



The Chaplaincy Newsletter – December 2023



Advent Blessings to all our readers

Our December Services

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

3rd Dec 10.30 Advent Service - Lay led by Daphne Power

17th Dec - 17.00 – Joint Carol Service in Notre Dame Catholic church (see flyer page 2-3)

24 December - 17.00 - Christmas Eve Service - Lay led by David Sergeant

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

3rd Dec 11.00 – Advent Service - Lay led by Pat Page

17th Dec - 11.00 - joint service of 9 lessons and Carols in Boulogne

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

3rd Dec - 10.30 – Advent Lay led Service

17th Dec - 11.00 – joint service of 9 lessons and Carols in Boulogne

24&25 Dec – TBA - Calais will join with Boulogne

No services on the 31st Dec

Please check with 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=UIFNURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz0>

Image by Freepik

Christmas Carol Service

**Sunday 17th December 2023
at 5pm.**

à l'église Catholic Notre-Dame d'Hesdin



**You are invited to join in the celebration of Christmas, and
the joining together of the Catholic and Anglican churches in
this celebration.**

“Accompanied with the Choir of the de la Coecilia”.



**The service will be followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
In the Salle Paroissiale, Rue de Arsenal, Hesdin**

Veillée de Noel

**Eglise Catholique Notre-Dame d'Hesdin
Dimanche 17 décembre 2023 @17.00h**



**Vous êtes invités à venir nous rejoindre dans notre
Célébration de Noël catholique et anglicane**

“Avec, de chorale de la Coecilia”.



**Suivi de vin chaud et de « Mince Pies à la salle
paroissiale, Rue de Arsenal, Hesdin**

The Solidarité Association is organising
'A Christmas Market'

Pernes-lès Boulogne, Saturday, December 2nd from 10am - 5pm.

Mulled wine, Christmas cakes, jams and marmalades, crafts, books, Christmas cards and crackers will be on sale. If you can help run a stall for an hour or two, or contribute in any way, please contact Linda (linda.pilliere@free.fr).

All proceeds will go to the three charities that we are supporting this year.



Christmas Market

Pernes-lès-Boulogne

Crafts, cakes, jams, marmalade
Christmas cards, crackers, English books, mulled wine
and Father Christmas himself!

**Saturday December 2nd at the salle communale
10 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

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For further information, contact 06 51 73 06 07 IPNS

Safeguarding

National church has launched an updated version of their safer recruitment policy. This has brought us into line with other organisations in that Safeguarding checks now require refreshing every three years rather than every five years. All previous checks due to expire in 2025 on the original five years policy will need to be updated by the end of this year, 2023.

At present this involves the Safeguarding Officer and Church Wardens.

All members of the Chaplaincy Council will have to submit an updated CDF (Confidential Declaration Form) to the Safeguarding Officer every three years.

The same regulation also includes Congregational Worship Leaders.

Daphne Power, Safeguarding Officer.

Season's Greetings from George



After a three-year absence in South-West France, George Murray has returned to the Pas-de-Calais - *this time for keeps*. Before he left, George was churchwarden for Boulogne for four years, when there was no resident priest, and we relied on a succession of visiting clergy who were always pleased to spend a weekend in France.

For a period of time, he was also Chaplaincy Secretary. George sends greetings to his friends in and out with the chaplaincy and looks forward to meeting you all again. *mcd/ed*

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 in 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>

Sign up for Diocese in Europe eNews

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

Gillian Lewis writes: Our daughter Rachel was asked to talk about her time in Afghanistan.

On Remembrance Sunday 2023

Rachel shares her story – ‘make me a channel of your peace’

“In October 2009 I did a military tour in Afghanistan. I am a civilian but was seconded from the NHS as an intensive care nurse to help deliver trauma care to those injured in the war. I was based at Camp Bastion in a British military hospital. During the fourteen weeks I was there I cared for coalition forces, British, Danes, Americans, Afghan national army, civilians, children and the Taliban. As someone from a major trauma centre I’d seen a lot of injuries in my career, but war is different. It is horrific, and scary and the suffering so far reaching. I’m not going to tell you all the horrors that I saw. You all know war is devastating, you’ve seen it on the news and may have experienced it first-hand.

I want to share with you some of the things I remember, and how in remembering them, I see all the ways God was with me. Firstly, I did not feel brave, I wouldn’t have been there without God. The night before I left, I was petrified. I was having physical panic attacks, couldn’t breathe fearing I’d be too scared to get on the plane and let everyone down. My boyfriend, now my husband, prayed over me, and said “You are his family, and he always takes care of his family”. Those were the words that got me on that plane and stayed with me the night we flew into Bastion as I watched the explosions from our Chinook. I suppose in knowing who your Saviour is, you can face anything. The main injuries I saw were caused by improvised exploding bombs found on roadsides. The most common was loss of limb, and the average age of my patients was 22. The same age as the fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain - it was tragic and futile and felt as if we’d been here before and learnt nothing. But God was there. He was at work right in the middle of the suffering. I met a soldier who’d survived a blast and while strapping a tourniquet on his leg, he told me that his best friend had recited the Lord’s prayer to keep him conscious whilst they waited for the helicopter. We know the hope and comforter he was pointing to. While I was there, I kept hearing in my head, a hymn from my childhood, “make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me bring your love, where there is injury, your pardon lord”, This sustained me, knowing this was what I was there to do. I looked after a young Taliban boy, who was so scared - as I tried to feed him, and give him medication to stop him from hurting, his quizzical look, why are you helping me? You are the enemy! Then the relief in his eyes when he realised, he was safe. Love really does conquer hatred - when we follow Jesus’s command to love our enemies

I remember the children - trusting and brave, and how after eight weeks of no physical comfort, not a single comforting hand from my colleagues, a wounded little girl placed her chubby hands around my neck, and fell asleep in my arms. It filled me up. I know that was God giving me a cuddle. In short it was all a bit rubbish out there, none of the camaraderie I’d been expecting, growing up watching MASH, but it was Christmas time and the Padre had a great idea to set up a hospital choir to sing carols around the base. We met twice a week and it brought us so much joy, lifting us from our everyday burden and pointing to the hope that we all needed. Celebrating Jesus’ birth here in the desert. So today we remember those who suffered in all wars and every human conflict, and that as Christians, we know that God is right there in the middle - feeling the pain with us, but offering the hope that this worldly life is not the end. We believe we will be with our God, who knows and loves us, and all our pain will disappear” ***Rachel West***



Rachel with her dad Gael, at the Annual Dinner for the Worshipful Company of Nurses.

Quiz - with a local French flavour

Prizes – with a French flavour - will be offered to the senders of the first three sets of 30 correct answers received by the compiler: mjspriggs@mail.com

1. What is the name of the creamy French soup based on a strained broth of shellfish, derived from the name of the body of water between Spain and France?
2. Which cyclist, nicknamed *Le Blaireau* (The Badger), was the last Frenchman to win the Tour de France?
3. The village of Beaurainville is referred to in which internationally famous mediaeval work?
4. The Column of the *Grande Armée* in honour of Napoleon is located in which town?
5. Produced and sold in France by Heineken France is an Irish red beer with what man's name in the brand's title?
6. Montreuil-sur-Mer is associated with which famous 19th century French novelist?
7. France's largest mining museum is located in which town in the Hauts de France?
8. Which historical figure is commemorated with the most statues in France?
9. What kind of food item is the *churro* – sold in many places in Le Touquet?
10. Who put the question: "*How would you like to govern a country with 246 different kinds of cheese?*"
11. What is the English equivalent of *Poisson d'Avril*?
12. If you ordered a couple of *stères* what would you be buying?
13. From which French hamlet did Louis Bleriot take off for the first successful flight across the Channel?
14. What French speciality is traditionally prepared on the feast of *La Chandeleur*?
15. Where might you meet *Marie Gruette*?
16. Though invented in England, Meccano for decades was manufactured in which French city?

continued on next page...

Quiz - with a local French flavour

17. Ian Fleming's first Bond novel, Casino Royale was inspired by the author's association with which French resort?
18. Which French woman is associated with the creation of the Remembrance Poppy Day?
19. If you were offered *une t'chiote bistoule*, what would you do with it?
20. Who is the only English soldier commemorated with a statue in France?
21. The Calais lace making industry was established in the 19th century by migrant workers from which English city?
22. The creator of the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil also designed a celebrated statue in the Pas de Calais. Which character is represented?
23. What was the name of the Viking city in the Pas de Calais, rivalling York in importance, which mysteriously disappeared in the 10th century?
24. What creatures might you see if you went down the *Chemin aux Raisins* in Berck?
25. Which French Formula 1 racing driver has won 51 Grand Prix titles?
26. Novelist Charles Dickens stayed with his English mistress in which local French seaside resort?
27. Which sport was contested for the first and only time in the Paris 1900 Olympic Games?
28. Which French city remained a British possession until the late 16th century?
29. The royal coat of arms of which country which occupied the Pas de Calais in the 17th century is depicted on the town hall in Hesdin?
30. Which is the longest of the rivers that make up the 7 *Vallées*?

Answers will be published in the January 2024 Issue of the Newsletter

A Christmas Quiz – from Graham Hughes

1. Which world leader celebrates their birthday on Christmas Day?
2. When do the 12 Days of Christmas start?
3. Which country annually sends a Christmas tree to be erected in London's Trafalgar Square?
4. Which UK monarch delivered the first Royal Christmas Day message?
5. Which country is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition?
6. Which Ocean can Christmas Island be found in?
7. What is your star sign if you are born on Christmas Day?
8. What gifts did The Three Wise Men give Jesus on his birthday?
9. Which plant-based Christmas tradition was started by servants in Victorian Britain?
10. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol?
11. How many lessons and carols are celebrated?
12. How many reindeer does Santa need – and what are they called|?
13. What play did Shakespeare give to Queen Elizabeth as a Christmas present?
14. What momentous event occurred on Dec 25 1066
15. Where did the famous World War 1 football match on Christmas day take place?
16. What electronic device might a black American terrorist give his son Roentgen as a Christmas present
17. How many gifts in total were given in the 12 Days of Christmas?
18. Which carol was sung by British and German soldiers in the trenches during the 1914 Christmas truce?
19. Which Christmas carol tells the story of a Duke of Bohemia (now modern-day Czech Republic)?
20. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
21. Which ruler allegedly banned mince pies in Britain in the 1600s?
22. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?

Answers will be published in the January 2024 Issue of the Newsletter

A Message to all our readers and contributors



The Chaplaincy Newsletter