



Association Cultuelle de l'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER No. 105

It may not be a New Year, or the time traditionally linked with making New Year resolutions, but September has always marked the beginning of a new school/university year for me. As we slowly move out of confinement, I hope too that the

Autumn will mark a new beginning in our lives – and in our Chaplaincy. Not that the last eighteen months have been all bad. Working from home has given me a different relationship with time - time to join in Bible studies, plan zoom services (!) and generally slow down and live more in the present. For many of us, the last year has been a wake-up call to the need to restore our relationships with God, creation and each other. As part of that wake-up call, and in preparation for the final few months leading up to the UN global climate change talks in November 2021 (COP26) the Church of England, along with many other churches, is encouraging us to hold a special Climate Sunday service or event, to make a commitment to tackle climate change and to call on world leaders to do the same. The theme for the Season of Creation 2021 is “A Home for All, renewing the oikos of God”. Oikos means 'home' or 'family' and is the root of our words starting with 'eco' like 'ecology' and 'economics'. There are lots of resources to be found on the Church of England website and on the Churches Together website.



This newsletter is also a new beginning insofar as our longstanding dedicated editor, Malcolm Gale, has decided it is time to step down. We are extremely grateful for all his hard work over the years and hope he will continue to contribute an article from time to time. Without the input from volunteers, our Chaplaincy would not have kept going and the newsletter has always played an important role in keeping us all connected. The Chaplaincy is now looking for a new editor – please let your churchwarden know if you feel you could help or wish further details on what is involved. It needn't be a long-term commitment!

Linda

Forthcoming services in the Chaplaincy:

Monastere du Carmel, rue du denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne
Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais
Salle de l'arsenal, rue de l'arsenal, Hesdin

Lay led services in all Churches on the first Sunday (September 5th) at 10.30 a.m. The **third Sunday (19th)** will be a joint communion service led by the Rev. Sara MacVane in Boulogne, starting at 11 a.m. No service in Calais on the 3rd Sunday as the congregation will be joining in Boulogne. Hesdin has a lay service on the 3rd Sunday for those unable to travel to the joint service; Zoom services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10h30 (link below):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81308857876?pwd=ektZUy9RcGZ6dTdxdjBSMWE5K3V0QT09>

The Compline services on Zoom each Wednesday at 21h00.

Compline link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872685714?pwd=U1FNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz09>

Report from the Chaplaincy Council

The chaplaincy Council met on August 28^h. The main business was to reflect on the coming reference group meeting, plan for the monthly newsletter and for future services. It was decided

to invite the Archdeacon for the Autumn so that the Chaplaincy could move forward in its reflections on the possibility of a house-for-duty priest.

News from the Congregations

The service at **Hesdin** on 17 July raised the equivalent of £125 in memory of Father John Porter. A Stirling cheque was sent to the British Heart Foundation. Hesdin Church are proposing to hold a celebration of their 18th anniversary, which falls on the third Sunday in October (October 17th.). Further details will follow in the October newsletter.

Boulogne is planning to hold a Harvest lunch at the beginning of October. Details to follow. The usual charity Christmas cards and crackers will be on sale from September onwards. Contact Linda for details.

Katherine and Tanya from **Calais** share their experiences as catering debutantes

As the "youngsters" in the Calais congregation (all things are relative - and it makes us feel good!), we thought it was time to let our elders relax a bit, so we volunteered to cater for the August Chaplaincy meal. Shopping was the first challenge. Armed with two dodgy ankles and an arm in a sling, we hobbled round the supermarket, leaning on our respective trolleys collecting our wares.

Mission accomplished, we headed for Anne Fauquet's house where all hands were on deck moving furniture, setting up the kitchen and generally getting ready for the service. Knowing we had an early start on Sunday morning to do the last preparations we all headed for home and an early night (after tending to several thousand animals and bees in Tanya's case.)



Sara MacVane led a lovely service for us in Anne's conservatory. We were very lucky that the rain held off during the main part of the service, although we did have a stressful moment when smoke was observed coming from the roof of a nearby house during Sara's sermon! All agreed that it was better to be safe than sorry and we dispatched Rémi, (as Fireman Sam-cum-Superman), to assess the situation. Fortunately, it was a false alarm, but we needn't have worried in any case, as during the blessing we received our own huge blessing of torrential rain which thundered briefly onto the conservatory roof. No out of hand barbecue could have survived it!

After the apéritif, guests took up their places for the meal, whilst we set to and plated up the "ploughman's lunch", so confident in our planning that we refused all offers of assistance. We were so well prepared that we had even drained the vinegar off the pickled onions and gherkins (one of the main ingredients of a ploughman's) and put them aside in Anne's kitchen ... and thenguess whatwe forgot to put them on the plates before we served up ... ooops !

The dessert was served with no hiccups, and Michael Spriggs' delicious fruit salad was complemented beautifully with a garnish of pickled onion and gherkins!

We English are sometimes perceived by our foreign neighbours as having unusual tastes. Perhaps our French guests thought it was just another of our quaint British idiosyncrasies.



Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the event such a success. 165 euros was raised for the Chaplaincy. We hope to see you again next year!

Meet a member from the congregations ... aiming to make a meaningful difference to people and the planet

Covid has meant we haven't always been able to meet, and even when we do get together as a Chaplaincy, we don't necessarily get to talk to everyone. So this is an opportunity to get to know some of our congregations ... Starting with one of Boulogne's newest members: **Bernice Pan.**

Bernice has been designing and making all sorts of things from a young age, from clothes for her sister and herself to furniture for her room and installations for her school; often using discarded objects from the skip, random parts or boxes on their way to the bin and adapting old clothes and bags to generate new use for them. But she has always been driven by one question: How can she use the gifts and opportunities that God has blessed her with in such a way that will make a difference in the world around her?

After completing her degree in architecture and a PhD in Design and Systems Engineering, Bernice began her long-term quest to solve environmental problems and improve existing conditions for people through design and sustainable fashion.

Sustainable fashion is all about changing our approach to fashion by looking at how clothing is produced, who produced it and how long it lasts before reaching landfill. For Bernice, sustainability is not an abstract virtue or even necessarily a complex science. It's a very pragmatic and realistic long view of the relationship between people and the environment: being accountable for where everything comes from and where everything goes to, and along the way creating as little damage and depletion of the earth's resources as possible



We don't always think of the global fashion industry as playing an important role in climate change. But the 'fashion system' is actually responsible for one quarter of the entire globe's chemical usage and outputs 10 percent of the world's carbon emission (that's higher than aviation and shipping combined!). Fast (High Street) fashion is made with synthetic fibres that use the earth's fossil fuels. In fact, 100 billion garments are sold a year (and that doesn't include the vast quantity of stock produced that are unsold and discarded), and it's estimated that 60 percent of these items are worn less than 7 times before being tossed away and ending up in landfill and incinerators within a year of being produced. Worth thinking about when you buy your next item of clothing!

Fast fashion has grown so big and so vast, that 1 in 6 people in the world works for it (making it the most labour-intensive industry in the globe), yet 98% of these people work for less than a living wage. That means over 1.25bn in the world is severely exploited to make the cheap, fast, throwaway fashion that we buy on the High Street or in the local chain store.

But when Bernice first started to try and figure out and then tackle these social & sustainability issues, people didn't want to hear about moral anxiety or any mission statement. They had no time, no interest. Her kind of 'idealism' was not just off-beat but off-putting, standing in the way of shows, campaigns, collection launches and promotion ladders. 'Who cares', 'get real', 'it's never gonna work' were the kind of answers she got if she ever shared her thoughts. This was the late 90s when she was working at her first job in glitzy New York City dressing celebrities and billionaires.

So in 2006, Bernice decided to put her theories into practice and she founded a fashion company DEPLOY. The aim of the company is to produce garments that are finely tailored with quality fabrics and craftsmanship, so they fit properly, last well and make you feel good when you wear them. The clothes are versatile so you can dress them up or down – meaning you need fewer outfits

in your wardrobe! And the underlying business/retail model uses zero-waste supply chain processes, production salvage to create exquisite, upcycled trims and accessories, and a specialist after-sale tailoring service. So, what customers get from a multi-functional/versatile style DEPLOY garment can equate to 2-5 pieces from elsewhere, i.e. with every piece designed and produced, resource consumption is cut by 50-80% compared to other brands.

Rethinking how we buy clothes, seeking out sustainable fashion companies, or reusing and recycling clothing is one way we can all contribute to the environment and social justice.



TAIZÉ – A Community in the Heart of Burgundy

In recent years, Taizé songs have become part of our worship in the Chaplaincy – so apart from the songs, what is Taizé? Thierry and I go regularly and so I wanted to share with you a little about it.

Set in Burgundy, it is a community of around 100 Brothers from all different Christian denominations and from a huge diversity of countries and cultures. By its very existence, Taizé is a sign of unity between divided Christians, a sign of hope for our Church. Church leaders of all denominations are regular visitors – including our own Anglican Bishops and Archbishops. The Brothers are also actively involved in interreligious dialogue. The Brothers live from their work and live either in Taizé or in one of their fraternities in developing countries such as Bangladesh.

Young people come from all over the world to spend a week or more, sharing the life of the community. It is always an inspiration to see so many young people – many of whom have no religious affiliation - coming together, seeking meaning in their lives. Workshops are organised to hear different experiences on issues such as migration, interreligious dialogue, ecology etc. It is in this context that Kirrilee led a workshop last year on her work here, and that Thierry and I regularly lead workshops on l'Arche.

In recent years the Brothers have actively supported the work of Maria Skobstova House and have also welcomed a number of the refugees from Calais, helping them to find work and settle in France. This is part of a long tradition of welcome that began in the forties when Brother Roger (the founder) began welcoming refugees from the war.

The daily prayer is open to everyone. Two things characterise the very simple prayer in Taizé – the singing and the silence. Short simple songs are repeated over and over like a meditation and during each prayer there is 10 minutes silence.



For those of you who can travel, Taizé is in a beautiful part of Burgundy not far from the motorway and next to the historical town of Cluny - so well worth a visit!

Jane Langlet.