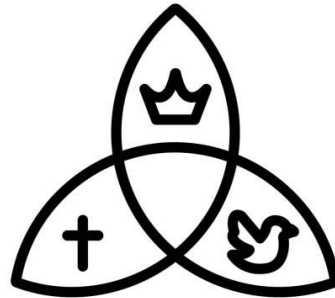




The Chaplaincy Newsletter – June 2023

Blessings to all our readers



Our Forthcoming Services

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

1st Sunday – 4th June – 10.30am Holy Trinity service lay led by Marilyn Dossat

3rd Sunday – 18th June - 11am Chaplaincy Eucharist service in Estréelles, led by Father Simon Walker followed by EGM - *Please check with Wardens for time & details of this service*

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

1st Sunday – 4th June – 11.00am Holy Trinity service lay led by Pat Page

3rd Sunday – 18th June 11am - Chaplaincy Eucharist service in Estréelles, led by Father Simon Walker followed by EGM - *Please check with Wardens for time & details of this service*

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

1st Sunday – 4th June – 10.30am Holy Trinity service lay led

3rd Sunday – 18th June – 11am Chaplaincy Eucharist service in Estréelles, led by Father Simon Walker followed by EGM – *Please check with Wardens for time & details of this service*

Check Chaplaincy Website for amendments to services <https://anglicanspdc.org>

ZOOM services every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10.30am- link below

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

Weds Compline at 9 pm (Linda says, come along earlier if you wish to chat) link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872685714?pwd=UIFNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz09>

A note from the editor:

The Chaplaincy Newsletter will be taking a summer break in August. Therefore, please send any August news/articles, local events, brocontes, music festivals, or flyers etc. with your submissions for the July issue. The newsletter will resume in September. *Marilyn*

Note: The above will not affect ourprayersr4u@mail.com which is always available for you.

LA SOLIDARITE ANGLICANE DU PAS DE CALAIS

IS HOLDING A SUMMER BBQ



DATE/TIME: SATURDAY - 24 JUNE - 12 NOON

VENUE: 57 RUE D'HESDIN, VIEIL HESDIN

ENTRY: BY PRE-PAID TICKET, ONLY 10 EUROS PER PERSON; *OR MORE IF YOU CAN.*

THE TICKET IS INCLUSIVE OF ONE DRINK; THEREAFTER A MINI BAR IS AVAILABLE.

PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC DIETARY NEEDS.

THE EVENT IS IN AID OF THESE THREE CHOSEN CHARITIES, DESERVING OUR SUPPORT.

L'ARCHE DES 3 FONTAINES: Helping those with or without intellectual disabilities through a shared life, and helping them to take their rightful place within society. (*see Jane's flyer/article in the May issue*)



FIAC Based in Berck Sur Mer: A humanitarian organisation specialising in home services for the elderly, dependant and disabled.



CALAIS LIFEBOAT:

Both onshore and offshore; a service well recognised.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

Doreen Cavalier – tel. 0321867583 Email: Doreen.Cavallier@orange.fr

Gillian Hutchison – tel. 0682912326 Email: gilliem1@gmail.com

DUE TO RESTRICTED NUMBERS, PLEASE BOOK YOUR TICKET IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISSAPPOINTMENT.

David Furbur Shares News of a Happy Event

Dear Readers,

Many of you will know David from his time in the Pas de Calais and his commitment to the church in Boulogne. Others may remember him from his articles about his beloved 'Therapy dog' called Amy shown here...



David writes...

Dear friends

As a number of you will know when I returned to England, I immediately joined the Norwich Community Choir led by Director of Music Meg Turpin. This has provided many special opportunities to sing at prestigious Churches such as Norwich Cathedral, St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, the Bishops Gardens, Ranworth Church known as the Cathedral of the Broads and, closer to my home St Mary and Margaret's Church in Sprowston. My love of music and singing has moved me into a new realm which is why I am writing. Rather than take instruction from the Choir Mistress I have decided instead to marry her and I am pleased to say she accepted my proposal of marriage. We will be married in St Mary and St Margarets Church, Sprowston, Norwich (the Church in the photo with white walls) on Saturday September 30th. We are getting



married at 2.30pm when we will have the formal Wedding Service. Then after a break for tea and cake, we will have an hour and half of Celebration in Song and Verse inside the Church at Sprowston. I wish to extend an invitation to all my Church friends in Pas de Calais who might wish to attend. All you need to do is to let me know via email furbur2@hotmail.co.uk that you will be there so I can make sure you have a cup of tea and a cake.

If you are interested then please follow this link [Meg and David's Wedding – Norwich Community Choir](#)

Kindest regards

Meg & David



*The Chaplaincy Newsletter
would like to wish them both*

*A Wonderful Wedding Day &
A Very Happy Life Together.*

THE FORMER CONVENT OF THE BLACK SISTERS

by
Roderick Hutchison

Historical Review

The village of Vieil Hesdin was for twelve centuries, until its destruction in 1553, the real town of Hesdin. This town, the most important in the Artois, was surrounded by ramparts, flanked by towers and pits. It drew a triangle at the top of which stood a fortified castle; the favourite residence of the Counts of Artois and of the Grand Ducs of Burgandy, cousins of the Kings of France.

The Chateau was filled with works of art. Life was lavish. The Grand Dukes of Burgandy, received illustrious characters there, for festivals and hunts, including King Louis XI.

To the north of the castle stretched a vast back guard, famous throughout Europe for its fountains, aviaries, menageries, pavilions and various attractions. This park is today 'Le Parcq' where evidence of the original gardens can still be found by the church.

In 1553 the town and castles were besieged and taken by the troops of the Emperor of Austria; Charles-Quint, who ordered them to be razed. A few months later, he founded, not far from his victim, a small, fortified town; Hesdin-Fret, which then changed its name to Hesdin.

The Convents of the Old Town of Hesdin



In the Middle Ages, there were three convents in the old town of Hesdin. A men's convent 'Les Cordeliers' and two women's convents. Some cloned 'The Poor Clares' founded by Saint Collette in 1437. The other convents were not cloistered. The Black Sisters were so called because of the colour of their robes. They were already in, the then Hesdin, in 1344 and belonged to the Third Order of St Francis of Assise and had the role of caring for the sick at home, even in time of plague. Always moving in pairs and having made a vow of poverty, they lived on donations and a small income from land bequeathed to their convent. The rules were harsh and the Sisters lived frugally, reciting numerous services each day.

The Convent of the Black Nuns had more or less survived the destruction in 1553. The Convent may have served at this time as a hospital. Some wounded were treated there by the illustrious Ambrose Pare, surgeon to the King of France. Pare had been taken prisoner by the Imperial Army after the fall of the Chateau. He has described the siege at length in his memoirs.

After 1553 warfare continued in the region and again Vieil Hesdin was destroyed by fire in 1595.

In 1639 in the presence of Richelieu the two religious communities were evicted from the area, where they had been sheltering from the soldiers. The Poor Clares never returned but settled in the town of Hesdin-Fret – (Hesdin today) - where there is a street that still bears their name. The Black Sisters faithfully returned to Vieil Hesdin and stayed until after the Revolution.

In 1740 the Black Sisters had their convent rebuilt. This convent is an important construction in two squares, separated by a large church.

The plans of the site were lost in Arras during the 1st World War, but the building appears on a map of the region dating from 1747 and one can see the reproduction of the cloister. The Black Sisters continue to care for the sick. They house boarders and teach children. In that time the Clergy were in charge of what today comes under the auspices of Public Health and National Education.

During the Revolution the convent was confiscated, and 25 nuns were forced to leave. Most of them were, however, from local families where they could find refuge. The lands owned by the convent were sold to local peasants. The buildings were acquired by the bourgeois, who largely destroyed them. Only part of the interior cloister remained.

Nothing remains of the great church of the Convent of the Black Nuns. Its stones were used for the construction of two outbuildings. Part of the original furniture of the Black nuns can be found in the present church of Vieil Hesdin. The organs are in the church of Marconelle. The alter is in the church of Forest-Moutier in the Somme.

Following the last Great War, when the Germans left the buildings in a very poor state, it was purchased in 1973 by the current owner, who started restoration work. However, during the night of February 20, 1920, a fire broke out due to an electrical fault. Its restoration is today in the hands of the Chief Architect of Historical Monuments.



Today one can see the roof having been refurnished identically with Trelaze slates. In the gardens there are old trees, one of which stands from the time before the Revolution. To the east the park is bounded by the trace of the old city ramparts, whose base, on an embankment is still visible along an alley of beech trees. The magnificent Chateau of the Ducs of Bourgogne is nothing more than a pile of rubble. Nothing remains of the vast park, except for the name of the commune 'Le Parcq' which keeps the memory of it. A recently planted medieval garden is open to the public.

Some remnants can be seen at the site of the old convent where this commemoration plaque of St. Collette can also be found.

<https://www.france-voyage.com/villes-villages/vieil-hesdin-24594.htm>



Embracing Technology

By Daphne Power

Covid, although a terrible pandemic, brought about big changes in technology, especially in the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy.

Before covid, I would attend chaplaincy meetings in Boulogne in our priest Kirrilee's house at Wimereux. While this was a fairly easy drive along the A16, it took one and half hours at my speed. From leaving the house, attending the meeting and driving back, I found the day was gone and I was very tired when I arrived home. Then covid struck and we were all very isolated until zoom was facilitated to bring us together for services and meetings.

Now, thanks to technology, I can 'down tools' in the garden a few minutes before the meeting and be chatting to members of the chaplaincy council in Calais and Boulogne.

Zoom services proved to be of great benefit by bringing people together at a time when we could not attend church, and past congregational members, who now live in the UK, were also able to join us for the services. It was a time of great isolation and loneliness, and Zoom became a lifeline to many. I now use Zoom and WhatsApp constantly to keep in touch with family members, and chat with the grandchildren. We can join in birthday celebrations with the family; even though we are in different countries and we are not missing out anymore.

But recently, technology was even more valuable after losing a dear friend Mick Dunn, who lived here



in France. Unfortunately, Mick became very ill and after much serious surgery in France, he eventually returned to UK, to be near his family.

Mick with his wife Suzi occasionally attended our church in Hesdin, and they were both very much involved in the social side of the Expat community; The First Tuesday Club and The Seven Valleys Club. They performed in both pantomimes every year and were always up for an occasion to get involved in the community. Sadly, news came of Micks death and Suzi kept us informed of the arrangements for his funeral.

Unfortunately, it was not possible for many people to attend his funeral, but then Suzi informed us it would be steamed live from Maidstone Crematorium. Lesley and Mark Childs, who were very close friends of Suzi and Mick, decided to overcome this difficulty by organising a small gathering in their home for those who wished to watch the funeral service together. Mark linked up the laptop to a very large television screen and we all sat there silently, just as if we were in Maidstone at the service. The reception was very clear, and it felt as if we were there in person.



After the service we raised a glass to celebrate the friendship and companionship we had experienced with Mick. He loved cake and Lesley made his favourite one (see pic). We shared lunch together and chatted about the good times we had with Mick and Suzi. Our sincere condolences go to Suzi and Micks family.

But we have technology to thank for allowing us to be present at his funeral.

Technology is not so bad after all; therefore, let's embrace it and not get left behind to appear as Luddites by our grandchildren.

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 post, and would like to know more about the duties of the church secretary, please contact Daphne before 19th March AGM, who has had a lot of experience in this role.

We continue to pray for Joyce and John as she continues her recuperation.

Special Recruitment - Deputy Safeguarding Officer

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*

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>

Sign up for Diocese in Europe eNews

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

A guide to the Church of England (Anglican) Religious festivals in the UK in 2023

Day	Date	Festival
Sunday	4 June	Trinity Sunday
Wednesday	1 Nov	All Saints' Day
Monday	25 Dec	Christmas Day