn' or what Americans prefer to describe as 'the fall' was known as 'harvest'. No doubt due to a majority of people being employed in occupations connected with sowing and gathering. It fell out of use with the Industrial Revolution, the start of a major change in life-styles. Perhaps that term for the season is worthy of a revival, if only to remind us of the importance the cycle of food production, often taken for granted, plays in our lives.

There are abundant references in the Bible to harvesting, reaping and sowing and of course vineyards, starting in the book of Genesis which describes Noah as planting one. Especially we are reminded of the value of sowing well in fertile ground and caring for the crop. The Parable of the Sower in the gospels makes a firm statement emphasizing, that only when our minds are turned to understanding the teachings of Christ, then will the seeds of truth do well and not be wasted, in so doing we pour the spiritual fruit of the vine into our lives. MG

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6)



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

◆ **Sunday 19th October 2014 10h30 / Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** Eucharist service led by Canon Reg Humphriss.
Readings: Exodus 33, 12-end; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22, 15-22

◆ **Sunday 9th November 2014 10h30 (NB: 2nd Sunday in month) / Twenty First Sunday after Trinity - Remembrance Day** - for the fallen of the two great wars and other fields of conflict; led by Paul Glaister and Graham Hughes.

◆ **Sunday 16th November 2014 10h30 / Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity**- The last Eucharist service to be led by Canon Reg Humphriss before his takes his 'retirement' from the Boulogne Congregation followed by a 'Bring and Share Lunch'. Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90, 1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25, 14-30

News and dates for your diary:

Only a few came...

We had the pleasure of welcoming, from Kent on Sunday 5th October, the Rev Peter Brown of Thanet to celebrate our Harvest Festival Eucharist. The service was followed by a 'bring and share' lunch. Unfortunately it's sad to report that this special service was very poorly attended with only 4 members of our congregation and calls into question the demand for 1st Sunday services in the chapel in general. It has been suggested that more visiting priests could provide a



Sharing a meal together

regular rota of Eucharist

services to replace, more often or not, the monthly lay-led services, which suffer a low turnout. Despite positive steps in this direction having been advanced, the viability is plainly in doubt if so few members participate. Our photo shows the Rev Peter with his wife Margaret (second from right). Needless to say for those who did come, we are very grateful to Peter for his jovial style and deeply touching address. A special word of thanks too for the efforts of Jean Karszen for the mountain of baking she did, Carol Gale for a delicious and almost endless supply of hot soup and George Murray for the provision of so many baguettes.



Rev Reg Humphriss's final service

Another 'bring and share' lunch will be held on 16th November, which will be Rev Reg Humphriss's last service with us. This will be held, as before, in the meeting room behind the chapel. Lalage will be co-ordinating individual efforts with regard to the food being brought along. Please let her know if you are coming to the service and what you can bring at the latest by 14th November.

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This month Graham Hughes continues his travels ...following the footsteps of J. S Bach ...across Germany.

In the 1980s I used to visit the German chemical company Bayer at their headquarters near Cologne. My contact there at first would book me in at the local Marriott hotel in Leverkusen. International hotels are all very well but have little of the character of the country, which you are visiting. When I mentioned this to my host he suggested that I should stay at a hotel near his home in the mountainous area known as the Bergische Land. This turned out to be the Schloss Hotel in Altenberg

opposite the well-known Cistercian Abbey the Altenberg Dom. This Gothic masterpiece was founded in 1255 in accordance with the austere Cistercian tradition, having no tower and very little by way of internal decoration, except for depictions of nature: birds, flowers and trees. It is a wonderfully light and spacious building and is a real manifestation of the architect's desire for spiritual tranquillity.

It was over 20 years ago that I had last visited the Abbey and so when we were inspired to take a trip through central Germany this was the first port of call, since Jean had never visited it. The inspiration came, from a programme narrated and written by John Eliot Gardiner on the life of Johann Sebastian Bach. In the programme he traced the life and works of Bach as he moved from his birthplace through his various appointments in Saxony and to his final years in Leipzig.

After a long wet drive through Belgium and the Ruhr we arrived at the delightful town of Altenberg which was everything that I had remembered except that many of the internal carvings of nature had been removed from the cathedral and placed in a museum. On leaving the following morning we noted that we were a mere 3 km from Hückeswagen. The significance of this small German town in the middle of rural Germany not far from the Ruhr is, that oddly it is twinned with Etaples. Any similarity between the two towns escapes me. Our next stop on the way was in Marburg a delightful place dominated by two of Germany's greatest buildings: the Schloss in the upper town and the Elisabethkirche in the lower town. It is a remarkable clutter of narrow streets and mediaeval buildings, which has been almost untouched by war over the last four centuries. After lunching at a mediaeval wine house (unusually not serving any beer) we made our way to Eisenach, the birthplace of Bach. Eisenach is very well known to most Germans not through being Bach's birthplace but because it is the site of one of Germany's great patriotic castles, the Wartburg. This castle was founded in 1067 by Count Ludwig I and has held a place in German affection over the years particularly since it was out of reach after the Second World War being on what West Germans considered the wrong side of the East German border. The castle itself affords a wonderful view over the countryside and the town of Eisenach below. The castle is most famous as the site in which Martin Luther was incarcerated after his kidnapping in 1521 and where he translated the New Testament from Greek into the vernacular of the day and so created the foundations of modern written German.



The town of Eisenach is rich in mediaeval buildings including the putative birthplace of Bach which has been turned into a music museum and where short concerts of Bach's music are performed every day on period instruments in a tiny concert hall. The church where Bach grew up and got his first musical education is currently closed for renovation but many other buildings and churches in the town are well worth visiting. Although born in Eisenach to a musical family Bach did not spend many years there as he was orphaned in his teens. At the age of 18 he became the organist at the Neukirche in Arnstadt but the good burgers of

Arnstadt did not appreciate his genius, as either a composer or performer, and so he was forced out after a stay of some four years. The town itself has been obviously extensively restored since the unification of Germany and some buildings are still undergoing restoration. The centre has an impressive 18th-century feel about it with a Renaissance town hall in a Dutch style. You can still see the organ on which Bach performed in the Neukirche. The suburbs of the town are to say the least, drab, no doubt a reflection of the communist East German rule.

(continued in our next issue)



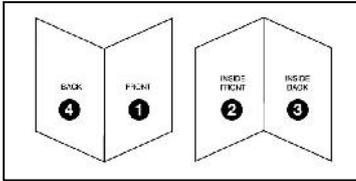
Other services in the Chaplaincy

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 not the hospital, but the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near the 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 – 10h30, Eucharist Service 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.crompton@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: Lalage Glaister: - ☎ 03 21 81 47 65, e-mail: paul.glaister@wanadoo.fr or otherwise the secretary.

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).

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

And just for the fun of it ...

This month's question ...an advertisement was placed in the British press, when ferries were running non-stop in and out of the port of Boulogne, to promote the values of the town as a cross-channel destination ...which year was it???

First love for all who visit, Boulogne is a real taste of France. Not only in the way of traditional food and wine from the abundance of good restaurants, but in the many other attractions that make Boulogne so special. Between an endless array of shops and stalls, to sightseeing in the quaint old town, Boulogne's always buzzing with excitement and radiating ambience.

Boulogne: The First Resort.

First rate for travel, Boulogne is but a short stretch from Dover or Folkestone. The frequent crossings by Sealink, Townsend Thoreson and Hoverspeed, make it plain sailing all the way. And since you dock right in the heart of Boulogne, you're never far away from the centre of things. There's even a covered walkway for foot passengers.

First choice for many motorists, Boulogne puts the rest of France in easy reach. You're very close to the A26 Autoroute, and 49 kilometres closer to Paris than Calais on the toll free N.1.

First and foremost for mini-breaks, Boulogne is on the doorstep of scenic, unspoiled countryside and numerous towns, both old and new. There's Montreuil for example, a tranquil old town, steeped in medieval history; and the picturesque Le Touquet, famous for its chic shops and sandy beaches.

Boulogne is everything you would possibly want from a French trip. So get to the Post Office, get your passport, and don't be the last to the first resort.

Boulogne Je t'adore