



Religious Association of the Anglican Church of Pas-de-Calais

The Chaplaincy Newsletter DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT Blessings to all our readers... as we wait for the Lord

Advent, (from Latin *adventus*, “coming”).

In the Christian church calendar, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. In Western churches, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30.

Our Advent Services



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

Sunday 1st Dec – 10.30 – lay led Service by Daphne Power

Sunday 15th Dec – 15.00 hrs – Carol Service - See flyer page 5

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

Sunday 1st Dec joining with Boulogne

Sunday 15th Dec – 11.00 – lay led Service by Pat Page

Wednesday 18th Dec – 18.30hrs – see flyer for details page 6

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

Sunday 1st Dec 11.00 – lay led service

Joining with Calais for 15th and 18th December services

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

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE NO ZOOM SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

A Church Near You Website - A very useful website for finding us and other church services either locally, if you are away from home, or even on holiday. www.achurchnearyou.com

British in France Directory – you can also find us in the British in France official directory of member organisations. www.britishinfrance.com

Safeguarding Sunday; Eucharist Service 19th November 2024

Hesdin's Safeguarding Sunday Service was led by Fr. Simon Walker; who spoke in his sermon about the importance of Safeguarding.

At the end of the service Daphne Power, the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer, reiterated his words, reminding the congregation that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone; and that we all owe a duty of care to one another.

Daphne concluded the service with a prayer for all those who have been hurt and ignored in their attempts to draw attention to their suffering at the hands of others.

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**

Click on the link below to can access the safeguarding policy

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-policy-guidance>

A zoom service was held on 29th November; 275 people attended to welcome Canon Rev'd Norman as our new Suffragan Bishop in Europe



It was announced on the morning of the 29th Nov 2024 from [Downing Street](#) that the Revd Canon Andrew Norman, currently Director of Ministry and Mission for the Diocese of Leeds will be the next Suffragan Bishop in Europe. He succeeds Bishop David Hamid who retired in February.

Watch a conversation between Andrew

and Bishop Robert to find more about his background, experience and hopes for the future.:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/announcement-new-suffragan-bishop-europe>

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Rev'd Canon Debbie Flachs Retirement Service 24/11/24

Christ Church Lille said goodbye to their Chaplain for the last seventeen years, the Reverend Canon Debbie Flach.

Pauline Cecchin, churchwarden in Boulogne, who attended the service, said that before going on for ordination Debbie spoke at a synod during the 1990s on what women priests could bring to the Anglican Church.

Pauline knew Debbie from when she lived in Lille and attended Christ Church with her late husband Pierre before they moved to Boulogne in 2014.

Pauline said the church was packed to standing room only...



Debbie has served all her ordained ministry in the Diocese in Europe. She was ordained deacon in 1994 at St Peter's Chantilly and was priested in 1997 at Holy Trinity, Maisons-Laffitte. She has been Chaplain at Christ Church, Lille since 2007 and appointed as a Canon of Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral in Brussels in 2007.

She has served in many representative roles including all levels of Synod since her ordination in 1994. She was involved in the Strategic Review led by Bishop David. Debbie's appointment as Dean of Women's Ministry is the latest among several 'firsts' for women in her clergy career. She has been Area Director of Ordinands for France and Monaco as well as Reader Selector, a member of the French Anglican Roman Catholic Commission, Chair of the House of Clergy, and is an Area Dean in France. Debbie has also served on Bishop's Council.

Debbie was Area Dean in the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy before handing over to the Reverend Charlotte Sullivan.

On behalf of our three churches, Calais, Boulogne and Hesdin, the Chaplaincy newsletter would like to say a very big 'thank you Debbie', for all that you have done to help us in the past and to wish you a long and very happy retirement. *mcd/ed*

Christmas is coming!



Traditional Thanksgiving Celebrations

It's that time of year again! The next few weeks are marked by a variety of celebration dates in the build-up to the supreme festival of Christmas. In fact, in this part of France, the first signs of the festive season were spotted as early as September with displays of Christmas decorations in a local supermarket!

In November, the last Thursday is traditionally celebrated in the USA as Thanksgiving – an

opportunity for family get-togethers around a dinner of turkey, pumpkin pie, etc.

As so often with major national celebrations, the origin of Thanksgiving is not clear. It possibly arose as a commemoration of the early Pilgrim Fathers' ability to survive in the New World. But today it is taken more as an occasion to celebrate the harvest and other blessings of the year.

It is celebrated not just in the USA but also faithfully in Canada and several other European countries.

And now, even in the UK, where it is celebrated – by some! – as an occasion for a get-together with friends to give thanks for good family fortune.

It doesn't end there. In recent years we have been invited to record the day after as "Black Friday".

What started in the US as a key retail opportunity is now catching on in UK, and even in France. I had vaguely thought this was something to do with the abolition of American slavery. But no – it proves to be an enormous discount marketing opportunity, marking the start of the commercial run-up to Christmas.

Clearly not everyone is in favour of this additional calendar event: a recent editorial in *La Voix du Nord* slammed the intrusion of "Le Black Friday"; citing three reasons "de le blacklister" – arguing that it added to global warming; was unfair to small shops unable to match big supermarket discounts; and often offered misleading price reductions. But if that were not enough, the first weekday after Black Friday apparently is now designated "Cyber Monday", an event created by retailers to encourage pre-Christmas on-line shopping.

The importance of all this is obvious: in this frantic run-up to Christmas, many retailers do almost as much business as in the rest of the year combined.



Sankt Nikolas and his Dutch helper

But now, while on the black (Friday) theme, my several Dutch friends in our area tell me they are now preparing for another very special event: Sinterklaas, on the 6th December. The name is a corruption of that of Sankt Nikolas, or Saint Nicholas, from whom we derive the name of our friend Santa Claus.

So, it all links up. Sinterklaas traditionally is assisted by Zwarte Piet (Black Pete) who parades the streets with his blacked-up face, giving out sweets and presents to children.

So, there it is, this is what happens to our world in the run-up to Christmas. And if you are appalled at this relentless commercialisation of our major Christian festivals, remember, we can always ignore it all and celebrate how we wish! **Michael Spriggs**



The Royal British Legion Nord/Pas de Calais Branc AGM

Saturday 16th November – Ablain St Nazaire.



John & Joyce Bosworth in the forefront

The RBL, Nord Pas de Calais Branch AGM, was very well attended, with twenty - one people present. A terrific turn-out considering we have only thirty-three members, with nine who live in the UK. The meeting was carried out in both English and French owing to a large percentage of French members.

The Chairman and Secretary reported on a 'good year' and this was followed by the presentation of the accounts...*great news – we're still solvent!*

The meeting was followed by a short, but moving service, at the Notre Dame de Lorette Chapel, Nécropole Nationale in Ablain. What a lovely setting and Chapel! Impossible not to be moved by its presence.

We then adjourned for lunch at a lovely local restaurant.

John Bosworth



photos © Daphne Power



The Act of Remembrance Boulogne/Calais congregations - 10th November, at 11h.



The chosen readings and poems were a reflection on the conflicts since 1914.

Jean and Graham Hughes visited the Normandy beaches during the 80th D-Day anniversary. It was therefore fitting to include a memory about Frank, a young man, who sadly did not return home.



Without deliberate directive, chosen readings gave witness to the vital roll their actions in the Netherlands played towards the outcome.

Jean Karszen read a moving testament about her Dutch father– in-law. The Poppy Wreath, with the permission of the Priest in charge at the Cathedral, will replace the old one under the 1914/18 Memorial, in memory of those who paid the Ultimate Sacrifice. **Pauline Cecchin**

Photos © Tanya Collins

Think before you print

Un Célébration de Noël - catholique et anglicane

Eglise Catholique Notre-Dame d'Hesdin

Dimanche 15 décembre 2024 @15.00h

"Avec la chorale La Coecilla"



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

Followed by mulled wine and Mince Pies, hosted by Hesdin Anglican church

The Anglican Church in Pas de Calais

Invite tout le monde à chanter Noël ensemble

Christmas Carols

Suivi par les traditionnels Mince Pies anglais et des boissons chaudes



Mercredi 18 décembre 2024 à 18h30

Eglise Notre Dame de la Salette, Blériot plage

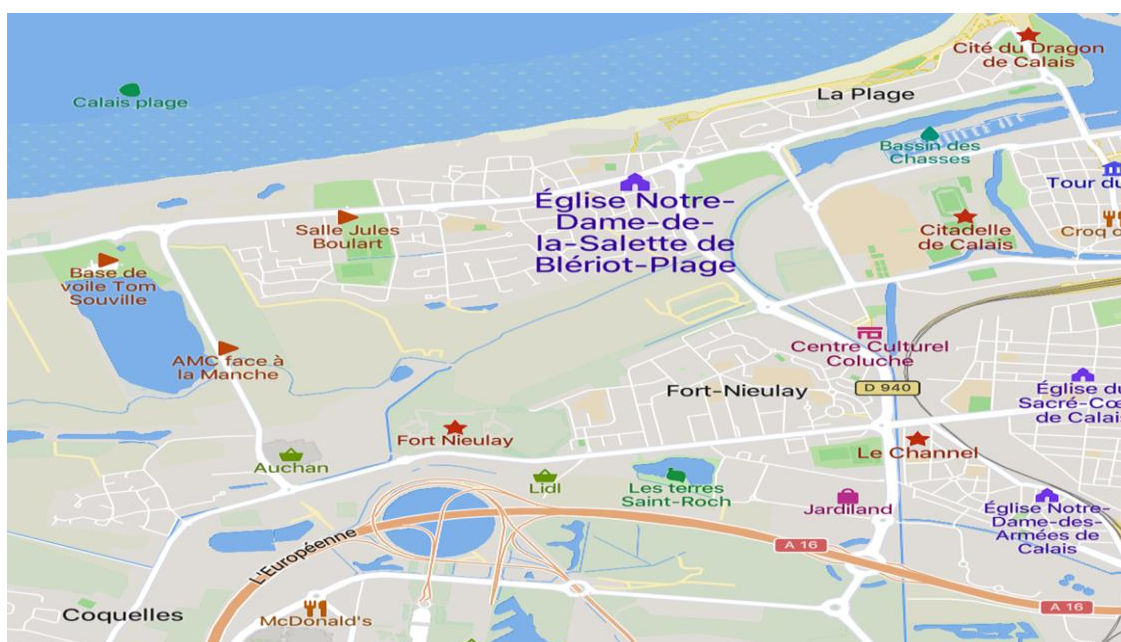
Entrée gratuite

Une collecte sera faite au bénéfice de

SNSM : Société Nationale des Sauveteurs en Mer

L'Arche les 3 fontaines : Accompagnement de personnes en situation de handicap

FAIC : Foyer d'accueil international et de culture



Dear British Community Committee Members,



We are delighted to be able to invite you to our very first Christmas Party in a very long time, which will be held at member organisation, the Collège Franco-Britannique (Cité Universitaire), on Monday 16th December from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In the 1960s, the then British Colony Committee organised year-end bashes at the Grand Hotel Opéra and the Salle Hoche, where we held the Coronation Party last year. The first Christmas party took place as far back as 1952 and we are determined to revive the tradition this year to give the British in France an opportunity to come together at Christmas time.

On the night, there will be award-winning champagne by Taisne Riocour, and fine food and drink by British in France member organisation, the Fondation Franco-Britannique de Sillery. The highlight of the evening will be three sets by stars of the music scene: Karen Vourc'h, leading soprano, Marie Modiano & Peter von Poehl, rising folk duo, and the well-known Canadian rocker, Kim Bingham.

The party is for all members of the Community, and we hope that as many member organisations as possible will be represented so please pass this invitation on to your members.

Due to venue size, bear in mind that we can only put up 150 tickets for sale at the subsidised price of just 50€ and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please follow the Weezevents link to secure your ticket, specifying your association.

[British Community Christmas Party & Concert my.weezevent.com](https://my.weezevent.com)

We do hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be an extraordinary evening, the first of many British Community Committee Christmas parties to come...


With our best wishes for the festive season,
Andrew



Andrew Simpkin
Chairman, British in France - British Community Committee
<https://www.britishinfrance.com>

Think before you print

The Big Church Read

Our sister site St Andrews Bookshop has launched it's **Orange Friday Sale!**
Dive into a collection of over **300 fantastic books**, starting from just **£1.00**. Don't miss
out—turn Black Friday into a celebration of brilliant books! 
Hurry—some items are limited in quantity, so grab your favourites **whilst stocks last!**

[Take me to the sale!](#)



12 days, 120 charities
£1,000 each, £120,000 total

**Nominate
now!**



12 Days of Giving is our festive final phase of Movement for Good 2024. In December, we'll be giving 120 charities £1,000 each over 12 days.

The first draw takes place on **December 5th** and the last on **December 20th** with 10 charities drawn every week day.

Nominations are open until 23:59 on December 19th 2024.

If you've already nominated your favourite charity this year, then you're already in the draw. If you haven't nominated yet, getting a cause close to your heart in the running is just a **few clicks away**.

It's one nomination per charity per person, so if you have more than one favourite

We're giving away £120,000 in December

cause, why not try putting them on our [map](#) with a nomination?

[Nominate a charity for £1,000](#)

[Terms and conditions apply](#)

Christmas Market 7th December 16.30-21.30 - la Familia Brassiere in Lugy



Sue and Mike Nash will be running a stall in their village's Christmas market and displaying, for sale their beautiful wooden craftwork.



The Pas de Calais Newsletter wishes all our readers and contributors a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



O Holy Night - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VfYKmJkxI0>

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://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-policy-guidance>

Find us at: www.achurchnearyou.com

Sign up for Diocese in Europe eNews

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