



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

## *The Chaplaincy Newsletter – December 2025*



*Advent Blessings to all our readers*

### *Our Sunday Services*

7<sup>th</sup> December at 11am @ 'St Omer' Church, 62170 Estréelles.  
All three churches will join for the installation service of our new Chaplain  
the Reverend Teena Twelves.

Mercredi 17 décembre 2025 à 18h30  
Eglise Notre Dame de la Salette, Blériot plage  
Entrée gratuite - *See flyer page 7*

21<sup>st</sup> December at 3pm - Joint Ecumenical Carol Service  
in Hesdin's Catholic 'Notre Dame' Church  
Followed by mulled wine and mince pies offered by Hesdin Anglican Church.  
Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin - all are welcome! - *See flyer page 8*

For other services apart from those highlighted above...

**Please check with the church wardens and the chaplaincy website** <http://anglicanspd.org>

Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin. - Churchwarden Marilyn Dossat

Oratory of Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais. - Churchwarden Pat Page

21<sup>st</sup> December 10.45am - Joining Boulogne for a morning service with Carols

Monastere du Carmel, Rue du Denacre, Saint Martin Boulogne. - Churchwarden Pauline Cecchin

21<sup>st</sup> December 10.45am - A Joint morning service with Carols

**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 on holiday. [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://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](http://www.britishinfrance.com)

## Chaplaincy News: A New Anglican Priest for the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy



The Anglican Church of the Pas-de-Calais is preparing a big welcome for its new chaplain, the Reverend Teena Twelves. The appointment of the Revd. Twelves follows an interim of six years since the departure of her predecessor. During this period, we were dependent on a series of visiting clergy for periodic Eucharists and lay services led by licensed members of our community.

The Revd. Twelves joins us from Kent, where she been part of the priestly team in Ashford Town parish. She will assume responsibility for the three congregations of Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer, and Hesdin, through regular services in these three towns, as well as pastoral

duties. Being resident locally, she will play her part in the heart of the wider community of British residents in the area.

The Revd. Twelves' induction will take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December in the church of Saint-Omer, rue de l'Eglise, 62170 Estréelles, and will be followed by a reception in the nearby Salle des Fêtes.

### Press Release: Nouvelle Aumônière pour les Anglicans

L'Église Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais prépare un accueil chaleureux pour sa nouvelle aumônière, la révérende Teena Twelves. La nomination de la révérende Twelves intervient après une période intérimaire de six ans depuis le départ de son prédécesseur. Pendant cette période, nous avons dû compter sur une série de clercs invités pour célébrer régulièrement l'Eucharistie et les offices laïcs dirigés par des membres agréés de notre communauté.

La révérende Twelves nous rejoint depuis le Kent, où elle faisait partie de l'équipe sacerdotale de la paroisse d'Ashford Town. Elle assumera la responsabilité des trois congrégations de Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer et Hesdin, à travers des services réguliers dans ces trois villes, ainsi que des tâches pastorales. Résidant localement, elle jouera son rôle au sein de la communauté plus large des résidents britanniques de la région.

L'intronisation de la révérende Twelves aura lieu le dimanche 7 décembre à l'église de Saint-Omer, rue de l'Eglise, 62170 Estréelles, et sera suivie d'une réception dans la salle des fêtes voisine.

*Traduit avec DeepL.com (version gratuite)*

**George Murray 23.11.25**



## A Traditional Christmas



In recent years, I've been fortunate enough to have been invited to spend Christmas with French neighbours. As with the British, Christmas for the French is one of the most important family celebrations - but they do it rather differently!

For the British, a key component is the huge Christmas lunch on the 25th - with of course turkey, Christmas

pudding, mince pies. But while we have come to accept these as part of long-established traditions the reality is rather different. Turkeys did not appear here until imported from the New World in the 16thC: King Henry VIII is famously said to have opted for a turkey instead of his Christmas goose, the traditional choice. And Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* features Scrooge asking a poor homeless child to help him buy Bob Cratchit the "prize turkey" in the butcher's window. But the turkey did not become the Christmas choice until popularised in the early 20thC by King Edward VII.

The beloved mince pie has an intriguing history. In Tudor times they were a savoury dish of pastry tarts filled with minced meat, chopped fruit and a preserving liquid. They were rectangular, shaped like a manger and often had a pastry baby Jesus on the lid. They were made from 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and his disciples, all symbolic to the Christmas story. The sweeter versions we know today did not appear till the 18thC.



Savoury mutton-filled Tudor mince pies

Now in France, the focal point is *le réveillon* - celebrated with a family meal on Christmas Eve. Typically, everyone assembles around 6pm for the multi-course meal that can go on till the small hours. There is usually a seafood starter and, instead of turkey, the preferred main course is duck or capon, typically accompanied by *gratin dauphinois*, green beans, and roast potatoes - with of course many regional variations. Then cheese (never at the end of the meal as in England) and salad; and finally, the dessert – the *bûche de Noël*, not unlike the British chocolate yule log. All this washed down with fine wine and champagne, ahead of the *digestifs*: a cognac, calvados or walnut wine. Finally - finally - the meal ends with coffee and truffles, and a feeling that all is indeed well with the world!

I've observed a number of other differences between French and British Christmases. The French tend not to send Christmas cards but rather celebrate by posting their good wishes for the New Year. Nor do they share our tradition of Christmas Carols.

Christmas presents are usually given out during the *réveillon*. Instead of hanging up Christmas stockings for Santa, French children leave out shoes or slippers. Christmas crackers and English pantomimes are also a mystery for most French!

Of course, some of these distinctions are becoming blurred under today's enormous commercial and advertising pressures: perhaps the spirit of Christmas risks being obscured. But while we continue to honour these noble family traditions, there will always be the place for remembering the true message of Christmas.



*Michael Spriggs - Montreuil-sur-Mer*



## Act of Remembrance Service

### Hesdin Anglican Church - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025



*Left to right, Jim Crompton, Marilyn Dossat, Jim Rowe, Penny and Paul Lomatschinsky, Michael Spriggs, John Bosworth, James Lake, Jennie Knight, Doreen Cavalier, and in front, Joyce Bosworth. Credit to John Knight for taking the picture.😊*

A traditional act of remembrance service was created by John Bosworth, (*standard bearer*), with all the usual well-known hymns and readings for 'Remembrance Day' and finishing with God Save The King. A big thank you to Jim Rowe who led us expertly through the service and to John who said he looks forward to doing it all again next year.

We were honoured to welcome the Nord Pas de Calais, Royal British Legion, Chairman and Secretary, John and Jennie Knight, and to share a convivial moment together after the service with wine and nibbles, or coffee and biscuits.

We were hoping for a bigger attendance - but when Jennie sent the photo she said, *"It was lovely to see you and to meet others from your church. What a very special personal event it was."* Thank you, Jennie! - mcd/ed

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### **Safeguarding Sunday Service in Hesdin, Church 16<sup>th</sup> November - Led by Daphne Power**

A time to reflect more deeply about our responsibility to safeguarding in the Chaplaincy.

The service was led by Daphne Power, the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer, and it included prayers for those who may have been victims of abuse within the church and beyond.

The service was introduced by a prayer read by Marilyn Dossat. Daphne then explained that Safeguarding Sunday is an annual event in the church calendar and an opportunity to highlight a helpful and important way of focusing on all the work that goes on 365 days a year in our chaplaincies to make them safe places. An annual awareness raising campaign supported by the Church of England, to help churches across the UK and beyond, share what they are doing to make their places of worship safer for everyone.

*Continued on next page*



It is an opportunity for chaplaincies to introduce their safeguarding team, acknowledge and thank volunteers and explain why safeguarding is important. It's also a chance to highlight all the good work being done behind the scenes and demonstrate that we are on a journey to best practice, making our church a safer place for all. Safeguarding Sunday is a part of our on-going commitment to making churches safer. The theme for this year is...

..."**One Church, One Day, One Message - Protecting vulnerable people together.**"

Daphne also explained about vulnerability and how this can change. She emphasised that we are all vulnerable at some time in our everyday lives. She also based her reflection on betrayal, acceptance and rejection, in our lives. The service was closed with a prayer read by Lalage Glaister, remembering those who have been victims of abuse within our churches. *Thank you, Daphne - mcd/ed*

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## Letter from Bishop Robert...



21 November 2025

*For Clergy, Churchwardens, Chaplaincy Secretaries and Chaplaincy Treasurers, Office staff*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

### **Andrew Caspari – Diocesan Secretary and Chief Operating Officer**

Andrew's time with us is now drawing to a close, and he spent his last day in the London office on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Diocese has greatly benefited from Andrew's skills, experience and dedication over the past seven years. Andrew has engaged energetically with the details of individual chaplaincy life, working hard to encourage chaplaincy treasurers and to communicate the realities of diocesan finance clearly and well. He has managed diocesan finances and administration great care and skill. He saw us through the trauma of Covid. He also assembled and organised some very moving pan-European zoom-based worship events. In all of this, he has managed to communicate an almost boundless sense of energy and empathy in his interactions with others.

Many of us have cause to be grateful for Andrew's work with us, and a number of people have asked what we have in mind by way of a leaving gift. In talking this over with Andrew, he has said that (rather than a particular leaving gift) he would be very pleased to encourage donations to two broad areas of charitable work.

**Firstly**, many in the diocese will know that, as a family, the Casparis are seeking to do more in memory of Andrew's grandmother, Annie Caspari, who was murdered by the Nazis. The art gallery she ran was of considerable cultural significance in Munich in the 1930s, not least for the way it promoted less well-known artists. To honour her memory,

Continued on next page...

Andrew is inviting gifts that will enable opportunities in the arts sector for young people who could not finance such education or training themselves. Training in the arts or theatre is costly, and Andrew would like us to support young people who cannot afford the cost.

Andrew has been the Chair of the Governors of a Church of England Inner City comprehensive school – St. Mary Magdalene Academy. He proposes that money is gifted to this school for children and young people to undertake training in the arts.

Office of the Bishop in Europe, Rue Capitaine Crespel 47 (box 49),  
1050 Brussels, Belgium *Tel:* +3222137480; *E-Mail:*  
[bishop.europe@europe.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.europe@europe.anglican.org)  
*Diocesan web site:* [www.europe.anglican.org](http://www.europe.anglican.org)

**Secondly**, Andrew's wife, Sally, volunteers at the Museum of Homelessness in Finsbury Park, London. This is a museum, a day centre, and a campaigning organisation. The Museum has launched a Winter Appeal so that it can open longer hours and provide food, counselling, and shelter for homeless people this winter. This charitable cause resonates with our longstanding diocesan commitment to the wellbeing of refugees and homeless people.

Gifts will be forwarded to Andrew to be divided equally between his two nominated charitable causes.

We will notice the departure of Andrew from his role as our Diocesan Secretary and Chief Operating Officer very much. Your gift can help give him a really good send off and show him how much we have appreciated him.

With warm good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

**+Robert Gibraltar in Europe**

You can make a gift:

Via bank transfer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office:  
Account number: 40317039  
Sort code: 20-06-13  
IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39  
Swift / BIC: BUKGBB22

By cheque made out to: Diocese in Europe  
Diocese in Europe Board of Finance  
14, Tufton St  
London SW1P 3QZ  
(Please add the words "Caspari leaving gift" to any bank transfer or note you send with the cheque)

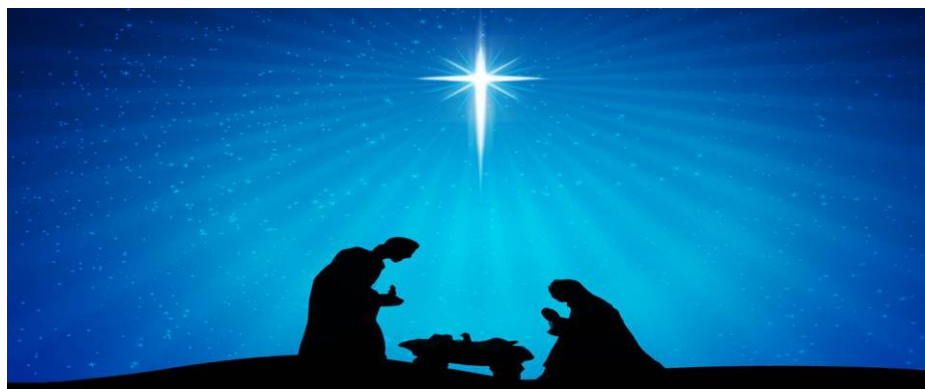


the Anglican Church in Pas de Calais

invite tout le monde à chanter Noël ensemble

# Christmas Carols

Suivi par les traditionnels Mince Pies anglais et des boissons chaudes



**Mercredi 17 décembre 2025 à 18h30**

Eglise Notre Dame de la Salette, Blériot plage

**Entrée gratuite**

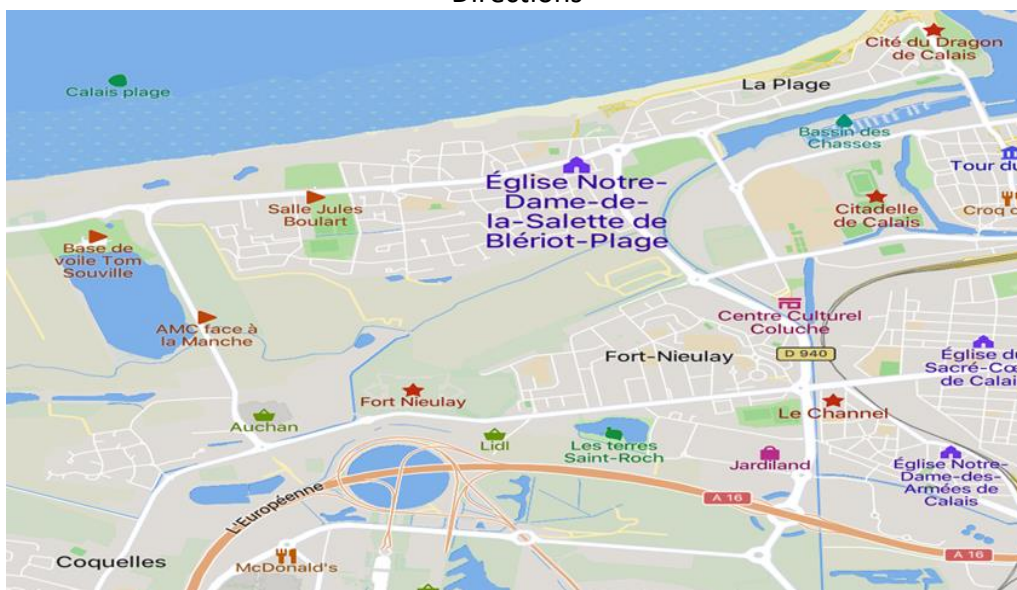
Une collecte sera faite au bénéfice de

**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

Directions



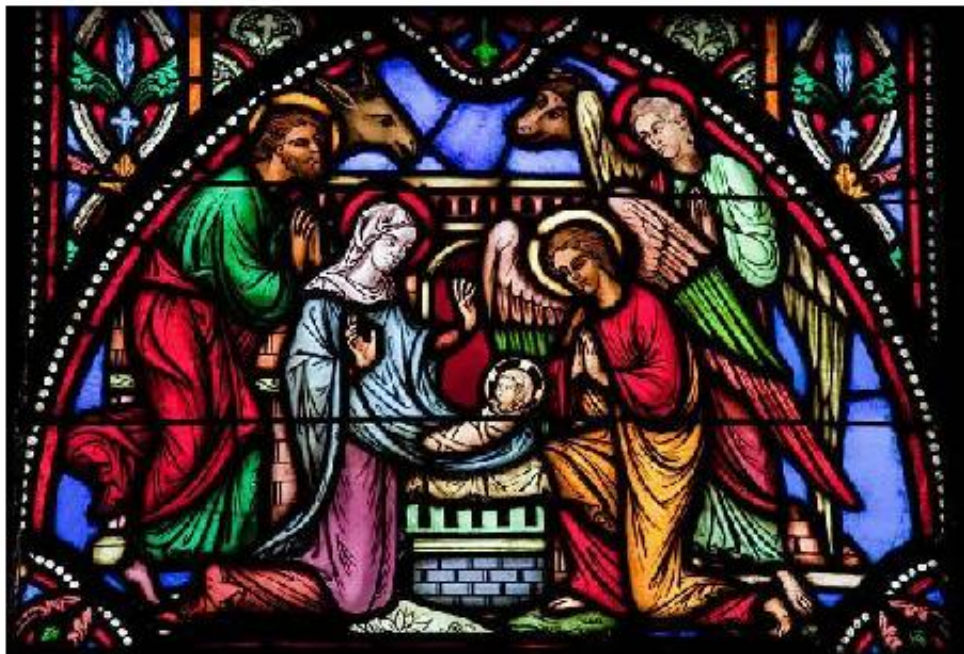
**Come and join us - all are welcome!**

**Un Célébration de Noël - catholique et anglicane**  
*Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service - Anglican and Catholic*

**Eglise Catholique Notre-Dame d'Hesdin**  
*Hesdin's Notre-Dame Catholic Church*

**Dimanche le 21 décembre 2025 @15.00h**  
*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 3pm*

**“Avec, de chorale de la Coecilia”.**  
*With the Coecilia Choir*



**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*





## Dear members of the British in France - British Community Committee,

We are delighted to invite you to our 2025 Christmas Party and Concert to be held at member organisation the Collège Franco-Britannique, Cité Universitaire, on Monday 15th December from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Continuing on the success of last year's soirée, we will enjoy a seasonal concert by the excellent choir Voces Musicae, fine food by member organisation the Fondation Franco-Britannique de Sillery, award-winning champagne by Taisne Riocour, and the very first tasting in France of Evremond English sparkling wine!

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. Dress code: evening dress or other party attire as you wish :-)

Please follow the Weezevent link to secure your ticket, specifying your association:

<https://my.weezevent.com/british-community-christmas-party-concert-2025>

We do hope you will be able to join us for this fabulous evening, the second in a long series 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

President, The Royal Society of St. George

<https://www.theroyalsocietyofstgeorge.com>

<https://www.britishinfrance.com/about>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/andrewsimpkin>

[https://www.instagram.com/andrew\\_simpkin\\_artist](https://www.instagram.com/andrew_simpkin_artist)

<http://www.andrewsimpkin.com>

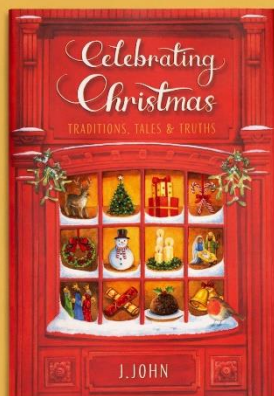


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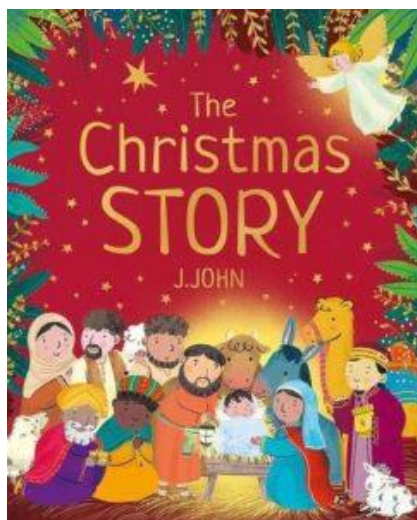
# The Big Church Read



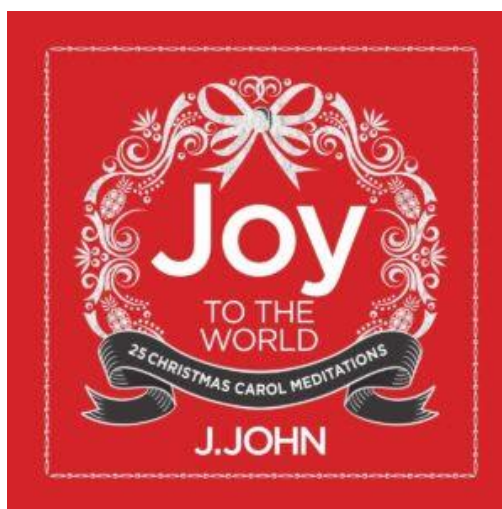
J. John's latest Christmas book is a beautifully illustrated 'gift book', perfect to give away to others during the festive season. The book unpacks intriguing facts about topics such as Advent Calendars, Candy Canes, Hanukkah, Robins and Ugly Jumpers, and points the reader towards the true reason for the Christmas season.

**RRP £12.99, OUR PRICE £9.99**

## More Christmas Books from J John!



**The Christmas Story**  
Original price was: £5.99  
**OUR PRICE £3.99**



**Joy to the World**  
RRP £6.99  
**OUR PRICE £4.99**

Follow the link below to check out the website for more Christmas Books by JJ John and other authors ...

[https://standrewsbookshop.co.uk/product/celebrating-christmas-2/?utm\\_source=The+Big+Church+Read&utm\\_campaign=b1e5b52ecd-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_11\\_17\\_02\\_26&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b1e5b52ecd-315351245&goal=0\\_d7f7766efb-b1e5b52ecd-315351245&mc\\_cid=b1e5b52ecd&mc\\_eid=ca6458bec1](https://standrewsbookshop.co.uk/product/celebrating-christmas-2/?utm_source=The+Big+Church+Read&utm_campaign=b1e5b52ecd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_11_17_02_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b1e5b52ecd-315351245&goal=0_d7f7766efb-b1e5b52ecd-315351245&mc_cid=b1e5b52ecd&mc_eid=ca6458bec1)



Recommended as '**well worth a visit**' in the beautiful Town of Saint-Riquier

**Abbaye de Saint-Riquier**  
**Art exhibition**

Runs from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026



THE CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER WISHES ALL ITS READERS  
AND CONTRIBUTORS – A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS



JOY TO THE WORLD – THE LORD HAS COME

**Some useful links:**

The Prayer Circle prays for you 'in confidence' please email to: [ourprayersr4u@mail.com](mailto: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](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://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-policy-guidance>

Find us at: [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

Sign up for Diocese in Europe eNews

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

Daily Media Digest  
from the Church of England



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