



## The Chaplaincy Newsletter – May 2024

### *Blessings to all our readers*

“♪ Now is the Month of May, Fa-la-la ... ♪”



*Blackthorn blossom: Contes hedgerow*

At last - the grey blanket of winter is lifting, and May is bursting forth in blossom. And what do our thoughts turn to? Getting on with the garden? Planning outings? A bit of home decoration?

No – it heralds the start of the Brocante Season!

When I first came to the Pas de Calais, I had never been to one of these events; their English equivalent, the car boot sale, had seemed altogether a bit dodgy to me. But, from the outset, I became aware of how firmly established these events are in every town and village calendar. I now appreciate that the brocante provides not just an opportunity for us

locals to sell on unwanted household items, but is also a vital annual social ritual. There is always a refreshments tent, manned by local stalwarts, serving endless portions of chips, sausages, baguettes; and of course, a bar...sometimes with extra animation: live musical accompaniment.

Over the years, I am getting the impression that in the 7 Vallées there is an endless recycling process going on; that everyone's 'no-longer-required' are being circulated among the same collection of stalls, year after year. But occasionally one comes across real treasures and terrific bargains. Some events stand out in the memory. In my village, there was the 'The Great Brawl of 2009' – still talked about! Late that afternoon, one determined bar client (not a local) was firmly refused any more to drink. This led to a contretemps which rapidly spread, re-igniting ancient village feuds and eventually turning into a full-on battle. It was finally resolved by the appearance of the local gendarmerie and sapeurs-pompiers. One has to understand the complexities of the local manner of conducting transactions on these occasions.

One year, I spied a couple of porcelain doorknobs which I thought would perfectly match those on the doors at home. I asked the stallholder, my neighbour, how much? "Five euros" he said. "Five euros!" I exclaimed. "I'll take them off you for a euro". "Hmm, three then!" he replied; we settled for two euros. I took them home, showed them to my wife who paused, then said: "You realise

those are the two doorknobs you gave him in that clear-out a couple of years ago!" The Brocante remains firmly embedded in local culture. I look forward to a summer of wandering past endless displays of old farm implements, plastic toys, kitchenware, tools, car parts ... and so on. Bumping into old friends; then adjourning for a baguette and a cool beer or two. Aren't we fortunate here in this part of France?

Now for a cool beer! *Michael Spriggs, Hesdin*



*Just the thing for my granddaughter!*

For info, here's the link to the guide for this year's local [Vide-greniers et brocante Pas-de-Calais \(62\) - Calendrier des brocantes \(calendrier-des-brocantes.com\)\]](https://www.calendrier-des-brocantes.com/)

## Our May Services

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

5th May - 10.30 - Lay led Service - Led by Marilyn Dossat

19th May - 10.30 - Lay led Service - Led by David Sergeant

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

5th May - 11.00 - Lay led Service - Pat Page

19th May - 11.00 - Lay led Service - Pat Page

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

5th May - 10.30 - Lay led Service

19th May - 10.30 - Lay led Service

Please check with the church warden and the chaplaincy website for amendments to services  
<https://anglicanspdc.org>

ZOOM services every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 10.30am- link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81308857876?pwd=ektZUy9RcGZ6dTdxjdjBSMWE5K3V0QT09>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872685714?pwd=U1FNVURPb2NWL2UxUXpkc09ZR2wydz0>

### **It's May already!**

We are so thankful for all the wonderful services we had at Christmas and Easter, and now it feels like getting back into the old routine. But the future of our churches is paramount and there is so much we can do with God's grace and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to welcoming visitors to the area and our second home owners this Summer and of course a big thank you to our own faithful brothers and sisters who do so much to keep us up and running through thick and thin. *ed*

### **Safeguarding: We all owe a 'Duty of Care' to those in our communities**

Therefore, any Safeguarding concerns should be reported directly to the safeguarding Officer and any report will be acted on and advice sought, in the interest of the vulnerable in our community. Please be assured that all reporting is kept confidential. *Daphne Power, Safeguarding Officer*

### **Amendment:**

An error occurred in the Maundy Thursday article in April's issue.

We said many thanks to Linda and Jean-Paul Pillière for hosting the occasion, when we should have said Jean-Marc.

Our sincere apologies go to Jean-Marc and Linda for our mistake. *ed*

**Past Event: Notre Dame de Lorette, Ablain St Nazaire - Sat the 13th April.**



Basilique Notre-Dame de Lorette

**A ceremony to lay up the existing Royal British Legion Standard and to dedicate a new one in the chapel. The ceremony was at the centre of a mass in honour of St George.**  
An invitation was kindly extended to members of the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy and its newsletter readers by John Knight, Chairman of the Nord/Pas de Calais Branch 3415, Charity Number 219279.

We arrived early on this beautiful sunny morning, giving us time to take in the Basilique which stands majestically in a quiet field surrounded by white crosses, marking the resting place of uncountable young soldiers.



We heard the sound of bagpipes and saw the band getting ready to parade into the chapel, so we made our way to the entrance. Roderick and Gillie were already inside and Tom and Daphne arrived shortly after us.

We were warmly greeted by Jennie, John Knight's wife, and shown to our seats on the right-hand side of the chapel, not too far from the front. The beauty of the chapel with the enormous mural of Christ looking down on us took my breath away. The procession arrived, the standard bearer, the chaplains, the band, the pipers the list goes on - *please see the photos.*

Souvenir booklets in French and English of the Mass; in Honour of St George, patron Saint of England and the Cavalry Corps, were on the seats waiting for us. The wonderful service was led by Chaplain Gilles Lherbier (in Red), who seemed to smile through the entire mass. Emmanuel Delpierre (in black) led the congregation with the chant, Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. His beautiful voice echoed 'heavenly' with the acoustics of the chapel.

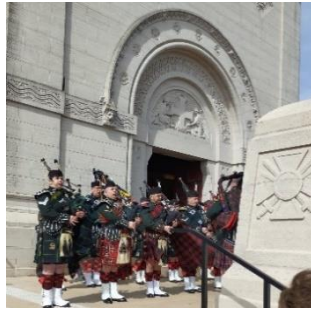


After the readings, came the National Anthem and the laying up of the old Standard. Then the Dedication/Blessing of the New Standard. The bugler sounded the Last Post; the chaplain recited the poem 'They shall not grow old ...We will remember them'. Then the bugler sounded the reveille. During the offertory hymn the band play the most moving rendition of Abide with me, which always brings tears to my eyes. The communion prayers were said and during the preparation of the bread and wine Chaplain Emmanuel Delpierre led the people in singing Agnus Dei - *Lamb of God...which blew me away.* Then the priest invited the congregation to take communion - and gave blessings - for those who were not of the Catholic faith. After that the band played Amazing Grace – Which like its title was amazing – I thought I could hear planes going over mingled with the music – it was so moving. Then came the dismissal and the blessing. The priest then venerated the altar with a kiss, as he did at the beginning, and after making a profound bow with the other ministers, he withdrew. The procession followed while the band played 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. When everyone had filed out of the Chapel the Pipers gathered on the steps to delight us by playing Scotland the Brave, keep the home fires burning and many other well know songs related to the 1914-18 War.

**I wrote to John & Jennie Knight to say thank you for inviting us to the service and to ask a for a few details for the newsletter. Jennie graciously replied...**

*Thank you for your email. We're so glad you enjoyed the ceremony, especially when you had travelled a distance for it. I must admit we were very pleased with the way things went. Our two chaplains, who organised the ceremony did a terrific job. We feel so honoured that we were able to lay up our Standard in the Basilica. Both chaplains are members of our branch. Gilles Lherbier (in red with beard) and Emmanuel Delpierre (in black with the beautiful voice) are both military chaplains. Our standard bearer Gonzague Carpentier is with the Gendarmerie based at the Provost Marshall's office. All three are with the NATO Rapid Reaction Corps based at Lille. We were very lucky to have the three of them. They are constantly being posted away.*





<https://association-du-monument-de-notre-dame-de-lorette.e-monsite.com/pages/la-basilique-notre-dame-de-lorette.html>



### The Black Circle

Just a few steps from the Basilique there's a tunnel which leads into a grassed circle, lined with walls and walls of the names of Soldiers who fell between 1914-1918 in the North of France. Five hundred and eighty thousand in alphabetical order without distinction of rank or nationality: former friends and enemies' side by side. I was told that some call it the Black Circle.

A list of two hundred and ninety-four thousand from the British Empire buried in the North was provided by the CWGC, they were English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Australian, New Zealanders, South African and Indian. I actually found some soldiers with the same surname as my dad, about six Catchpoles. I don't know if they are related to us but I might look on Ancestry. Yves has a very unusual French surname in these parts, but he did find one Dossat. When we first moved here from Clermont- Ferrand we found out that we were the only Dossat and Catchpole living in the Pas de Calais. *Marilyn Catchpole-Dossat*



A Date for your Diary

# EXPOSITION

**28 MAI - 9 JUIN**

**10h30-12h30 et 14h-19h**

HOYNG PRÉSENTE EN 2<sup>ME</sup> ÉDITION

**Anne  
Cotrel**  
Mixed  
Media

**Pascal  
Butstraen**  
Installation



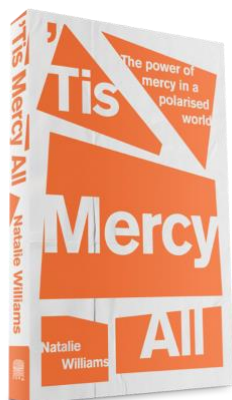
**Peter  
Wyart**  
Artiste  
peintre

**Femke  
Hoyng**  
Photographie  
Céramique

**OFFICE DE TOURISME**  
**de Montreuil-sur-Mer Côte d'Opale**  
**11-13, rue Pierre Ledent Montreuil-sur-Mer**

## ART & FAITH

## The Big Church Read...



We are delighted to let you know that we've partnered with Natalie Williams to bring you a Big Church Read through her new book 'Tis Mercy All!

Through four sessions journey with Natalie as she encourages us to develop a deep appreciation for the mercy of God, which is more astonishing than we dare to believe! As we come to understand His mercy, it will transform the way we see God, ourselves, and the world around us. We will be drawn closer to Jesus and, as a result, we will reflect His mercy to a world that desperately needs it.

**RRP £11.99 OUR PRICE £9.99**

**Releasing 20th June 2024 --- Pre-Order Now**

**Our mailing address is:**

The Big Church Read  
St Andrews Bookshop  
Great Missenden  
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP160AA  
United Kingdom

### Some useful links:

The Prayer Circle prays for you 'in confidence' please email to: [ourprayers4u@mail.com](mailto:ourprayers4u@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](mailto: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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