



The Chaplaincy Newsletter – September 2023

Welcome Back Everyone!

Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November; all the rest have thirty-one, excepting February alone, which has twenty-eight days clear, and twenty-nine in each leap year.



Shades of autumn – Michael Spriggs

September: I still remember that sinking feeling when, as a schoolboy in my teens, I realised that the seemingly endless summer holidays were coming rapidly to a close. That gloriously carefree time would soon give way to the harsh reality of the winter term's grind at school.

Somehow, September at that stage of one's life marked an annual transition even more pronounced

than the end of December. And, of course, there were all sorts of signs that a profound and major set of changes was taking place. Not just us schoolboys, but thousands of families were returning from all over Europe to their homes and to resume their jobs. Nature, of course, is equally busy making its annual adjustment at this time of year. We start to notice those subtle shifts during the day: the slanting sunlight, the sharper shadows, the chill in the evenings, the leaves on the turn. And as a bonus, of course, there are all sorts of luscious autumnal fruits in the hedgerows and orchards: blackberries, damsons, pears, plums.

Nature is telling us that we have to prepare for this bountiful shift to autumn. Throughout history, writers have used the images of these subtle changes as a metaphor for the advancing stages of our lives. But, continuing this analogy, we know that as the natural world closes in on us there is always the promise of that timeless renewal, and next spring. This has always been a powerful symbol of Christian renewal: that this time of year should be one of hope and promise.

As I headed miserably back to school all those years ago with the prospect of prep, tests, grim food, rugby on freezing pitches, detention, incurring the wrath of prefects, masters, matron... it was difficult then to start thinking of a brighter future. But then, there was always at the back one's mind the promise of something special to look forward to: next holidays and, eventually - Christmas!

The hedgerows beckon!



Dear readers, we hope you have had a wonderful summer break and look forward to sharing more of our stories and Chaplaincy news in the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter

Michael Spriggs

Our Forthcoming Services - September

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

1st Sunday – 3rd September – 10.30am Eucharist service led by Rev. Simon Walker

3rd Sunday – 17th September – 10.30am lay led by Marilyn Dossat

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

1st Sunday – 3rd September – 11am lay led by Pat Page

3rd Sunday – 17th September- 11am lay led by Pat Page

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

1st Sunday – 3rd September – 10.30am lay led

3rd Sunday – 17th September - 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=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=U1FNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz09>

Dates for your diary

Sunday 3rd September; Join Rev. Kirrilee Reid on BBC1 'Songs of Praise' at 13.15pm UK time.

Saturday 16th September, 15.00hrs - memorial service for Pierre Cecchin taken by the Lille

Chaplain: Debbie Flach. St Martin church, St Martin Boulogne.

Sunday 1st Oct at 11am, Estréelles Church. Joint Eucharist service led by Rev. Teena Twelves

followed by a 'bring and share' lunch. Please let your churchwarden or secretary know if you will be staying for lunch. Further details will follow...

Extracts taken from a letter dated 1 August 2023 from Bishop Robert

New Honorary Assistant Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to say that The Rt. Revd. Alison White has accepted my invitation to become an Honorary Assistant Bishop of the Diocese in Europe. During her ministerial career, Alison has been a parish priest, missionary, theological college tutor, adult education officer and adviser for spiritual direction, eventually being made Bishop of Hull in 2015. She was only the second woman to be made a bishop in the Church of England.

This is the first time that the Diocese in Europe has appointed a woman bishop in any capacity. It is therefore something of a historic moment, which symbolises our commitment to the ministry of women at every level.

Yours in Christ

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

The full letter is attached as a word document to your email

Pierre Cecchin 1936 – 2023

I wish to thank the many Chaplaincy members who kindly sent to my family and myself messages of condolences on the death of Pierre, late June.

During his short illness, although bedridden we celebrated his 87th birthday with an unexpected surprise party. He was delighted to receive so many birthday cards, especially the pictures of windmills.

We also celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary, reviving memories of a happy sunny day with family and friends.

Visits and chats with Jean-Marc, Remi and Jean-Marie lifted his spirits.
And a big thank you to Liz who popped in, giving both Pierre and myself the reassurance of someone in the house while I kept medical appointments.

**For family and friends,
We will be holding a memorial service taken by the Lille Chaplain: Debbie Flach.**

**Saturday 16th September, 15.00 hrs
At St Martin church, St Martin Boulogne
Tea and cake in the parish hall afterwards.**

Pauline Cecchin

Photo of Pierre standing outside our house, decorated for the Grande Procession

The Grande Procession is an annual event. The statue of Mary leaves the Cathedral 15th August and visits churches in the area for Mass. This year the statue will return on the deck of a fishing boat 20h30 26th August. There will be a candle lit procession to St Nicholas church in the town centre where the Bishop of Arras will say mass.

On Sunday the Grande Procession sets off at 15h30 from the town up the hill to the old town for Mass at the Cathedral. Years ago, all the old town was hung with fishing nets, nowadays sad to say only a few houses keep the tradition alive. Our neighbour's son gets the nets out of their courtyard store and kindly puts them up.

Our job is to remember to buy flowers at Boulogne town market on Saturday.



The reason for the day was to give thanks for the safe return of the fishermen from cod fishing. Years ago, the men went to sea for months bringing back, if all went well, enough cash for the families to live on over winter. It's a lot different today, cod comes to Boulogne in metal containers.

Pauline Cecchin 17.08.2023

A walk and a picnic at the beautiful Chateau Long – Tuesday 29th August



Hesdin congregation members met up with the walking group to enjoy a scenic walk around the beautiful lock of the Somme in Long.

We visited the hydro-electric station and crossed the fast-flowing weirs. Then on to the magnificent walk by the Somme admiring the sloping gardens of the Chateau as we went along.

Later, we were joined by the non-walkers and shared a delicious selection of picnic food, drink and cake. It was Annie's grandson Maël's birthday (*his name: from an old Celtic word meaning little prince*). He was certainly made 'prince for the day' when surprised with an enormous birthday cake, made by Clare, a member of the walking group.

We then proceeded to visit the gardens of the Chateau, and its magnificently preserved Colombier (*Dove Cote*); followed by a stroll through the glass houses to admire an array of various colourful plants and flowers. Some people stayed later to walk by the lakes in the Chateau grounds.

A much appreciated thanks to those who attended and those who organised the day out.

We were blessed with a wonderful day, and not a drop of rain!

Daphne Power



A commandment to inspire you to rest and smile...



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.

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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