



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais
CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER

February 2021

Fellowship, Hope and Love

No. 97

*'In the bleak
midwinter, frosty
wind made moan
Earth stood hard as
iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow
on snow on snow ..'*

It always used to puzzle me in the School Chapel when singing this famous carol, the words by the poetess Christina Rossetti. It is



February fill-dike - flooded pasture at Aubin-Saint-Vaast

an account of the birth of Christ featuring many of the images traditionally associated with the story of the nativity: the manger, the oxen, the Three Wise Men, etc. But it is all set against a background of grim English winter weather! Surely it wouldn't have been like that in the Holy Land at that time?

I now appreciate that that is immaterial. But I also welcome that the unique rhythm of the seasons in Western Europe is immensely important in the canon of the Christian calendar. It is no coincidence that our major Christian feasts all correspond to important seasonal events. We celebrate Christmas around the time of the winter solstice; Easter at the time of the spring equinox; the Feast of St John the Baptist on the longest day, the summer solstice, and so on.

We are now in the depths of winter. The reality nowadays, of course, is not the snow-covered scenes traditionally depicted in Christmas cards, but a seemingly endless period of dreary, dull, damp days. And we have had so much rain in the Pas-de-Calais recently that I fully expect to wake up one morning atop Mount Ararat where, according to the Book of Genesis, Noah's Ark landed!

Of course, the dark shadow cast by the COVID pandemic compounds all this. So where is the good news? The answer – as the ancients understood – is that winter is a God given time of rest: a chance to stop, to reflect on what is going in our lives, and to think about how we relate to God. While the weather outside is continual rain, chill winds and bleakness, we have the assurance that God's word is always there to warm our hearts and rekindle that fire within us.

Returning to the theme of the importance of the changing seasons, it is vital that we look on this as a time of hope for better things to come; of rebuilding; of rebirth. Thus we know that, no matter how depressing the weather is now, spring is not far away; and that that brings with it the glorious promise of Easter and the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection.

So, as you look out of the window at that gloomy scene take comfort from, for example this passage from Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Michael Spriggs
Hesdin



Forthcoming services in the Chaplaincy:

**MONASTERE DU CARMEL, RUE DU DENACRE,
SAINT-MARTIN-BOULOGNE**

ORATOIRE NOTRE DAME DE LA MISERICORDE, RUE GAILLARD, CALAIS

No services will be conducted in these two places of worship at present, but Zoom services will continue until further notice

Zoom link for Morning Prayer at 10h30 each Sunday as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81308857876?pwd=ektZUY9RcGZ6dTdxdjB5MWE5K3VoQT09>

SALLE DE L'ARSENAL, RUE DE L'ARSENAL, HESDIN

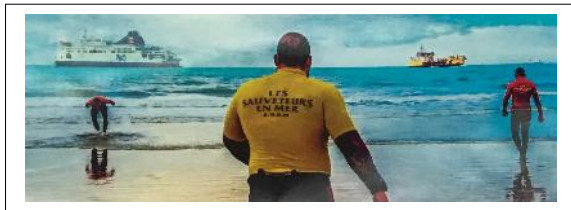
The Hesdin congregation are planning two lay-led Sunday services, with safety protocols in place, both at 10h30 at the address above, these will be:

7th February 2021 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

21st February 2021 First Sunday in Lent

Chaplaincy News

Don't forget the Zoom Compline every Wednesday at 21h00. The link is open half an hour beforehand for an informal chat to catch up with others in the Chaplaincy. Everyone very welcome, why not try joining us this week? Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872685714?pwd=U1FNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz09>



The 1901 Charitable Association Solidarité Anglicane raised €534 last year. This includes €224 from the sale of cards and Christmas items and €175 raised for Maria Skobstova House as part of the Christmas appeal. Each of the charities chosen by the three congregations (Calais lifeboats, Boulogne lifeboats (SNSM) and l'Arche) will receive €150. We were sadly unable to hold our usual fundraising events in 2020 but we have new ideas

for 2021 including online bingo, a quiz and possibly a virtual walk. More news later! Picture (left) is from a card recently received from the *Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer* (SNSM).

Reports from meetings

The Chaplaincy Council held a short meeting during the last week of January and both Calais and Boulogne Churchwardens presented a report on the last Reference Group (RG) meeting. Account was given that the RG had been introduced to Bishop Richard Frith who has been brought in to move forward the project of Chaplain/Migrant Officer for the Pas de Calais. No decision has been made yet as to how the project will be run in the future. The two Church Wardens then reported on how the Chaplaincy was managing during the present situation.

Discussion took place on future services, which will continue on Zoom for the moment. A Morning Prayer will be held every Sunday at 10h30, and Compline every Wednesday at 21h00 with the chat for 15 minutes beforehand. Hesdin congregation will continue to hold services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at Le Salle de l'Arsenal. It is hoped that a Eucharist Service can be arranged at Easter.

The Importance of Safeguarding

by Daphne Power, the Safeguarding Officer for the Chaplaincy.

In 2016 I was approached by the president of the Association, Pat Page, to know if I would be interested in becoming the Safeguarding Officer for the Chaplaincy. I had to consider this carefully as I thought I had left that part of my work behind when I came to France, but after consideration I seized the opportunity to continue to be involved in the safeguarding and well-being of children, young people and adults.

Safeguarding was new to the diocese and Chaplaincy and it was often confusing, receiving reams of procedures and policies. I was expected to read them all! The online course was just new and had many hiccups along the way, but as time passed, we were able to get most people in the three



churches interested and they completed this first step in safeguarding training. I travelled to Cologne for a weekend in July 2016 to complete level 2 in training and undertake the 'trainers for training' course. I returned exhausted, again bearing even more paperwork to be completed. The DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks had to be completed on people undertaking church services; in fact once I was familiar with the system this part became easier. In fact found that people were willing and forthcoming to get this check done so as to participate actively in the Chaplaincy. Two of the core level 2 courses (C2) were organised and took place in Hesdin, both well attended from all three congregations. Unfortunately, this course as such has now ceased to exist, as the safeguarding team has switched to virtual training. I completed recently the C2 up-date and Leadership course, plus C5 Training for Trainers up-date.

We have to deal with new regulations and all officers holding a responsible position in the Chaplaincy are now obliged to undertake the C2 course. This is a 2 session virtual course, joining other attendees from all over Europe, which personally I found very interesting. Dates and times can be found on the Diocese of Europe website under safeguarding training.

If you are interested in undertaking the level 1 online course, please let me know and I can direct you to the site. This course is to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and does not only apply to children but to vulnerable young people and adults. With the demography of our Chaplaincy, such a course would be beneficial to everyone to enable them to identify risks and vulnerabilities.

If you wish to contact me regarding any information you may require, or you are interested in the first level online training, please contact me at: safeguardingpdc@hotmail.com

Soon we are to appoint a Deputy Safeguarding Officer and when we do so, we will inform everyone through the Newsletter.



Travelogue

Finding somewhere different, up down, inside and out

Over summer last year we had a short hiatus from the drama of coronavirus as we emerged out of lock-down. Everyone was then hoping we had begun to see the back of the pandemic; the number of cases had significantly diminished bringing with it respite and a chance to feel the warmth of the sun once more. There was talk of a second wave over the winter months but we contented ourselves, for the moment at least, that things were slowly returning to normal.

It was during this period that I started to browse through my collection of guidebooks for inspiration, looking for somewhere slightly different to travel to. Planning a trip is a journey in itself, but we had already decided it would be confined to France, on the other hand with a country of such a varied geography and history, it would be churlish to complain. Leafing through a second-hand copy of a Michelin guide dating back to 1964, illustrated with pages of black and white etchings, the sort that would not be out of place in Victorian magazines, the book fell open at Le Puy-en-Valey. Guide books can often be very selective and even the best are far from comprehensive, but the deeply etched pictures in the old book created



a vision of the surreal, enough to whet the appetite of any discerning traveller. Here was a town set amongst green hills broken up with rugged outcrops of volcanic rock, which burst up even in the urban environment itself, acting as natural pillars to support a chapel or a colossal statue. Here was a place that was different.

So we set off south heading towards the Massif Central and from our first glimpses, on the road that descended into town, it was clear why so many writers had considered the place as theatrical, almost jaw-dropping. The pictures in the book had not lied.

The town's cathedral, set amidst a maze of steep cobbled lanes is one of France's starting points for the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. Behind its dark volcanic stone exterior, and towering above the town's roof-tops, is the 757 metre peak of the Rocher Corneille. This is one of two landmark statue-bearing volcanic peaks in Puy. And red like the rooftops here stands the enormous 16-metre high statue of Notre Dame de France, a representation of the Virgin and child, erected in 1860. Due to a shortage of materials, rather than an assertion that weapons should be melted down and put to better use, it was made from 150,000 kilos of cast iron produced from cannons captured at Sebastopol by the forces of

Napoleon III. Its position demonstrates the technical abilities of the mid-19th century and was forerunner of another product of French inspiration: New York's Statue of Liberty. We climbed to the terrace for the stunning views across the town and towards another of Puy's unusual religious monuments, the chapel of St Michel d'Aguilhe, which also sits on a volcanic plug. Here credit must be given for those who heaved the stones to the top to build the teeny Romanesque chapel on the orders of the Bishop, back in the 10th century. In the far distance there was yet another giant statue, this time of St. Joseph at the basilica of Bon Espoir d'Epalay.

Of course our old guidebook did not mention the door in the plinth that supported Notre Dame, it had been there since its inception but was rarely opened until recently. Oddly enough inside the hollow interior is a spiral staircase leading eventually to a metal ladder, which finally culminates at the Virgin's crown. Thus it has something in common with the robed Roman goddess *Libertas*, dedicated twenty-six years afterwards on the other side of the Atlantic. They both can be climbed on the inside! Quite why in Puy's case this is required is unclear, perhaps for reasons of maintenance, as provision to access the upper extremities may need to exist. In the case of the larger effigy on Liberty Island it is quite understandable, there is a viewing platform and higher still a torch to keep lit. Yet in Puy, for most of the statue's life, the authorities were certainly not allowing the general public to poke about inside the good lady's cast iron body, considering it hardly respectful and certainly irreverent. But as we all know times have changed and bearing in mind the divided opinions on the merits of this now dated landmark, the internal stairs, after a recent restoration, are now open to the public, finally permitting the curious visitor to climb to the crown and admire a rather hazy 360° view through a modern Perspex dome.

In my view, if you're looking for a historic destination with a difference and enjoy taking on hundreds of steps and are interested in the niche activity of internal-statue-climbing, Puy will not disappoint. MG]

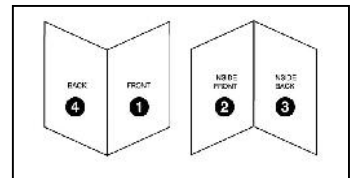


Chaplaincy 'prayer circle' for private and confidential prayers. Requests or questions to: ourprayers4u@mail.com



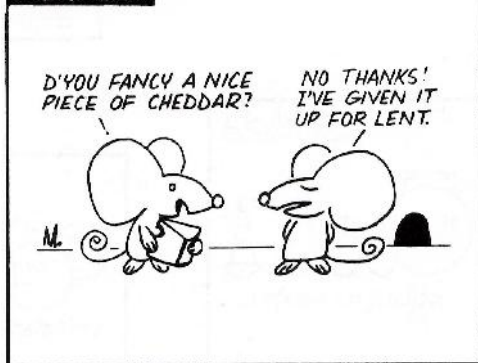
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Deadline for March issue: 23rd February 2021

Apart from downloading on to your iphone for easy reference, 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).

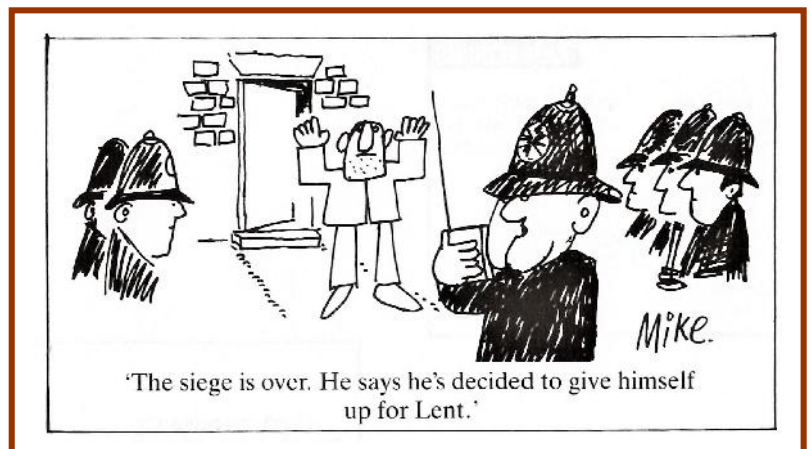


"The Chaplaincy in the Pas de Calais upholds the principles of Safeguarding and works diligently to make all aspects of the Chaplaincy a safer place".

CHURCH MICE



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday; this year February 17th



The children were lined up in the canteen of a convent run school waiting for their lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun made a note and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'
Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip biscuits. A child had written another note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.... [from ' Jill']