



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

October 2015 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

Colin Ley provides our introduction this month with a...

Reality check

It's always refreshing when reality shines through in a piece of journalistic writing or broadcasting. 'Never let the truth get in the way of a good story' may be an over-stated media cliché, but what we're offered in newspapers and on television can miss the balance we actually face in life.



Indian summer days – view from Le Touquet lighthouse across the estuary of the river Canche

This thought was prompted by two recent experiences. The first occurred in March when listening to a radio interview with Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche. The second took place in Waitrose in Edinburgh one Sunday morning after church. The Jean Vanier interview followed his winning of the 2015 Templeton prize, which carried a €1.5 million award. He revealed the money would be devoted to supporting the future growth and development of L'Arche. In the midst of 'footballer of the year' contests and 'X-factor' tussles, it was good to see M. Vanier's award being recognised across the planet, and encouraging to witness the world's press acknowledge his efforts on behalf of those who are often forgotten and ignored.

What struck me most during the interview, however, was his supremely honest account of what it was actually like to develop the original idea for L'Arche during a visit to France in 1964. "To become fully human is to let down the barriers, to open up and discover that every person is beautiful," he said. "And you, at the heart of who you are, you're somebody also crying out, 'does somebody love me?' Not just for what I can do, but for who I am." After such moving words, he recounted his experience of visiting psychiatric hospitals and institutions in 1964, of being 'touched and not a little appalled' by what he saw. As a result, he invited two men, Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux, to leave their institutions and share their lives with him in a household in Trosly-Breuil, naming their home L'Arche. He added: "We lived together, worked together and fought together." His frankness dispelled the image of a saint who was above being irritated by his new living companions. It was a reminder of the reality that sits behind the polished public image.

And in line with the reality check theme, my second experience was linked to a display by Down's Syndrome Scotland in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, of a Russian photographer's work. It featured a range of stunning portraits of people with Down's syndrome; compelling images, which truly celebrated the fun, humour and love of the people involved.

Feeling suitably warmed and comforted by the experience, I headed for Waitrose only to find myself in the queue behind a mother with a young Down's syndrome son 'helping' her pass the items through the checkout. She was patient and understanding but it was clearly a battle as she loaded everything into the trolley, negotiated the lift to the car park and packed her shopping into the car. I wheeled her trolley back to the trolley bay, an easy task compared with hers. Fleeting, our journeys had happened to coincide and I was humbled by the encounter. Another timely reality check.



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

▷▷▷ **Sunday 4th October 2015 10h30 HARVEST FESTIVAL / Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (or Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)** A special service of morning worship, to celebrate harvest with donations of produce, hymns and readings conducted by Linda Pillière

▷▷▷ **Sunday 18th October 2015 10h30 / Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (or Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost) St Luke's Day** Eucharist service conducted by Canon Gerald Greenwood. Readings: Isaiah 35: 3-6; Psalm 147:1-7; 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Luke 10: 1-9

▷▷▷ **Sunday 8th November 2015 10h30 (NB: 2nd Sunday in month) / Remembrance Day 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; Mark 13:1-8

Harvest Festival October 4th. The service 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 mount 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.

Friday 9th October 2015: Quiz Night with cheese and wine buffet 19h00. Once again, as the nights grow shorter, it's quiz time – so an invitation goes out to all you knowledgeable types with questions varying from the dead easy to the very hard. Ample refreshments. Charge : €10 Venue: Salle Communale, rue du Moulin, 62170 Estréelles. To ensure we cater for the right numbers please let Lalage know if you are coming ☎03 21 81 47 65 or by e-mail: lalageglaister@gmail.com

One of our members, Daphne Clemans, is organizing a play reading of "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde and invites anyone interested in taking part in this 'Trivial Comedy for Serious People', to get in touch – date to be yet arranged. So if you fancy being Algernon Moncrieff or the Rev. Canon Chasuble D.D. please get in touch with George Murray, our churchwarden or the secretary.

The Connexion

FRANCE'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

If you are not a regular reader of *The Connexion*, the English language newspaper aimed at those living or interested in France, you may not have seen our advertisement, which now appears every month.

ENGLISH CHURCH

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Regular Sunday Services and social activities in Calais, Boulogne and Hesdin, we offer a warm welcome to visitors and residents alike

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Fellowship, Hope and Love

Refugee and Migrant Crisis We are very mindful at this time of the plight of refugees and migrants, especially here in the Pas de Calais. Whatever our response, and in the weeks ahead we will be looking at ways to participate with other Christian groups to assist further, our efforts must be underpinned by prayer. An intercession for all those affected by the refugee crisis, composed by Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover, now appears on the home page of our web-site.

Travel - This month George Murray takes us to ...

The Cathedral at Nevers



Like the Église Notre-Dame in Calais, the Cathedral at Nevers was severely damaged by Allied bombs during the last stages of World War Two. But their wartime wounds have been healed at very different rates, and with different results.

In July I spent some days on a canal boat in the centre of France, on the Canal Latéral à la Loire. This waterway was built in the early 19th century as a sort of by-pass to the river Loire. The Loire, which is wide, shallow, and fast-flowing, formerly carried goods downstream to Nantes and Saint-Nazaire by shallow-draft wooden boats which were broken up on arrival rather than being carried back overland. Now, having outlived its commercial usefulness, the canal serves as a leisure waterway.

I started my journey at Décize, South of Auxerre. It was extremely hot (up to 40°) throughout the voyage. Nevers was our first major stop, taking in the 14th July holiday with a truly spectacular firework display to which we were almost too close for comfort. The town itself is not on the canal, but is reached

through a lock leading after a few kilometres to a well-equipped *port de plaisance*. Later our voyage took us to Sancerre, a charming hilltop town, which gives its name to, I believe, some rather good wine.

The cathedral dominates the town of Nevers. It is dedicated to Saint-Cyr-et-Sainte Julienne . Saint Cyr was martyred in 304 AD at Tarsus, birthplace of St. Paul, during one of the last purges of the Emperor Diocletian, in what is now Turkey. Sainte-Julienne was his mother. The edifice goes back to the late 6th century, though with even earlier origins; by the late 8th century it was in ruins. It originally served for the baptism by total immersion of the first Christians, using a font served by its own water supply: Its 11th century reconstruction is said to follow a dream of Charlemagne in which he was pursued by a furious boar in a forest. Praying for celestial aid, a half-clad child promised to help in him in return for his clothing. The monarch accepted and the child leapt astride the boar and calmed it down. Later, Charlemagne related his dream to his councillors. Among them was Jérôme, Bishop of Nevers who, thinking rapidly on his feet, explained that the child represented St Cyr, who in this curious way was requesting the restoration of the cathedral. Charlemagne, convinced, coughed up the necessary funds, and the relics of St. Cyr and Ste Julienne were repatriated and placed in a reliquary.

The present cathedral is a combination of two buildings, and possesses two apses. The apse and transept at the West end are the remains of the Romanesque church, while the nave and eastern apse are in the Gothic style and date from the 14th century. There is no transept at the eastern end. The lateral entrance on the South side belongs to the late 15th century. Beside this portal is a massive and elaborately decorated tower, built in the early 16th century.

A peculiarity is that the cathedral has two opposing choirs, resulting from an incomplete reconstruction in the Gothic era, leaving the original Roman choir in place. Badly damaged twice by fire (in the 11th and 13th centuries), and much modified subsequently, a major reconstruction took place in the late 19th century, including a new Gothic-style gable above the Romanesque east end. The cathedral therefore became something of a hybrid.

On the night of 15-16th July 1944 Allied bombers somehow mistook the ancient centre of Nevers for their target of the railway marshalling yards. Two bombs fell on the Gothic choir. Every window was blown out, with fragments landing as far as 200m away. The vaulted roof of the choir collapsed, with everything below reduced to dust. The foundations shifted; some fifteen statues of past bishops were badly damaged. The organ, whose casing had been completed only fifteen years previously, was entirely destroyed. Reconstruction began in 1946 and lasted until 1966, the building itself being restored so far as possible in identical style – or rather, styles! A new organ, in neo-classical style, was installed in 1978. Its casing consists partly of the remains of woodwork from the destroyed choir stalls below.

The most controversial aspect of the reconstruction however concerns the stained-glass windows. Replacing the originals was not an option. After several false starts, finally in the 1980s it was decided to create entirely new windows designed by contemporary artists working with master glaziers. It took 30 years to complete the project, which covers over 1000 m² and 130 separate windows.



The style is said to be of the “non’figurative” type dating from the 1950s. To quote from a local source, “in this artistic conception, nothing but abstraction would transcend the disaster of the war and the condition of man”. To me the windows, while agreeable in their overall aspect, and presenting an overall rosy glow, fall far short of representing the subjects they are supposed to depict. They continue to divide opinion.

The cathedral at Nevers is a curiosity, with its extreme antiquity as a Christian edifice, several times rebuilt, in a variety of styles, and now a curious blend of ancient and modern. It is well worth a visit.



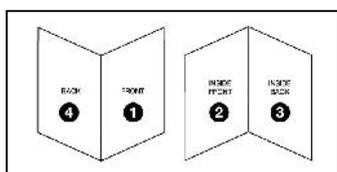
Other services in the Chaplaincy... Calais’s regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre’s church) - Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65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

Hesdin’s regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – 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.crompt@free.fr

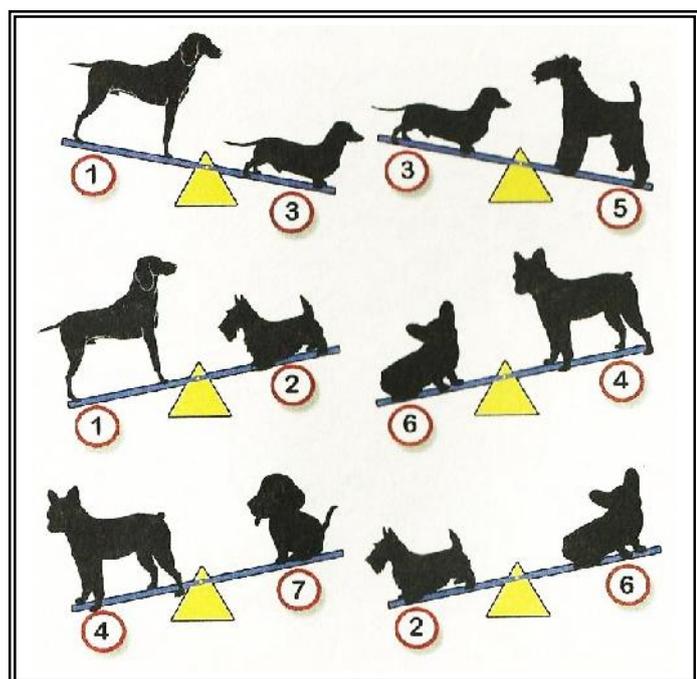
If anyone needs any form of help or assistance or if you are aware of someone who is ill, either in hospital or at home and would appreciate a visit, or alternatively if you know of anyone who you feel may benefit from prayer, please contact the church warden: George Murray ☎03 21 36 53 87, e-mail:-georgemurray@sfr.fr 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...

This month's puzzle is especially for dog lovers – arrange the dogs by weight from the lightest to the heaviest. Good luck.

Answer to the September logic puzzle : ‘9919’ made up as follows: 9 - 9 number of letters in the month; 9 - 9th month; 19 - S is the 19th letter of the alphabet. The same formula used to allocate numbers to the other months.

