



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

The Chaplaincy Newsletter January 2025

A Very Happy New Year to all our readers



Our Services

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

Sunday 5th Jan – 10.30 – lay led Service by David Sergent

Sunday 19th Jan – 10.30 – lay led Service by Marilyn Dossat

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

Sunday 5th Jan – 11.00 – lay led Service by Pat Page

Sunday 19th Jan – 11.00 – lay led Service by Pat Page

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

Sunday 19th Jan 10.30 - lay led service

The Adoration of the Magi

from the altarpiece in the Chapel of

King's College, Cambridge

Artist: Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)

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

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** – *Chaplaincy Safeguarding officer*

[Click on the link below to can access the safeguarding policy](#)

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

Dear All

It is the end of the year once again and I want to thank you all for supporting me in my role as Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer.

I also wish to thank those who have taken their responsibility seriously and undertook the courses applicable to their roles within the Chaplaincy.

I am also delighted that my constant encouraging has had some effect, some people have shown interest in undertaking the on-line Basic and Foundation courses.

The New Year will give me more time to concentrate on this responsible role and I have many new ideas in mind to involve everyone in the understanding and importance of Safeguarding for us all.

I take this Opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Daphne Power (Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer)



Christmas aftermath

Christmas Comes, Christmas Goes

Well, that was it: Christmas 2024!

Doesn't it go quickly?

After all the careful preparations, which involve unravelling the Christmas tree lights (why are they always tangled, no matter how carefully we put them away each time?); then all too soon sweeping up all those needles from the tree; filling that *Bac Jaune* several times over with all the wrapping paper and other detritus of Christmas.

In France, the main celebration centres on Christmas Eve. In my case, this traditionally involves a family gathering next door that starts around dusk, and then on until the early hours of Christmas morning! Whereas, growing up in England, the 25th was of course always the key day of celebration, with presents, turkey etc for lunch, then an afternoon watching a Morecambe and Wise show on TV!

Boxing Day was the opportunity to get out and about, going for a family walk, showing off that bright new pullover knitted by Aunt Thingummy. And it used to herald the start of the Christmas sales: I remember seeing on TV, lines of people camping outside the big department stores having staked their positions the night before. That 'tradition' seems to have disappeared with the accessibility of so much material on sale before, during and after Christmas!

Then there are those few days in the lead up to New Year's Eve. For the media, this has become a time of reflection and projection: looking back over the highlights and the not-so-bright moments of the past year; and analysing those predictions for the year ahead made by the great and the good. Perhaps fortunately, no-one ever seems to remember those forecasts made the year previously!

For the French, New Year's Eve is traditionally celebrated as the feast of *Saint-Sylvestre*, another get-together of family and friends, the evening starting with a champagne *apéro*, and typically a supper of *foie gras*, oysters and other shellfish. Many towns (Montreuil and Le Touquet, for example) put on firework displays to herald in the New Year.

The Twelve Days of Christmas take us finally to 6th January – Twelfth Night – which marks the eve of Epiphany, when tradition has it that the Three Wise Men came to Bethlehem to visit the infant Jesus. Christmas decorations are then be taken down: there is a belief that it is unlucky to leave them after Twelfth Night, though local experience is that some are to be found right up to Easter!

Three Kings Cake for 6th January



An appealing tradition in France for Twelfth Night is the baking of the *galette des rois*, the Three Kings Cake. Usually made of puff pastry with frangipane and containing fruit or chocolate, it contains a small figurine – it was originally simply a *fève* (bean) – and whoever gets this wins a prize and wears the royal crown.

As with so many of these traditions, while their origins may be obscure, there is a risk that some are gradually being lost with modern living; but however celebrated, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and my wishes for a very Happy New Year! *Michael Spriggs*



The Calais congregation loses one of its founder members

Anne was born in March 1931 and brought up in Farnham.

Having travelled around Australia for a year, Anne arrived in Paris to find work before coming to Calais to work as a stewardess at the port of Calais back in the time when there were only four ferries per day!

She met Georges her husband. They married in December 1959 and had four children.

After a break to bring up her children, she then trained to become an English teacher at the Ecole Saint Pierre in Calais, alongside her husband.

They built their family house in Coulogne, where she lived for the rest of her life.

She was well integrated into French life, enjoyed travelling and volunteering in the local library upon her retirement. Anne partook in weekly scrabble sessions with her friends.

Anne was a founder member of the Calais congregation, churchwarden for many years and rarely missed a service.

She was well-known for her marmalade which she regularly made to raise funds for the church and kindly hosted the Ash Wednesday service, the strawberry tea and the Calais summer service and meal in her lovely garden.

The Reverend Sara MacVane very kindly came to Calais to lead a touching service of celebration of Anne's life which was attended by family and many friends and members of the Anglican community.

Anne will be greatly missed!

Tanya Collins

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Pauline Cecchin, Boulogne's churchwarden, delivered gifts to the MS House in Calais.



Pauline said that she and Pierre, her late husband, packed gift boxes for those in need, who were supported by the Dominican Sisters in Lille; where they lived at the time, and more recently for MS House in Calais.

She used the recommended list of gifts, which was given by Pat Page, Calais' churchwarden, in the November newsletter and added some slippers which had not been worn.

Maria Skobtsova House, in the heart of Calais, offers sanctuary and hospitality to vulnerable refugees.



Un Célébration de Noël - catholique et anglicane
Eglise Catholique Notre-Dame d'Hesdin
 Dimanche 15 décembre 2024 @15.00h
 "Avec la chorale La Coecilla"

It was a beautiful service, with a choir, compiled of nine Carols and readings shared by the French and Anglican congregations. The service was led by the Catholic priest, Abbé Vincent Blin; and in the absence of an Anglican chaplain, David Sergent, the Pas de Calais chaplaincy president and worship leader stood in. Before Abbé Vincent's blessing, the candles which were handed out as we entered the church were lit, and the lights turned down, then the choir mistress Marie Christine Desobry led us in humming quietly the tune of silent night, it was magical! On behalf of the Anglican church; the Chaplaincy Newsletter would like to say a 'grand merci' to all who participated in the organisation of the event and a special thank you to the choir mistress, the choir and the organ player for the music.



A collection was made and shared between the two churches and Hesdin Anglican church will donate their half towards the restoration of *Eglise Catholique Notre-Dame d'Hesdin*.



After, Hesdin Anglican church hosted mulled wine and mince pies in the parish rooms; which was very well attended and appreciated by both the French and Anglican community. Another big thank you goes to Hesdin church congregation who made, or served, the mince pies and to Tom & Daphne for supplying the delicious mulled wine - *and all who helped with the clearing up!* [ed/mcd](#)



Christmas Gifts of chocolate, biscuits, toys, books and all sorts of toiletries...



...generously donated by members of the Hesdin congregation. They were delivered by Marilyn and Yves on 20th December, and gratefully received by the asylum seekers and their children.

A big thank you was also expressed by the 'Fiac' person responsible for them.

To all our readers and contributors,

The Pas de Calais, Chaplaincy Newsletter, would like say a big **Thank You** for your commitment to us in 2024 and to wish you and yours a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

All blessings from *Marilyn/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 on our website <https://anglicanspdc.org>

Also find us at www.achurchnearyou.com

Safeguarding Policy:

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

Sign up for Diocese in Europe eNews

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