



## The Chaplaincy Newsletter – November 2025

### November Blessings to all the saints



All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>  
to remember all saints and martyrs during Christian history.  
It's followed by All Souls' Day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
to commemorate those who have passed within the faith.

#### Our November Sunday Morning Services

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

02/11 – 10.30 – All Saints & All Souls - Lay led by Marilyn Dossat

09/11 - 11.30 – A Remembrance Commemoration – Led by RBL member John Bosworth

16/11 - 10.30 – Safeguarding Sunday service – Lay led by Daphne Power

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

02/11 – 11.00 – Morning service - Lay led by Pat Page

16/11 – Joining Boulogne

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

02 /11 - Joining Calais

16/11 - Remembrance Service – Lay led by Pauline Cecchin

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

**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

Bishop Robert was privileged to be invited to be one of those present at the historic service in the Sistine Chapel on Thursday 23 October when the King and the Pope prayed together. You can read more about the special occasion here:

[Bishop Robert joins historical ecumenical service in Rome](#)

122 people attended a very special online event on October 29th led by Bishop Robert during which he reflected on his attendance at the service, his experience and the ecumenical significance for the wider church and for our diocese.

You can watch the recording here: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/recording-available-online-event-bishop-robert>

## Hazel Grant Crompton (née Smith)

14/02/1945 – 26/09/2025



Last month we said a sad farewell to Hazel Crompton, a very dear friend and active member of the Chaplaincy. Hazel went to be with the Lord after her long and courageously fought illness. Her funeral service was led by Fr. Simon Walker on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct in Abbeville crematorium. Hazel's family requested 'no flowers' - however, 200 euros in donations were given to the Alzheimer's Society.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her devoted husband Jim who cared for her at home up until her last few days.



Jim and Hazel were married on the 13/061992.

Hazel and Jim moved to France in 2002. They attended church in Boulogne and later Arras. It soon became evident to Hazel that with the growing number of English-speaking people living in and around the Hesdin area, that there was a great need for a church closer to home; and once Hazel got an idea in her head, she was determined to make it happen. So, she set about starting a branch of the Anglican Church in Hesdin. Her determination paid off, and in 2003 the Hesdin worship centre was born. But it wasn't all smooth sailing, as she still had to convince others; she persuaded the Rev Roy Kilford to come on board, but she still needed permission from other sources. She approached the Mairie in Hesdin, who were very keen to help, then she convinced Abbe Noel of Hesdin Catholic Church to have the first joint service there, this was attended by approximately seventy people. The next step for Hazel was to find a residence where the Anglican church could meet regularly and not clash with the catholic services in Hesdin. Hazel soon achieved her goal and secured the use of the large church on the hill in Huby -Saint-Leu. After many years of worship there, Hazel realised the congregation could no longer bear the cold or continue without facilities. Therefore, she went on another mission to secure more suitable premises, and she once again persuaded Abbe Noel to loan us the use of the Church Halls in Hesdin, where we now worship. Hazel served the church in Hesdin for twelve years as Church Warden until her illness prevented her from doing so. She served with great commitment, dedication and generosity. The hymn books we use in the church were donated by Hazel and Jim.

Some may only know Hazel as being an important asset to our Chaplaincy, but she had many talents and commitments elsewhere. She spoke fluent Italian and loved to visit Florence regularly, where she worked as a young woman.



She was deeply committed to the GFS (Girls Friendly Society) and especially worked with teenage mothers. She encouraged them to continue their schooling and was involved in finding them accommodation etc.

Hazel was chief executive of the GFS from 1986 to 2003: she became Chair of Trustees in 2009; became their UK President in 2013, and held this post for three years. This was a great honour for Hazel which was well merited.

Because of her work, she and Jim were invited to Buckingham Palace for one of their garden parties. Hazel was very humble about her many achievements: she earned a Diploma in Theology from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1993, and in 2000 she completed a Diploma from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Hazel was a kind, strong and determined woman who put her heart into everything.



Hazel, we will all miss you - and your bright smile!

**Daphne Power**

## Bishop's Advent Appeal

### Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital, Gaza



*"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit."* – Psalm 34:17-18 (NRSV)

The headlines may be fading, but the suffering in Gaza is far from over. Months of devastation have left entire communities struggling. The impact of conflict lingers long after the fighting stops. Disease spreads rapidly, food and clean water remain scarce. At the time of writing, 68,280 people have been killed in Gaza, the vast majority of whom are civilian women and children, and the toll of wounded stands at 170,375.



Despite overwhelming challenges, the medical team at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza is doing everything in their power to care for the injured and sick. They face impossible odds: shortages of medicine and essential supplies, dwindling fuel reserves for life-saving equipment, and an ever-growing number of patients in desperate need.

At Al-Ahli Hospital, doctors and nurses have treated over 190,000 outpatients and performed more than 6,000 surgeries in the past year alone. The demand is relentless. The injuries they see of burns, broken bones and shrapnel wounds are devastating.

Beyond emergency treatment, Al-Ahli hospital offers long-term rehabilitation, mental health support, and essential community care. Many of those injured will face lifelong disabilities, requiring physiotherapy, pain management, and counselling. Without urgent funding, these critical services could be lost.

This Advent, I am asking you to support the work of one of our partners in the Gospel, USPG, whose partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem gives us the opportunity to sustain this vital hospital, ensuring that it remains open and equipped to serve those who need it most, not only in moments of immediate crisis but in the long, difficult years of recovery that follow.

Continued on next page...



It looks – for now – that there is a fragile semi-peace. It is to be hoped that this not only lasts but spreads and deepens, and that rebuilding can begin. Your gift today will help keep the hospital open and equipped to provide urgent medical aid, long-term rehabilitation, and dignity to those in crisis.

*"Every donation and every prayer are an act of love. It is a message to families in Gaza that they are not forgotten,"* says Sawson Aranki-Batato, Programme Development Officer, Diocese of Jerusalem.

I commend to you these resources for prayer as I ask you to give generously to this Appeal (details below).

[Prayers for peace in the Middle East — Embrace the Middle East](#)

[How to pray for Gaza and Israel - Tearfund](#)

[Pray for Peace in Israel and Gaza - 24-7 Prayer International](#)

O God, whose heart breaks for the world,  
May your justice dwell in the land  
May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields  
May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever  
May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.  
Amen.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe



### **How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Advent Appeal 2025:**

Via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office:

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39

Swift / BIC: BUKBGB22

By cheque made out to: Diocese in Europe

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

(Please add the words "Advent Appeal 2025" to any note you send with the cheque)

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

(please add "2025 Advent Appeal" in the *Message from Donor* column)

## Harvest Festival Sunday 12/10/2025 at 11

*From a small hiccup, fellowship follows*



On Saturday 11th October, early in the morning, the Sisters phoned to warn us that the Foulées Bleues de St Martin Boulogne - *a charity awareness road race* - would start at the town's sports grounds Sunday morning and was due to arrive near the sisters' chapel, midmorning. Although the Chapel entrance would not be blocked, the road access and street parking would be difficult after 10h30.

Jane and Thierry immediately offered to host our service of celebration and shared lunch at their home. Plan B was activated at very short notice. On Sunday morning, we gathered

together; everyone found a place to sit; and at Jane's suggestion we introduced ourselves. I think in the group we had six different nationalities and at least four different mother tongues, all linked by one broad church. The readings and intercessions were shared by members of the Boulogne and Calais Congregations; Gillie and Gael selected and led the hymns. Joseph, gave thoughts on the Harvest readings, US Thanksgiving and life. Z... a guest at MS House gave a witness testimony on life as a migrant living and working in Europe searching for some kind of future stability.

We sang our final Harvest hymn, then shared our Harvest Thanksgiving meal.

Gifts of snacks, fruit juice and small bottles of water were presented to members of the staff at MS House towards their work.



A short, but rewarding, time of friendship and fellowship in the Pas de Calais. *Pauline Cecchin*

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Hesdin's Harvest Thanksgiving 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am - Lay led by Daphne Power



A lovely, well attended, service with all the traditional Harvest Hymns. Followed by coffee and biscuits to complete our morning of fellowship. The generosity of everyone was amazing and filled the boot of Doreens car to be delivered to the Resto du Coeur (thanks again Doreen).

The pictures are just a snapshot of what was donated; and we also raised twenty five euros for our 1901 charity with heaps of cooking apples and walnuts from Daphne and Tom's garden... mcd/ed





## A Time to Remember

*Poppy Day – 11th November*

As detailed above, Hesdin will be holding a special event in the Parish Rooms on Remembrance Sunday (this year the 9th November) to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Then on the 11th November we have Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day), observed each year since the end of the First World War to recall the end of hostilities, which ceased "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918, an occasion remembered in towns and villages throughout the UK, France and other Allied nations.

In Montreuil-sur-Mer, there will be a full programme of commemorative events, with a service in the Church of Saint-Saulve at 11:00h; and wreath laying ceremonies at intervals through the morning at the War Memorial and other key local landmarks, in the presence of Montreuil's Sous-Préfet, the Mayor and the Municipal Council, with musical accompaniment for the procession provided by the Town Band.

At 10:00h a wreath will be laid at the statue of Field Marshal Douglas Haig in the main square. This commemoration is particularly poignant because it recalls the key role played by Montreuil in achieving the final victory in WWI. For it was here that Haig established the British Army's General Headquarters. From 1916-19, Montreuil was the nerve centre of Allied operations, with the enormous task of arming, supplying, feeding and transporting millions of soldiers. At the height of the war, 5,000 allied soldiers were based in Montreuil engaged in planning, supply and communications: an incredible logistical feat. Remember that, although direct communications were vital, this was before the age of modern telecommunications – even before radio came into general use - all they had was the telephone and the telegraph.

Why Montreuil? Because Montreuil was the ideal location, with good transport links to England via the Channel ports; and rail links to Arras, which was the focus of much of the fighting in northern France. And it was safe - or so they thought: in 1917 there were many casualties in a raid by German bombers on the town

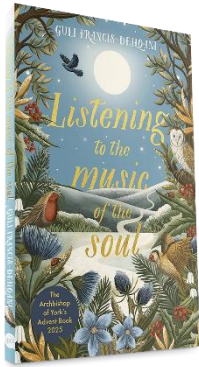
Haig has been judged harshly by some historians; but it is noteworthy that after the war Haig devoted himself tirelessly to the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen and their families. He launched the Haig Poppy Fund to raise funds for unemployed veterans and those damaged by the war; and to alleviate the suffering of a generation of war widows. He founded the Royal British Legion, which celebrated its



Equestrian statue of Field Marshal Douglas Haig  
in Montreuil-sur-Mer

centenary in 2021. And his imposing statue erected in 1931 was entirely financed by a grateful French population. Destroyed by the Germans during WWII, it was reconstructed in 1951 from the artist's original mould, luckily rediscovered in a barn south of Paris!

*Michael Spriggs*  
Montreuil-sur-Mer



We're delighted to announce our next **Big Church Read** – *Listening to the Music of the Soul* by Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Archbishop of York's Advent Book for 2025.

In this beautifully written reflection, Bishop Guli explores what it means to live fully and faithfully through the story of Mary — her courage, her song, and her openness to God. Drawing on her own journey from exile to hope, Bishop Guli invites us to discover how God speaks through fear, loss and beauty. Each chapter is linked to a piece of music, helping us reflect on the melodies that sustain us as our lives unfold.

When Advent comes, we'll journey together through four exclusive video sessions with Bishop Guli — perfect for individuals, small groups and churches. Be part of this upcoming Big Church Read and prepare your heart for Christmas as we remember the coming of Jesus.

**Was £12.99.**

**Current price is: £10.99.** [Listening to the Music](https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/listening-to-the-music-of-the-soul/?utm_source=The+Big+Church+Read&utm_campaign=0603a0e4e4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_10_23_09_56&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-0603a0e4e4-315351245&goal=0_d7f7766efb-0603a0e4e4-315351245&mc_cid=0603a0e4e4&mc_eid=ca6458bec1)  
[https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/listening-to-the-music-of-the-soul/?utm\\_source=The+Big+Church+Read&utm\\_campaign=0603a0e4e4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_10\\_23\\_09\\_56&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-0603a0e4e4-315351245&goal=0\\_d7f7766efb-0603a0e4e4-315351245&mc\\_cid=0603a0e4e4&mc\\_eid=ca6458bec1](https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/listening-to-the-music-of-the-soul/?utm_source=The+Big+Church+Read&utm_campaign=0603a0e4e4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_10_23_09_56&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-0603a0e4e4-315351245&goal=0_d7f7766efb-0603a0e4e4-315351245&mc_cid=0603a0e4e4&mc_eid=ca6458bec1) of the Soul quantity

### 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 Churchwardens, 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>

Sign up for Daily Media Digest [www.churchofengland.org/signup](http://www.churchofengland.org/signup)