



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

September 2017 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 60

Journeys for different reasons...

For families with school age children, the end of August means the end of the long summer holidays; September looms ahead and a return to routine. For the rest of us, for a variety of reasons, life chugs along at a different pace, breaks rather than in July or August bring many advantages, fewer crowds and lower prices are just two.

As the origin of word itself suggests the concept of a holiday or *holy day* is strongly tied up with religious observance, but it now means more than that and tourism, once the pastime of the rich and idle, has ever since become within the grasp of the masses. In fact tourism is one of the world's fastest growing economic sectors and stands to get bigger year-on-year as more

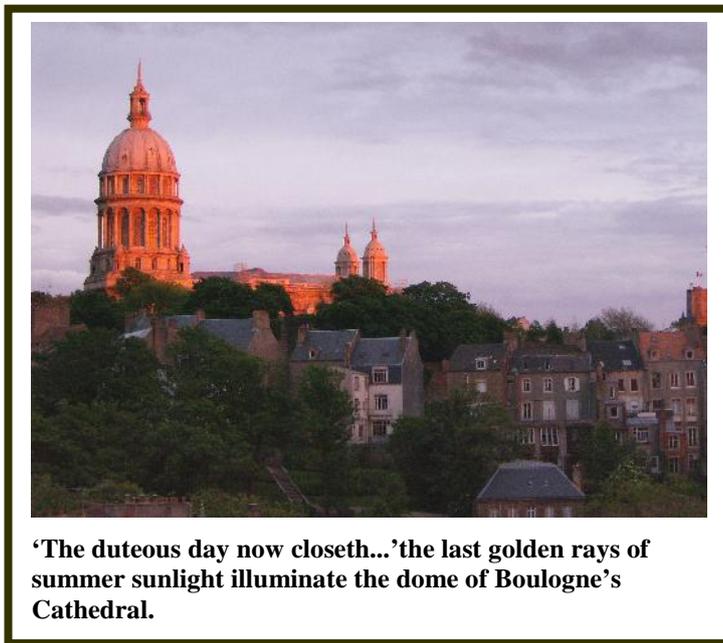
people from emerging countries, swell the ranks. The hordes doing the rounds have even sparked protests in some quarters with cries of 'tourists go home!' The local population, irritated by the holidaying visitors, believe their home is being treated as a theme park and the so-called tourists lack any interest in local culture, language or history and come armed with cameras and selfie sticks simply to take photos of themselves and friends, with the actual locality playing only a minor role in the picture. A recent trip in August, to the beautiful Château de Chenonceau in the Loire Valley, firmly proved the point especially the overcrowding – although I did have the advantage, as a gentleman, of not having to wait the average 20 minutes in the toilet queue, a burden unjustly imposed upon the fairer sex! But on the question of selfies with the château in the background, it would seem a bit churlish to criticize – clearly not all visitors were doing a PhD in French history.

In the September of 1878 Robert Louis Stevenson crossed the Cévennes with a donkey and wrote: *'For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move; to feel the needs and hitches of our life more nearly; to come down off this feather-bed of civilization, and find the globe granite underfoot and strewn with cutting flints.'*

If there is a hierarchy in terms of how you do 'tourism', then I would imagine rambling along with a donkey, sleeping under the stars and roughing it in this fashion, goes somewhere near the top.

But for many, travel is not for travel's sake – it is the only way to start building a decent life most of us take for granted. Fleeing from the turmoil and horrors of war, persecution impoverishment, unemployment or a murderous regime, people have been crossing oceans and continents and risking their lives on perilous journeys for years, for the one sole reason: necessity.

Many of the slogans written on the walls, by the frustrated locals in Mallorca, actually said: 'tourists go home, refugees welcome.' A couple of weeks ago, Br Johannes Maertens, showed me around the Maria Skobtsova House in Calais, where refugees are welcomed. This small charitable organisation has contributed enormously to the local refugee problem by bringing a glimmer of hope, through acts of love and compassion, to those who have made difficult journeys optimistic of finding a safe and valued life. The House offers not only hope and support to the young and vulnerable refugees but also a shower, a meal and a place to do their laundry. But as can be appreciated they are now serving more people than ever before and are requiring more resources than first planned. To that end, overleaf is a list of some of the items needed at the moment – please help if you can, these supplies will be very gratefully received:



'The duteous day now closeth...'the last golden rays of summer sunlight illuminate the dome of Boulogne's Cathedral.

General: Shower gel; shampoo; toothbrushes; body cream or oil (like Vaseline, Nivea); socks 36-43; boxer shorts S/M (Not L); sport shoes 39-40-41 For showers/laundry: All-purpose cleaners; anti-scale; bleach; WC cream; washing powder or liquid; stain remover; softener; Calgon; washing-up liquid; tablets/liquid for the dishwasher; toilet paper. Plus: ground coffee and lots and lots of MILK!

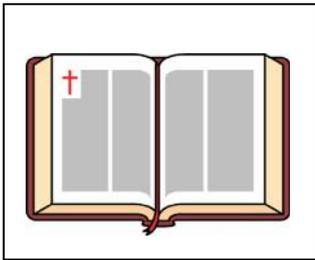
These items can be brought to any of our church services or if you would like them collected please contact: Malcolm Gale 06 99 09 60 44 (e-mail: malcolm.gale@dbmail.com) or

George Murray 06 08 04 31 34 (e-mail: georgemurray@sfr.fr)

Financial support is naturally also required! Association Maria Skobtsova - Bank details as follows: IBAN: FR761562902625000217270019 BIC: CMCIFR2A

Bank: Crédit Mutuel Calais, 85 rue Mollien, 62100 Calais, France

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

Sunday 3rd September 2017 10h30 / Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Simple service of Morning Prayer with hymns and readings led by Colin and Jackie Ley

Sunday 17th September 2017 10h30 / Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Eucharist led by Rev. Gordon Warren; Readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 103: 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

Sunday 1st October 2017 10h30 / Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Harvest festival - service of with hymns and readings led by Linda Pillière followed by a ploughman's lunch. Donations of produce for the service will be welcome, especially non-processed foods.'

Sunday 15th October 2017 10h30 / Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost- Eucharist service led by Ven. Stephen Taylor, Archdeacon of Maidstone; Readings: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14

Sunday 29th October 2017 11h00 / Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Joint Eucharist service with our other congregations led by Rev. Caroline Pinchbeck, Diocese of Canterbury. Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46

OOOOOOOOOOOOOO

We are delighted to welcome, on Sunday 17th September, the Rev Gordon Warren, to lead our morning service. The son of a wartime naval lieutenant, after completing his secondary education in 1962, he joined the Royal Navy as an Engineering Artificer Apprentice. During his time of duty he served on HMS Whitby and HMS Oberon; on leaving the navy he went on to become Operations Director for a corporate air transport company and was tasked with developing their interests in the Middle East and Europe. However, he felt a calling to enter the church and was ordained in 1994 after attending Oxford University as a mature student. Serving as curate at Sunbury on Thames and nearby Laleham for some time he was then offered the challenging position of Rector at the 18th century Hawkesmoor heritage church of St Anne's in Limehouse, situated in London's tough East End. He continued in this post for 16 years before retiring in 2014 from full time ministry. Prior to this he was appointed by the Queen as an Honorary Officer and Chaplain RNR. Further appointments followed: Chaplain to the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, Chaplain of the local Sea Cadets, Chaplain of HMS President/Medway Division, Chaplain to Saga cruise ships and many others.

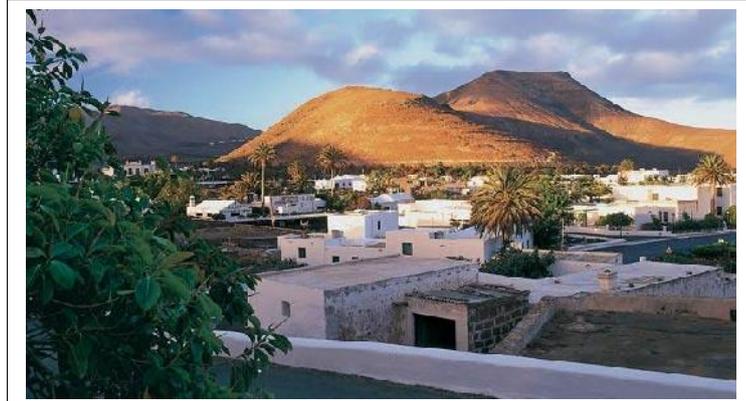


He is now planning to establish a new mission church in Ramsgate, yet with all this experience under his belt he modestly describes himself as an 'imperfect minister of the Gospel.' He has been married for 43 years to his wife June, has one surviving daughter, who is married and a serving Officer in the Royal Navy, two grand-children, Noah and Eleanor.

Seeking a spiritual high

Graham Hughes on Spanish soil confirming that no two church services are ever the same

Yaiza is a small town in south-western Lanzarote, just on the edge of the catastrophic lava flow that occurred between 1730 and 1736. We had heard that there was to be a procession on the evening of Good Friday starting at 8 o'clock in the evening from the church in the centre of town. We arrived to find the church almost deserted and no sign of a parade. A sidesman approached us and we think he asked us in Spanish, whether we wanted to stay for the service. He gave us a copy of the service in Spanish, disappeared for a couple



Yaiza - south-western Lanzarote

of minutes and then returned with the service sheet in English. We thus decided to stay. Gradually the congregation wandered in until at about 8 o'clock the church was three quarters full of, we assumed, mainly local residents, from teenagers to pensioners. The service turned out to be an enactment of the St John's gospels Passion story from the Last Supper until Christ's conviction and sentencing to crucifixion. Members of the congregation and the young priest, who played the part of Christ himself, told the various parts of the story. There was a short Eucharist service thereafter followed by some of the congregation lifting the statues of Christ on the cross and the Virgin Mary and taking them outside the church to form the procession.

Although the service was in Spanish, which we did not understand, it was nonetheless very reverential and most moving. The procession from outside the church slowly disappeared into the night and into the village followed, by perhaps a third of the congregation; the rest like us went off to dinner in a quiet reflective mood.

The procession was quite different from the one we had experienced; I think that is the right word, in Mijas on the Costa del Sol a few years earlier. There we had dinner in a balcony restaurant overlooking the main square and as dusk settled, the parade, obviously starting at the church about a kilometre away, approached. The effigies, which normally resided in the church, were carried round on enormous stretchers accompanied by marching bands and a congregation in traditional Good Friday dress. Progress was extremely slow and as it came through the main square and then off into other parts of town, the insistent almost threatening beat of the drums seem to have a somewhat hypnotic effect on many of the participants. As we finished our meal at about 10:30 PM, the procession was still moving through the town probably by now, several kilometres from the church to which it must have returned well after midnight.

In Lanzarote we also found an Easter Day nondenominational service, in English for the few local British residents, which was held in a sort of visitor centre in a hotel/apartment block. Here we were greeted, almost overwhelmingly by the priest and his acolytes with hugs and kisses, as though we were in fact the prodigal children returning to the fold. It was far from a traditional Easter Day service that we had sort of expected; it was full of songs with the words in PowerPoint, accompanied by guitars and lots of actions, inspirational readings and more alleluias than you normally hear in a year. We preferred the quiet dignity of Yaiza.

Again how different this was from a service we had been to on Easter day in Playa de las Américas in Tenerife. Here a genuine church was filled almost to the rafters with worshippers so that quite a few of the congregation were forced to stand during the whole service. There must have been 400 or 500 people at the service, the majority of whom were residents.

So in Spain at Easter you never know quite what service you are going to, and I use the word advisedly... encounter. It can be reverential as in Yaiza, happy clappy or as in Tenerife traditional.

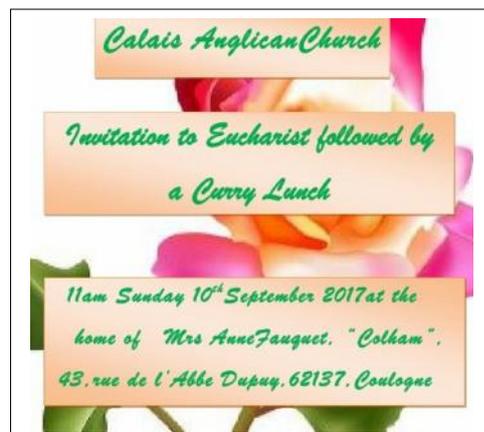


Prayer Diary /Intercessions - A book is now available for the entry of names of those who anyone wishes to have included in the intercessory prayers during the service. Otherwise please pass a note to the person responsible for the intercessions on that day.

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

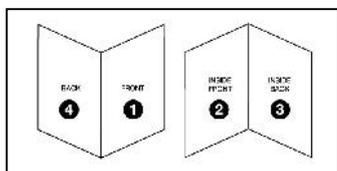
10th September -Calais's 'Curry Lunch' (see poster) For vegetarians a vegetable curry will be served and an alternative to curry will be available. The contribution to the meal, including drinks, will be €10 per person, €6 per child under 14 yrs. If attending please contact Pat Page (see above) or Anne Fauquet: annefauquet@free.fr - before 3rd September. The Revd David Ratcliff will lead the Eucharist.



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: Michael Spriggs ☎ 03 21 81 61 79 e-mail: kmspriggs@fsmail.net

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.

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

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).

My favourite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' - because it actually tells you something.

Groucho Marx

