



The Chaplaincy Newsletter - February 2023

February Blessings to all our readers



Our Forthcoming Sunday Services

Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin.

1st Sunday – 5th Feb – 10.30am lay led service by Barry Hampson

3rd Sunday - 19th Feb – 17.00pm lay led service by Barry Hampson

Monastere du Carmel, Rue du Denacre, Saint Martin Boulogne.

1st Sunday – 5th Feb – 10.30am lay led service – *please check if it's a joint service with Calais*

3rd Sunday – 19th Feb – 10.30am Lay led service

22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday joint lay led service with Calais

Oratory of Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais.

1st Sunday – 5th Feb – 11am lay led service

3rd Sunday – 19th Feb - 11am Lay led – *please check if it's a joint service with Boulogne*

22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm at Anne Fauquet's home - followed by a soup and cheese supper. *Please contact Pat Page churchwarden, if you wish to attend and need Anne's address.*

'February Fill Dyke'

by Michael Spriggs



Flooded Pasture, Aubin Saint Vaast

"February Fill Dyke": this is how the locals in the flat-lying village where I grew up in rural Lincolnshire used to refer to this month - when all the ditches were swollen with rain. It's part of a traditional *poem which characterises each month of the year according to its typical Weather.

This year bears out this ancient wisdom - *though round here, January also qualified fairly spectacularly for the same title!* We've had record levels of rainfall during weeks of relentless cold winds and rain. Our meadows have been flooded, and the fields are criss-crossed by the patterns of ancient ditches and other earthworks thrown into relief by channels of water.

In the Christian calendar, February is a busy month, beginning with the Feast of Candlemas on 2nd February. This ancient celebration traditionally marks the first visit of Christ to the temple. Candles were lit throughout, in Churches and homes. Nowadays in France the custom is to celebrate Candlemas '*La Chandeleur*' with all the family together, eating a copious number of crêpes! By tradition here in northern France, the first crêpe of the batch is always carefully set aside on a plate and then mounted atop the kitchen cupboard, where it remains for the forthcoming year. Its golden round shape symbolising the warmth of the sun and is believed to bring good luck to the family for the whole year until the next 2nd February. This leads us conveniently to our own Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday, which this year falls on 21st February. The following day, Ash Wednesday of course marks the start of Lent; a date worked out by counting back via the complicated formula by which the date of Easter (9th April this year) is calculated.



Aconites and snowdrops in February

It is this time when we begin to wonder when winter will ever end. But then, just as it feels as if it might never stop, nature throws in all sorts of signs of hope and rebirth in February: a frosty walk through the garden reveals snowdrops and winter aconites struggling to come through; sticky buds on the horse chestnuts; bunches of catkins on hornbeam and hazel ...

The heartening promise of spring not-too-far-away, faithfully following the unique and timeless rhythm of the seasons. *MS*

***The poem in full**

**"Janiveer, freeze the pot upon the fier
February fill-dyke, be it black or be it white,
but if it be white, it's better to like
March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb
A cold April, the barn will fill,
April showers, make May flowers
Change not a clout, till May be out
Calm weather in June, corne sets in tune
No tempest, good Julie, least corne looks rulie
Drie August and warm, doth harvest no harme
September blowe soft, till fruit be in loft
October good blast to blowe the hog mast
November take flaile, let ship no more saile
O dirtie December, at Christmas remember."**

Chaplaincy News

Vacancy for Hesdin's Secretarial Role

As you may know, our former secretary Joyce Bosworth, can no longer continue in this role due to ill health and Daphne Power has kindly stepped up to support the church temporarily.

If you are interested in taking on this important role, please attend Hesdin's meeting in January where you can be co-opted into the post.

If you wish to know more about the duties of the church secretary please contact Daphne, who has had a lot of experience in this role.

Firstly, we would like to thank Joyce for her diligence as secretary; for her planning and for efficiently keeping us informed about services and events. She and John went above and beyond their roles to prepare the church for our services, and were always the first to arrive and the last to leave. Primarily, on behalf of Hesdin Congregation, we wish Joyce well in her recuperation and pray for her and John at this difficult time.

in a letter by: The Bishop in Europe: The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes & The Suffragan Bishop in Europe, The Right Reverend David Hamid.

The qualities of goodness, beauty and truth, stand out all the more sharply in our contemporary Europe which is so deeply scarred by the evil, ugliness and falsehoods associated with war. And the war in Ukraine affects many beyond Ukraine's borders, with high food and energy prices causing real suffering that extends beyond Europe to the global South.

The war in Ukraine is only one of the challenges that are affecting the life of our chaplaincies. We continue to feel the impact of Brexit – particularly its effect on mobility and residence/visa requirements; some communities are still recovering and rebuilding post-Covid, and all of us feel the prevailing sharp cost of living increases.

We re-iterate our gratitude and thanks to all our ordained and lay leaders who continue to sustain chaplaincy life in these difficult times.

Safeguarding updates

The Safeguarding team has seen some significant change recently. Andy Munro, formerly with London Diocese and with a police background, is now our Assistant Head of Safeguarding, working alongside Grace Fagan-Stewart. Meanwhile, Craig Norman is now working full-time with us on Safeguarding Administration, with a particular focus on the administration of safeguarding training.

The replacement for Laura O'Brien looking after compliance and checks will arrive later this month. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults remains a crucial element of our mission...

in a letter by: The Bishop in Europe: The Right Reverend Dr Robert Innes & The Suffragan Bishop in Europe, The Right Reverend David Hamid.

The members of the Chaplaincy Conseil are updating their safeguarding compliances, which is a bit more complicated than before. Some members on the chaplaincy council are second home owners in France, therefore are now required to apply for a Casier Judiciere, as they are a representative of a chaplaincy in the Diocese in Europe.

It is very important to be compliant when we are trying to recruit a priest to our area.

The Chaplaincy are still trying to recruit a deputy safeguarding officer, so if you wish to support the safeguarding officer in this important role, making sure we are compliant and working together to ensure those vulnerable are safeguarded. *Please see details below if you wish to apply...*

We should be aware that safeguarding is everyone's concern and everyone is encouraged to do the on-line courses. *Daphne Power*

Special Recruitment

The Chaplaincy requires a Deputy Safeguarding Officer to support the Safeguarding Officer (*Daphne Power*) in her role.

Deputy Safeguarding Officer is an important role in working to ensure that the chaplaincy is a safer place in which to worship and to socialise.

This post is open to applicants from all three churches.

If you are interested in this important and worthy role, with an awareness of the safety of those attending our churches, and a wish to support the Chaplaincy in this work, further information, in the form of a Job Description, Personal Specification and Code of Conduct, can be obtained from Daphne by email at **safeguardingPDC@hotmail.com**

All applicants should hold, or be willing to undertake an enhanced DBS (*Disclosure and Barring Service*) and complete safeguarding training to the highest level required for the post.

Most of the training can be done virtually online, with a specific 'Leaders Course' spread over two half-days.

The applicant is required to provide two, character references, (*not by a relative or friend*).

In the absence of a Chaplain: appointments will be made by the Safeguarding Officer and the Chaplaincy President; once they have received the references. *Daphne Power*

Past events:

Christian Unity Week



Photographs from a service held by the Equipe Oecuménique du Boulonnais.

Sara's 'Farewell' Eucharist Service - Sunday 29th January 2023 "Les Tourelles, Condette.



Reverend Sara MacVane, moved to the Saint-Omer in 2009 after forty years in Rome to become our chaplain-in-charge for the next two years.

Sara who was born in London to American parents grew up in New York.

After a doctoral year spent in Greece she then moved to Italy where she lived for the next forty years mainly teaching.

She took on the role of pastoral and administrative assistant in the Anglican church, and after studying theology was ordained becoming Assistant Curate at All Saints in Rome She was appointed as our chaplain-in-charge in 2009, making a huge contribution to our chaplaincy for the next two years. She then moved to Switzerland where she took on the position of Assistant Chaplain at St Andrew's, Zurich.

Having moved to Paris to be closer to her family, we were once again able to benefit from her devotion to our chaplaincy when she regularly returned to take services for us. We have really valued her contribution to our chaplaincy whilst we are preparing for our future "house for duty" post to be filled.

Sara has decided to take a well-deserved retirement; and kindly officiated a joint service with us on Sunday 29th January, which left us reflecting on a very thought-provoking sermon. *Several people from France and the UK, were also able to attend the service via Zoom.*

A "bring and share" meal finished the day off nicely; giving us a chance to say a huge thank you to Sara for all she has done for us over the past few years and to wish her all the best for her future plans.

At the end of the service, Sara was very touched when we presented her with an Amazon gift voucher to show our appreciation for all she has done for us, and Vaughan Johnson who followed the service on Zoom showed her the second part of her gift, a beautiful Scargill Cross, see *similar cross below*, which Sara will receive when a future meet-up is possible – *Tanya Collins*.

<http://www.jonathonhemingray.co.uk/single-crosses/> <https://scargillmovement.org/>



29-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

February

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1 | 1 John 5:14-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 17 | Psalms 141:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 2 | 1 Chronicles 16:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 18 | Romans 12:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 3 | 2 Chronicles 6:21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 19 | Romans 12:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 4 | 2 Chronicles 7:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 20 | Psalms 145:18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 5 | Ephesians 1:18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 21 | Luke 11:2-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 6 | Ephesians 6:18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 22 | Matthew 6:9-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 7 | Jeremiah 29:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 23 | Matthew 7:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 8 | Job 22:27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 24 | Luke 6:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 9 | John 17:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 25 | Luke 18:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 10 | James 5:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 26 | Romans 8:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 11 | Mark 11:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 27 | Philippians 4:6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 12 | Matthew 5:44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28 | 1 Timothy 2:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 13 | Matthew 6:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 29 | Hebrews 4:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 14 | Matthew 26:41 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 15 | Proverbs 15:8 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 16 | Psalms 102:17 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine **and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [Matthew 7:24](#)

Jesus answered (*Satan*), "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.'" [Matthew 4:4](#)

A guide to the Church of England (Anglican) religious festivals in the UK in 2023 - comprising the nine Principal Feasts and three Principal Holy Days

Day	Date	Festival
Friday	6 January	Epiphany
Thursday	2 Feb	Candlemas
Wednesday	22 Feb	Ash Wednesday
Saturday	25 March	Annunciation Day
Thursday	6 April	Maundy (Holy) Thursday
Friday	7 April	<u>Good Friday</u>
Sunday	9 April	Easter
Thursday	18 May	Ascension Day
Sunday	28 May	Pentecost
Sunday	4 June	Trinity Sunday
Wednesday	1 Nov	All Saints' Day
Monday	25 Dec	Christmas Day

Some useful links:

Prayer Requests 'in confidence' email: ourprayersr4u@mail.com

Newsletter contributions: Please send any items of chaplaincy news, services, meetings, what's on in your area; and forthcoming events to mcatchdossat@gmail.com

Note: Please remember that if you plan on sending photographs, do ask peoples permission first; and be aware that pictures or images may be copyright. Thanks, *mcd*.

This newsletter, together with contact details for our Church Wardens, is also on our website <https://anglicanspdc.org>

Safeguarding Policy <https://europe.anglican.org/safeguarding/policy-and-guidance>

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<https://europe.anglican.org/main/latest-news/monthposts>