



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

October 2016 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 51

Dear All,

The winter evenings cometh...

Whilst in the delightful throes of a very welcome Indian summer, it is easy to forget that on the last weekend of October we turn the clocks back by one hour; this means the sun will be slipping below the horizon by the end of the afternoon, leaving us with those dark chilly winter evenings again. We have little choice, unless we migrate off to sunnier climes like swallows, but to hibernate behind drawn curtains, turn on the heating and curl up in a comfy armchair with a good book, perhaps one you had not taken off the shelf for a long time, and leaf through its well-worn dog-eared pages.

Most of us have a weakness, in some form or another for books and although I can see advantages in the virtual variety, downloaded on to a tablet, I belong to the old school, preferring the sensual experience of turning real pages with texture and smell. Although a love of books is not something to feel ashamed of, it does throw up a few problems when it comes to clearing out, especially with those old tomes that have been faithfully waiting for their chance to be read or re-read. But the moment you have made up your mind to dispose of a certain book, it often gains a last minute reprieve after a page or two is lovingly browsed through; as a result the ageing volume springs back to life to return to the shelf, gaining pole position this time around.

My weakness is for guidebooks and although there are one or two exceptions, I do believe that *'un livre peut en cacher un autre'* - start looking for one thing and another turns up. But this winter I have resolved to thin out my stock. I made a start by deciding that the rather stuffy and pedantic 1970s 'Blue Guides' must go. I have one covering northern France, which I never use as it seems essentially aimed at the well-educated. I noticed it contained a lengthy and ponderous description of Boulogne, drawing on quotes from the 18th century satirical writer Tobias Smollett. He earned a reputation with his cutting wit and argumentative style, which was often contemptuous of local customs (nothing new here). Oh but this is good stuff! How did I miss out for so long on Smollett? Must read more as his 250-year-old *'Travels through France and Italy'* - it clearly packs a punch. For example, about the *'noblesse'* of Boulogne's upper town, he comments that they starved in dark holes in order to have the wherewithal *'to purchase fine clothes and appear dressed once a day in church or on the ramparts...stimulated by the vanity of being seen.'* Quite an observation!

So what was the point of thinning out! I have enough reading material for several winters and early nights! Perhaps there is a parallel between opening these old books, left closed for a long time, and our own talents, many of which never get fully used. We must not fall asleep on the sheaves as the harvester in L'Hermitte's painting. An abundant harvest is awaiting. (MG)

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.
Hebrews 11:1



'Repos, effet de grand soleil, moissonneur endormi, Mezy'
Pastel by Léon Augustin L'Hermitte (1844-1925)



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

Sunday 2nd October 2016 10h30 / Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity – (Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost). Simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings.

Sunday 16th October 2016 10h30 / Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity (Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost) **HARVEST FESTIVAL** followed by a bring and share lunch Eucharist led by Canon Reg Humphriss; Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2Timothy 3:14- 4:5; Luke 18:1- 8

Sunday 30th October 2016 11h00 /All Saints and Souls joint service at Hesdin (see below).

Sunday 13th November 2016 10h30 (NB: 2nd Sunday in month) / Twenty Fifth Sunday after Trinity (or 2nd Sunday before Advent) **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – service to honour the sacrifices made in past wars and other fields of conflict; led by Paul Glaister and Graham Hughes.

Sunday 20th November 2016 10h30 /Twenty Sixth Sunday after Trinity (or Sunday next before Advent) Eucharist service conducted by Rev Charles Hill; Readings: Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Ps: 46; Colossians: 1.11-20; Luke 23: 33-43

News and dates for your diary:

Harvest Festival -Sunday 16th October. The traditional service, this year conducted by our very 'own' Canon Reg will be followed by a 'bring and share meal' – please do your best to support this important occasion. It would be useful to know numbers and perhaps you can help us with the meal - please contact Lalage ☎03 21 81 47 65 or by e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com. We would also like to set-up a display of produce and therefore would be grateful for any gifts of vegetables /fruit (better still if home grown) – biscuits/cakes are also welcome - these will be passed on to the sisters at the end of the service.

A Joint Congregation Service led by Revd Sara McVane, will be held in the Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin on **Sunday 30th October** at 11h00 coinciding with the week in which All Saints' and All Souls' days fall, it will be an occasion to remember the departed. Please send the names of any one you wish to be read out during the service to our churchwarden: George Murray ☎03 21 36 53 87, e-mail:-georgemurray@sfr.fr. The service will be followed by a lunch provided by Hesdin Congregation. Remember to put your clocks back one hour the night before- unless that is you wish to arrive an hour early!

Advance notice – a Christmas coffee morning is planned at the home of Pierre and Pauline Cecchin in Boulogne's old town on Friday 2nd December.

Attendances for 2016 - it is heart-warming to report that to date, attendances have not fallen below double figures this year. Lay services are now a firm part of our pattern of worship, due mainly to the high quality of these services.(GM)



Jane Langlet reports to us again from the 'Jungle' and how the rigors of camp life can teach the true meaning of Fellowship, Hope and Love...and Faith...

BRIDGES INSTEAD OF WALLS?

It is now 6 months or so since I last wrote about the jungle. As I write we await the date for the destruction of the camp. The future of the 1000 unaccompanied children and the thousands of men and women is still unknown. These are stressful times. This is not the moment or place to discuss the politics of the situation. There is enough talk about 'the migrants' and depending on which press one reads, it is only too easy to form opinions on the 'issue'.

I want simply to share some of what Thierry and I have learnt from the men and women we have had the privilege of befriending over the last months.

Salomon and Hussein have taught us about FAITH. Salomon is an Ethiopian from the Copt Orthodox Church. We have witnessed some of the ups and downs he has been through over the last months – the joy of their celebrations in the church (in the camp), the despair of the destruction of the shelters of the men and women of their community, the fear of the fires and the fighting in the camp, to mention just a few of the events on the roller coaster of his life in the Jungle. All the way through, like a mantra, he repeats one thing: “God is watching over us, He will protect us...” Hussein is Muslim and arrived from Syria a year ago with his wife and six children having lost everything in the war. They have at last got the papers from the Home Office to go to the UK but are still waiting for the final confirmation and the date, like so many others. Meanwhile he somehow keeps his family together, watching over them, a model of fatherhood. His ‘mantra’? All will be well - *Inshallah*, God willing. Faith to move mountains, (if not administration procedures).

From Moussa and his friends we have learnt about WELCOME and SOLIDARITY. They are from Sudan (Darfur), and have formed a small community within the camp. 20 or so Sudanese gather together in a common area to eat, to chat, to learn English or French – to support one another through thick and thin. When we pass by to say hello, it is impossible not to stop and have tea, sit around the little fire, have something to eat, take time to chat about the little things of life, listen to stories, meet the newcomers... We always come away humbled by such hospitality, inspired by the solidarity they show one another, privileged to live such moments of real encounter. And yet as we drive away there is always the feeling of shame that as Europeans we have so failed them, and the sadness as we reflect on their heart-rending stories.

So many stories, so many encounters – the experience of living something ‘real’ in a world where we hide behind our fear and our walls... We have tried that of course in Calais, yet the fences and barbed wire are not enough, even the wall will no doubt not be high enough, not long

enough. Is there not another Way? Does the Gospel not invite us to break down walls and build bridges in whatever little way we can by going to meet those that are different, those who are oppressed, humiliated?

With members of l’Arche we share time with the community of the Maria Skobstova house, opened by Brother Johannes (of the Calais congregation). Around the table last week were refugees from 8 different countries, a local volunteer from Calais, two religious sisters, two people with disabilities from l’Arche, Brother Johannes, 3 young volunteers spending a few months in the house... a time of laughter, simplicity and friendship beyond all our differences. Breaking down the walls. Building bridges. (JL)



St Michael's Orthodox Church in the camp



A member of l’Arche with friends in Maria Skobstova House in Calais

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 please pass a note to the person responsible for the intercessions on that day.

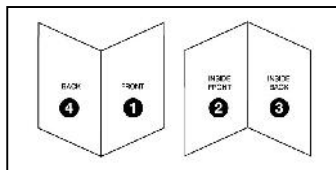
Other services in the Chaplaincy Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church). Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or 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. 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; 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>

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.



The next edition of this newsletter will be November's issue – please send your contributions to the editor (contact details above) before October 24th.

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).

