



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

September 2016 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 50

Dear All,

A Day in the Life

I am curious to know if anyone, when thinking of a motto for a coat of arms, has been tempted to adopt: '*Nulla nuova, buona nuova*' – the original Italian for 'No news is good news' - (apparently the Italians are credited with devising this ambiguous idiom.)

Why do I ask? Well, taking one angle on the phrase, there are many people, I am certain, who believe that if they don't read the papers or listen to news broadcasts then they can be happier – true or false?

There used to be a period, during the latter half of the summer, when parliament and the legal professions took holidays, when newspapers faced a dearth of newsworthy items to print, consequently they resorted to digging up frivolous stories and elaborating them with attention-grabbing headlines. In the UK this was termed 'the silly season' and '*la saison des marronniers*' (chestnut season) in France.

Reading the local and national papers, which the *patron* of my local café distributes for his clients every morning, I have been left wondering if we will have a 'silly season' this year. Where are the banner headlines about holiday traffic jams; the cost of new school satchels and how many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall? There has been no shortage of major stories for months - too many, in fact. No need to spell them out; in the main most have been rather tragic and fall into the category of 'bad news' which are trawled over and analysed in fine detail rather like a football match report. Fortunately sport has brought a batch of 'good news' stories this summer with the Olympic Games and the UEFA Euro 2016. I must admit a touch of *schadenfreude* when I watched the English football team go down to the so-called 'minnows' of Iceland – it brought immense joy to the people of that small nation and the over-paid and over-pampered losers added to the whole shebang with a fine display of wailing and gnashing of teeth. It was the same jaw-dropping occasion as seeing singer Susan Boyle in the 'Britain's Got Talent' contest, turning the initial cynicism of the judges into a heart-warming standing ovation when she demonstrated that she could sing magnificently. There is plenty of good news around but a lot of it comes from learning from, and turning bad to good.

I would not describe myself as an aficionado of the town and village summer street sales, the *braderies* and *brocantes* which proliferate in our region, when local residents set up stalls to clear out the contents of their loft and the public fill the normally quiet streets, eagerly looking for a bargain or a collectable gem, but they do provide a certain pleasure. The cancellation, for security reasons this year, of the giant 'Braderie de Lille', held on the first weekend of September every year, has come as a shock to many. Nevertheless the reality of this pales into insignificance, when compared with the despair suffered by thousands around the world, who have to go without the basic freedoms and necessities of everyday life, that we take so much for granted. As Christians we must be involved in the daily events of the world and take a lively interest, our earthly brothers and sisters problems are our problems too and we share them with Christ - a problem shared is a problem halved. This is the news today. (MG)



Late summer "*la saison des marronniers*" – view through the hedgerows and across the fields to the Column of the Grande Armée at Wimille

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

Sunday 4th September 2016 10h30 / Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity – (Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost) Simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Malcolm Gale

Sunday 18th September 2016 10h30 / Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost) Eucharist service led by Canon David Ratcliff; Readings: Amos 8: 4-7; Psalm: 113; 1 Timothy 2: 1-7; Luke 16: 1-13

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) Eucharist service led by Canon Reg Humphriss; Readings: Jeremiah 21:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

News and dates for your diary:

We welcome warmly back Canon David Ratcliff from Elham in Kent on Sunday 18th September – he was with us last at Easter 2015.

A Resident Priest – Where we stand

We have had no resident priest for our Chaplaincy for several years, but have been well served by visiting clergy, (thanks largely to the efforts of Canon Charles Hill) and have achieved a very high standard of lay services, however, pastoral support has been lacking.

Since early this year your three churchwardens have been working closely with the Diocese of Canterbury to change this. The presence of up to 9,000 migrants and refugees on our doorstep in Calais, some Christians, cannot be ignored. A post has been defined for a priest who will devote half his time to the migrant issues, and half to our Chaplaincy.

We are working on this with Canon Caroline Pinchbeck from Canterbury, and recently we met in Calais with Caroline and Trevor, the Bishop of Dover. The project, as now defined, also involves the Diocese of Europe. The post will be advertised, after a meeting of the two bishops, Trevor and Robert and there are already candidates for the position.

We are redefining costs on the French side and ‘who pays what’. Your churchwardens will be involved in the selection process and if all goes well we could have someone in the post within a few months. (GM)

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Below is an expression of condolences sent to the sisters of the Monastère du Carmel, by our Churchwarden: George Murray, following the events at Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray

Je tiens à exprimer mes condoléances suite au meurtre dans les circonstances à peine imaginables, du Père Jacques Hamel à Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray. Il est terrible d'admettre qu'un tel acte pourrait se manifester à tout moment et n'importe où, dans un lieu de culte chrétien. Nous-mêmes avons déjà reçu quelques avis des mesures de sécurité à envisager pour nous protéger dans le futur. Ce message vient de la part aussi de tous les membres de notre congrégation de Boulogne et les congrégations associées de Calais et Hesdin. Encore une expression de nos condoléances partagées à ce moment de tristesse.

I would like to express my condolences following the murder, in circumstances scarcely imaginable, of Father Jacques Hamel at Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray. It is terrible to admit that such an act could occur at any time and anywhere, and especially in a Christian place of worship. We



ourselves have already received advice on the security measures, which need to be considered to protect us in the future. This message comes from all members of our congregation in Boulogne and the associated congregations of Calais and Hesdin. Once again we reiterate our shared condolences at this time of sadness.

Sister Martine replied :

Merci pour votre gentil message ! Nous restons en communion de prière face à toute cette violence , ces familles meurtriesBien fraternellement. Sr Martine pour la communauté catholique .

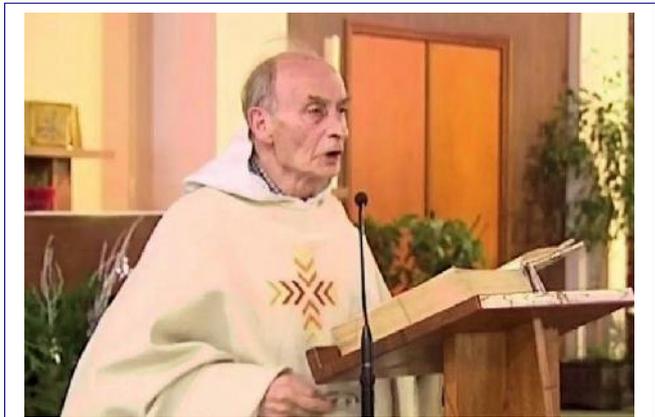
Thank you for your nice message! We remain in prayerful communion in the face of all this violence, these wounded familiesFraternally, Sister Martine, on behalf of the Catholic community.



Jackie Ley puts her thoughts into words after the latest terrorist attack...

Soon after the terrorist carnage in Nice on France’s *Fête Nationale*, another atrocity hit the headlines. On July 26th, two jihadists murdered an 85-year-old priest, Father Jacques Hamel, while he celebrated mass in a little church at Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen. A commentator observed that a fresh boundary had been crossed, that no place was sacrosanct, not even a place of worship. My reaction, like that of so many others, was anguished prayer and a real struggle with fear, with the oppressive sense of unstoppable evil let loose in the world.

Terrorism, by definition, is incitement to terror, designed to rob us of joy, of the abundant life that Jesus speaks of in John 10:10. And fearfulness is part of our frail human condition. In his dealings with the disciples, Jesus acknowledges this frailty. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, he uses the phrase ‘fear not’ eight times. (I know because I Googled it.) He also declares that fear militates against faith, against trust in a loving, omnipotent God, and that we are not to ‘fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.’ (Matthew 10:28)



Père Jacques Hamel (30 Nov 1930 – 26 July 2016)

Two days after the brutal Nice attack, I threaded my way through crowds of holidaymakers in Le Touquet, trying to get to the Post Office. A band was playing outside La Poste. As I queued inside at the stamp machine, I looked out at the crowd who had gathered in the Saturday morning sunshine to enjoy the music: families, teenagers, elderly couples, the same wide demographic that gathered on the seafront at Nice to enjoy a firework display. The thought brought a lump to my throat, and not simply on account of the tragic Nice victims. The Le Touquet crowd epitomised something indomitable: a resolve not to give way to fear. They were out there, on holiday, determined to enjoy, in spite of the van-load of gendarmes on the main street and France’s ongoing state of emergency.

That same Saturday, we settled down in the evening to watch an Angelina Jolie film. ‘A Mighty Heart’ is based on a true story, in which Jolie plays the wife of a Washington Post journalist taken hostage by Al Qaeda and subsequently beheaded. The film is unremitting in its realism and its refusal to sweeten the facts with Hollywood saccharine. It was not a ‘feel good Saturday night movie.’ But the last scene in particular has stayed with me. At the final meal with the team who have worked so hard, but unsuccessfully, to secure her husband’s release, his widow thanks them, acknowledges her grief and states quietly, ‘We are not terrorised.’

It was a moving end to the film and it chimed with Jesus’ exhortations against fear. In an age when world governments and authorities confess themselves powerless to contain the latest ferocious threat to democratic society, it seems all we have power over is our attitude. And if, as Christians, we believe that ‘the government is upon his shoulders’, (Isaiah 9:6) we can echo those words from the film: ‘We are not terrorised.’



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.

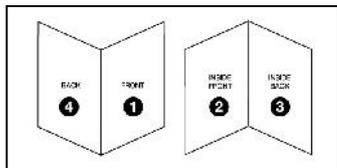
Other services in the Chaplaincy Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church). Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or 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.cromp@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 the October's issue – please send your contributions to the editor (contact details above) before September 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).

And with back to school in mind!

