



The Chaplaincy Newsletter - October 2023

October Blessings to all our readers

WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES BEGIN TO FALL

A Poem - By Kathleen Higham



*When autumn leaves begin to fall, I think of Him most of all
Colours bursting with the sun, rays shine down on everyone.*

*There is a leafy autumn smell, I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground, touching down without a sound.*

*Animals scurry to and fro, instinctively the creatures know
Leaves scattered everywhere, beautifies a place once bare.*

*Rising up to the bluest sky, a tree looks down, it creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place, life will wait through winter's race.*

*When the leaves at last have shed, sturdy branches though not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight, tall and stately through the night.*

*When autumn leaves begin to fall, The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say, He is coming back someday.*

*Again, dressed in a formal gown, branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more, birds leap from her branch to soar.*

*Here I stand in wonder of this, a soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush, peace abounds in Christ for us*

*The seasons change, come and go, but this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall, I think of Him most of all.*

Many thanks to Penny Lomatschinsky, for sharing this lovely poem with us.

Our Forthcoming Services - October



Sunday 1st Oct at 11am - Estréelles Church. A Joint Eucharist service will be led by Rev. Teena Twelves. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic lunch and join together in the salle des fêtes afterwards.

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

3rd Sunday – 15th October 10.30am lay led by Marilyn Dossat

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

3rd Sunday – 15th October - 11am Harvest Festival Service

lay led by Pat Page

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

3rd Sunday – 15th October - 10.30am lay led

Please 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=ektZUy9RCgZ6dTdxjdBSMWE5K3V0QT09>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872685714?pwd=UIFNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz0>

Say That Again...

I have always been interested in 'Etymology'- the study of words; and the way in which their meaning has changed throughout history. The Bible has influenced many of the proverbs and idioms used in the modern English language and many sayings originate from Scripture. However, it must be noted that the context often varies from the intention of the original text. Here are some common sayings derived from The Bible accompanied by an explanation of their origin.

Apple of my eye

Definition: Something or someone cherished, usually above others.

Deuteronomy 32:10 (NIV) "In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye".

A man after my own heart

Definition: Admiration for someone who shares the same opinion or interests; a kindred spirit.

Acts 13:22 (NIV) "After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do."

By the skin of your teeth

Definition: Very narrow margin (i.e., time, efficiency or competency) of completion.

Job 19:20 (NIV) "I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."

I personally, think that it is such a shame that the use of these sayings in modern day language is seemingly dying out. Much wisdom can be found in these sentiments and they help to make conversation imaginative and interesting. To me they represent common sense that has passed from one generation to the next since time immemorial.

*So, my hope for traditional proverbs and sayings is, 'Long may they last!' **Martine Walters***

Calais lifeboats



'Society National de Sauvetage en Mer' (SNSM) is a charity close to our hearts, especially as some of us have sailing families. Mary Wood, from Calais congregation, and her husband, were keen sailors back in the day, and Mary tells a tale of a near miss experience when a hovercraft whooshed past them in thick fog.

My son Louis enjoys sailing; and loves all things seafaring. He was raised on a diet of Swallows and Amazons, Tim to the lighthouse and Tim to the rescue, books. He was himself rescued by the Calais crew.

One mis-adventurous day, when in his teens with one of my daughters on board, a broken rudder sent them drifting aimlessly in the waters.

The mayday went out and volunteers dropped what they were doing, jumped in their cars and headed for the lifeboat station; launched the

lifeboat, found them and towed them safely home.

I am very grateful to them all and Louis went on to become a volunteer himself.



The Calais boat is called 'Notre Dame de Risban' and she can roll around in the roughest of seas without capsizing. The crew are all volunteers and they recently welcomed their first female crew member, a fisherman's daughter. They all share one common mission, to save lives at sea; and that is what they do, 365 days a year, whatever the weather, regardless of the impact on their jobs, social lives and their families. They need to have very understanding and supportive families, because disaster doesn't care if you

are eating Christmas dinner when it strikes!

The crew often meet at their training headquarters for a Sunday 'apéro' where they discuss their successes and support each other, especially when, in spite of their best efforts, tragedy strikes and lives are lost. Camaraderie is essential for such work.

Unfortunately, they are being called out more and more often to rescue people; many without lifejackets, from overcrowded dinghies. These waters are the busiest shipping lanes in the world and the weather can change dramatically in a moment. The risk to life is tremendous.

We hear about the terrible tragedies when lives have been lost, but thankful that there are many hundreds more who have been rescued. Saved by extraordinarily brave, everyday people who care enough to give their time freely for the lives of others.

The Calais lifeboats has been one of the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy chosen charities for a number of years and we are proud to continue supporting this lifesaving organisation. **Katherine Currie**



Père Arlen, setting sail to bless the sea on Ascension Day in May. The tide was low and he had to climb down the ladder in his robes to board 'Notre Dame du Risban'. See photo...



Ahoy there!

My late wife and I often used to discuss different types of holidays. But when the subject turned to cruises, she would always say to me: "If I had to go on a cruise with you, I'd jump overboard before the first port of call!" This is because I had often complained that I could not see the point of sitting cooped up on a ship for two weeks with people I didn't know, never being able to get away and

do one's own thing, etc. So, when my friend George Murray, President of BACO (British Association of the Côte d'Opale), proposed a boat trip on the river Canche with a group of local Brits, I instinctively reached for my lifebelt.

But he prevailed; and on a blustery September afternoon we all duly turned up at the quay in Étaples. We then made our stately way in the Good Ship Baie de Canche up the estuary, scattering groups of kayakers, scullers, coxed fours, etc, in our wake. And; as this is the Pas-de-Calais, and our seats were at the exposed stern, when it started to rain heavily we all drew on that British Bulldog spirit, determined to enjoy the experience...



As the estuary widened – *it is apparently the largest of those of the*

7 Vallées – the tidal landscape opened up with sandbanks, mudflats and the distinctive varieties of salt-water vegetation. And of course, myriads of seabirds. Through my binoculars, they all appeared to be just seagulls: but my ornithological expert friend, Tom Treasure, told me there were also terns, gannets, kittiwakes, and a host of other avians. We also saw several families of basking seals frolicking in the shallows. Plus, superb views of Le Touquet from a completely different vantage point.

The whole trip takes just under an hour. I'd thoroughly recommend it as an opportunity to gain a unique perspective on this beautiful part of the world. Alas, the trip schedule finishes at end-September, but reopens next April. I vowed I could never go on an ocean cruise; but this trip was truly special and memorable. *Michael Spriggs*



BACO - British Association Côte d'Opale

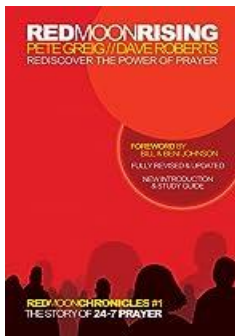
BACO was formed as a 1901 association in 2016 to support the British community reeling under the shock result of the Referendum. We did this by a series of informative newsletters and a series of cultural events including a memorable concert held in Calais in 2019 culminating in Beethoven's Ode to Joy. BACO maintains its cultural side and now also enjoys a partnership with the Château d'Hardelot 'Centre Culturel de l'Entente Cordiale' which has its 120th anniversary next year.

This year, BACO has held two successful Coronation events, plus a guided walk round the ramparts of Montreuil, and a cruise around the estuary of the river Canche. More events are planning for the autumn and into next year. Our monthly English Book Club sessions, held at present in the Calais Médiathèque, cover an eclectic selection of works and enjoy an enthusiastic attendance.

The association still works to inform and help British residents in the post-Brexit climate, helped by its membership of the British Community Committee in France www.britishinfrance.com We are growing. New ideas always welcome. See us on Facebook or email assobaco@gmail.com for further info.

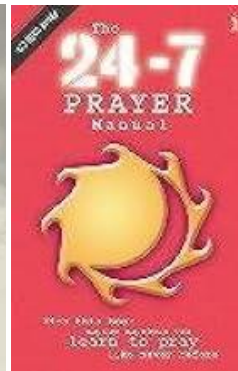
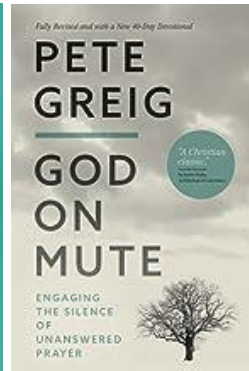
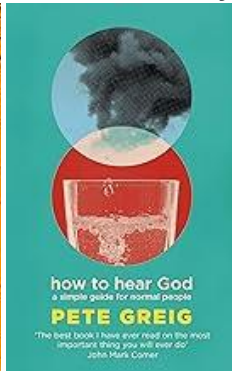
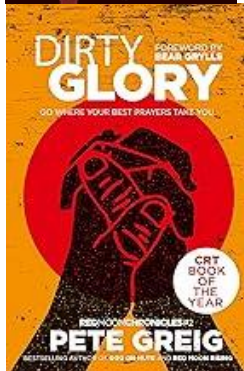
George Murray

This Month's Christian Author



Pete Greig is a pastor, award-winning author, and bewildered founder of the 24-7 Prayer movement. He's also a director of Waverley Abbey, and Senior Pastor for Emmaus Rd church. Pete hosts The Prayer Course, <https://prayercourse.org/> downloaded more than 3 million times, and Lectio365, a daily devotional used by millions of people, *myself included*. [mcd/ed](#)

Here are some of his books...



The Diocese of the Church of England in Europe – [thanks to Michael Spriggs for sharing](#)

On BBC Radio 4 on the 24th September, the Sunday Worship service featured the Church of England in Europe, with a sermon from our Bishop Robert Innes, in which he referred to the work being done in Calais, etc. Its extraordinary scope was outlined in the introduction: A service exploring the ministry and mission of the most geographically spread and varied diocese of the Church of England, the Diocese in Europe. From Morocco in the South to the Arctic Circle and from the Canary Islands in the West to Russia and Turkey in the East, the diocese encompasses an astonishing array of cultures and nationalities, united through common faith and in Anglican worship.

Sermon: Bishop Robert Innes

“The Diocese in Europe feels like one of the Church of England’s front lines. It is the diocese where we encounter the harsh reality of war. Our communities in the south of Europe face new arrivals from the global South. Our project worker in Calais works amongst refugees stranded on the French coast and caught between the French police and UK immigration rules. We are part of the Church of England, but in the countries we serve we are not the majority, established church as in England. Sometimes we have our own buildings, other times we borrow church buildings or meet in schools. We share with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that sense of being travellers, living in tents, being guests in a foreign land. Our diocesan strap-line is ‘walking together in faith’. The Christian life is a journey, from this world to the life of the world to come. As our Bible reading suggests, all Christians have a sense that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, travelling in faith towards a heavenly country. Members of our diocese are frequently on a physical journey too. Sometimes they are travelling on fixed term business contracts to an international centre. Sometimes they have come to a warmer European country to retire. And sometimes they have made dangerous and difficult journeys. Earlier this year I had the privilege of confirming a young man in France who told me how he had crossed the Mediterranean in a small boat which had capsized, how frightened he was and how he had very nearly drowned.

[Continued on next page](#)

For all our people, we try to provide a spiritual home. If you are away from friends and family this church community can be extremely important as a place to give and receive love and care, particularly when trouble, illness or bereavement strike. What's more we don't simply want to float in a detached way in the places where we have settled. We intend to belong and contribute. I recall a senior city council official in Leipzig saying to me, 'Your Anglican church is very important, because your people have learned how to live well in Eastern Germany, so they know how to help others do that too.' It is indeed a matter of being both guest and host.

One of the biggest issues our continent faces at present is the Ukraine war. We have churches in both Kyiv and Moscow, as well many of the neighbouring states, like Poland, Finland and Romania. In the face of immense suffering and danger, we do what we can. We have regularly brought our diocese together across Europe online to pray for Ukraine. We have raised large sums of money for aid. And many of our churches are involved in caring for refugees from Ukraine either individually or with social projects. You heard earlier about the community feeding project in my home city of Brussels.

As those often away from our maternal homes, operating with languages that are not our maternal tongue, we have a heightened sense of the spiritual journey. We are perhaps especially open to faith in God and to our need for God's leading and direction. We know our need of love from God and from our Christian brothers and sisters. And we live as those whose hope is in the city which is to come, the transformed earth where God truly dwells amongst us and there are no more tears.

Whatever your own circumstances, I warmly invite you to join us on that journey. Seek and draw near to God. Become more confident in Christian faith. Be thankful for those you love and who love you. And in what often feels a difficult and dangerous world, be a person of steadfast hope" **Bishop Robert Innes**

Some useful links:

The Prayer Circle prays for you 'in confidence' please email to: ourprayersr4u@mail.com and write 'Prayer Request' in the Subject line.

Please note: The prayer circle is always here to pray for you, your family or friends, but please remember to ask their permission before sending a prayer request. [mcd/ed](#)

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/ed*

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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