



# The Chaplaincy Newsletter – February 2026

## Lenten Blessings to all our readers



## February Sunday Services

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

1st - 10.30 am - Presentation of Christ in the Temple lay led service by Marilyn Dossat

15<sup>th</sup> - 10.30 am - Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

1<sup>st</sup> - 11.00 am - Candlemas Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00 am Joining Boulogne for Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

1<sup>st</sup> - 11.00 am - Joining Calais for a Candlemas Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

22<sup>nd</sup> - 11.00 am - Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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This newsletter, together with contact details for our Church Wardens, is also on our website.

the newsletter, together  
<https://anglicanspdc.org>

Find us and details of our services at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

We are also in the British in France directory: [www.britishinfrance.com](http://www.britishinfrance.com)

## Dates for your diary

18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Ash Wednesday. Chaplaincy service on Zoom.

## Faster services

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Maundy Thursday: Zoom Service.

3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday - TBA

4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Eve: Service of light, with a meal, at Pauline Cecchin's home.

5<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday: 10.30 Morning Eucharist at Hesdin.

Please check times with churchwardens



## To my lovely new church family,

Well, what can I say, it's been a few mad weeks! Almost nothing has gone quite according to plan so far, but I'm constantly telling friends and family that in the midst of the madness, the welcome and the kindnesses that I've received from my new church family - whether it has been flowers, or kettles, or coffee and a chat, or kind words - have been the light shining in the darkness – so thank you!

I'm safely installed in my new apartment in Boulogne, with a beautiful view overlooking the Basilique. My piano is on its side, my internet isn't working, my Border Collie (Noggin) and cat (Kisa) are still wondering what on earth is going on, and I'm surrounded by boxes.... but all is well and I am so delighted to be here.

There's still some to-ing and fro-ing to be done back to the UK (I'm trying to sell a house in Lincolnshire as well as move out of a vicarage in Kent), and lots to sort out, but I'm grateful that this new phase of ministry gives me the time and the space to do all of that. I'm trying to curb my natural tendency to want everything to be sorted out as of yesterday and instead accept this as a journey of little steps.

I was particularly keen to join you in Advent. We didn't quite manage to make that happen at the very beginning of Advent, but to be with you for the new church year felt really important, because this is a new beginning – for you, and for me, and for us as we journey as disciples of Jesus together. (I'll be exploring the theme of 'beginnings' in the Lent course that I'm offering to you (further details in this newsletter). If you would like to take part, please email me at [church.teena@gmail.com](mailto:church.teena@gmail.com) and I'll send you a Doodlepoll or email so that you can let me know which sessions you will be able to attend – they will be stand-alone, so if you can't make one, don't worry, you can still come to the other sessions.) So, to finish – a brief bio.

I was born and raised in rural Lincolnshire, the eldest of four daughters. After school I went to Exeter University to study European Law, with a Diplome de Droit Prive at the Universite d'Aix-Marseille III. I wasn't really cut out to be a lawyer, so followed this with a Masters in European Social Policy at the University of Bath, with a study sejour in Brussels. I then worked in local government for 20 years, until I was retired on ill-health grounds in 2013 after 3 years of significant illness and disability.

I came to faith in 2011, quite out of the blue, in a totally transformative experience which I'll no doubt share with you in future. After serving as an authorised lay minister, I began pre-ordination study at the Lincoln School of Theology in 2016, becoming one of their longest-standing students, undertaking a Masters in Theology, Ministry and Mission during my curacy. The first part of my curacy was spent at Nettleham Parish on the outskirts of Lincoln, then I was seconded in my second year to hold the fort at Grimsby Minster, which was in interregnum. After 10 months in Grimsby, I took my first incumbency post in Ashford Town Parish, as Team Vicar with special responsibility for ministry to lowest income communities. Then last year I saw the advert for the role in the Pas-de-Calais...having spent time here on placement before ordination I had no hesitation in applying.

And here I am! - I've two adult (ish)! sons, both in Lincoln – Alexander (21) who is a prison officer and Harry (19) who works for East Midlands Railway. Both are ex-choristers of Lincoln Cathedral, and talented musicians. Many of you have already met my partner Ben, who works as a chocolatier in Ashford (and is also an ex-chorister – of St. Asaph Cathedral in Wales). We all love to sing!

And a final note – the purple hair. Purple is my favourite colour. Many priests wear clerical shirts in different colours. As an Anglo-Catholic my preference is for black, but if I were to wear any other colour, I'd probably want to choose purple – only I can't because it's the episcopal colour! Purple is special to me because it's the colour that I see when deep in prayer, in moments when I see God in action, at the times when I need to be reassured of God's presence. Purple reminds me that God is with me. I can't (and don't want to!) wear a purple shirt – but I can put it in my hair - and so, I do! Looking forward to all that lies ahead – God goes with us.

**With many blessings,**

**Teena**

## **'Beginnings' – A Lent course for the Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy, 2026**

Lent 2026 for the Church of England is 'a journey of spiritual renewal through cultivating daily, life-giving habits to prepare for Easter'. A new beginning is a good time to take stock of our spiritual lives and habits and consider how our spiritual habits such as worship, prayer, scripture, communion, service, and sharing faith can enrich and enliven our walk with God.

### **Course format**

*The course will be held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm, beginning on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. (If there is a large amount of interest, in order to facilitate the best group, experience it may be possible to organise a second session at a different time.)*

*The material for discussion will be circulated by email the previous Wednesday to give you time to read and reflect so that our conversations will be most fruitful. Each session is stand-alone, so you don't need to worry if you are not able to attend all sessions. If you are unable to attend the course but would like to follow it privately yourself, or would prefer a hard copy of the materials please ask.*

### **Course content**

The course will look at 5 Bible stories of new beginnings, considering what they have to teach us and how they can influence our approach to worship, prayer, communion, service and sharing our faith. Each session will begin with a short time of prayer, then the Scripture for the session will be read and discussed using a few questions as starting points. The course will be conversational co-learning – we learn from each other by sharing and reflecting on our own experience and understanding, and listening to the different viewpoints and interpretations of our colleagues on the course. Each session will also offer a list of other materials (other Scriptures, readings or resources) for your own reflection and learning.

#### **Session 1: Creation: Adam and Eve: Main Reading: Genesis 1-2**

*25<sup>th</sup> Feb*

**Theme:** Ours is a generous God – so what's our response? What does that mean for our worship, prayer, stewardship?

#### **Session 2: The Exodus: Moses Main Reading: Exodus 3**

*Mar 4<sup>th</sup>*

**Theme:** Wilderness people: trusting God. How can our relationship with God grow through reflective practice as we journey through the wilderness times of life?

#### **Session 3: Ruth: Main Reading: The Book of Ruth**

*11<sup>th</sup> Mar*

**Theme:** Love and service. What does it mean to love and serve the Lord? How can our service help us to share our faith?

#### **Session 4: Paul: Main Reading: Acts 9.1-31**

*18<sup>th</sup> Mar*

**Theme:** Hearing God's voice. How can we deepen our conversation and communication with God through spiritual practices of prayer and reflection?

#### **Session 5: Jesus Christ: Main readings: Luke 1.26-38**

*25<sup>th</sup> Mar*

**Theme:** Turning to Christ. What is our vocation – as individuals, and as 'the body of Christ' – the church in communion?

**INTERESTED?** Sign up by emailing Revd. Teena: [church.teena@gmail.com](mailto:church.teena@gmail.com) - put 'Lent Course' in the subject field. You will then receive an email to ask you to confirm your availability for the sessions, and the first session will be emailed to you on Ash Wednesday.

## The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

An ecumenical service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at the church Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette in Blériot-Plage.



This year, the prayers and reflections were prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Catholic Church and the Armenian Evangelical Churches. They were based on traditional prayers and supplications which are centuries old but are still used among the Armenian people, as well as on hymns composed in ancient monasteries and churches in Armenia, some of which date back to the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 invited us to draw on this common Christian heritage and to deepen our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians around the world. The title of the celebration, "Light of Light for

Light," was inspired by the attribute of Christ adopted by the Nicene-Constantinople Creed of which the 1700th anniversary was commemorated last year. Christ is the "Light of the Light", sent with the mission of shining the light of God in this troubled world and to lead us to a communion of love with one another and with God.

The service was led by the Reverend Teena Twelves with representatives from the local Catholic church, the United Reformed church and the Calais Anglican congregation also taking part.

Teena preached a very inspiring sermon in French remembering an exercise during ecumenical training before she was ordained when members of different churches were asked to explore the meaning of the words of The Lord's Prayer.

Surprised at the time that the different participants were unable to come to an agreement, Teena explained that this made her realise how our understanding of God is as specific, particular, and unique to us as we are to Him.

That we express this differently, in ways as diverse as our languages, with traditions as diverse as our cultures, and beliefs as different as our experiences, should not surprise us.

So, it's no wonder that we have trouble getting along, even after reflection. Nor should it surprise us that we cannot express all that we know, for we have been told that if all that we know of God in Christ were to be written, the world itself could not contain all the books that would be written. She concluded with the words "So let us rejoice – in our differences, but also in that which unites us – our love of God in Christ. Our Saviour, our Lord, who comes to reconcile all of creation to the God who loves us each one in our unique way and invites us to enter into that relationship of love and light with him.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments and an opportunity to meet and chat with people from the different churches in Calais and the surrounding area. *Tanya Collins*

## Christian Unity Service 7pm, 29<sup>th</sup> January - Hesdin Worship Centre



As you can see from the photo, it was a happy and joyful service led by Abbé Vicent Blin, parish priest of three 7 Valley parishes; Hesdin, Campagne les Hesdin and Beaurainville. He was assisted by a Madagascan priest, a priest from Cameroon and our own Anglican priest Revd. Teena Twelves.

The large congregation included French Catholics, French protestants, Belgian Catholics, and represented by two members of Hesdin congregation.

Revd. Teena addressed the congregation in perfect French.

As in Calais' service (article above by Tanya) she recounted the same meaningful story. She was very well received by the French who listened eagerly and smiled and nodded in agreement with her thoughts on Christian Unity.

Please forgive me for repeating some of Tanya's account but reading things twice (as in Lectio Divina) can be very enlightening. *mcd/ed*

### Here is the finally part of Teena's story in her own words:

When I returned to England, I had to write a dissertation on my experiences at Bossey for the Anglican church. I avoided doing it until the last possible moment, I prayed for inspiration.

Finally, I did my report: I read you the conclusion.

Unlike other moments of the week which deeply saddened me (such as the fact that, for reasons of theological differences, we were unable to share a meal), this meeting was for me a source of wonder and inspiration.

### God does not allow himself to be locked into our boxes.

We are unable to explain to our neighbour what God means to us in a way that he or she fully understands. We can only give him an image, however tenuous it may be, partially described with the best words we have. Because everyone approaches God through their own experience – the experience that has shaped us as human beings, as uniquely as God shaped us in our mother's womb. Our understanding of God is as specific, particular and unique to us as we are to Him. That we express this differently, in ways as diverse as our languages, with traditions as diverse as our cultures, and beliefs as different as our experiences, should not surprise us.

So, the fact that we have difficulty getting along, even upon reflection, is not surprising. Nor should it

surprise us that we cannot express all that we know, for we have been told that if all we know of God in Christ were to be written, the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

And yet, to my mind, the mystery inherent in that empty box on the course sheet tells us so much more – and that empty box, (*at this point Teena made and square shaped hole with her hands and looked through it*) like the empty tomb on Easter morning, is the source of my endless wonder and joy.



So let us rejoice – in our differences, but also in that which unites us – our love of God in Christ. Our Saviour, our Lord, who comes to reconcile all of creation to the God who loves us each one in our unique way, and invites us to enter into that relationship of love and light with him. **Amen**

## A Lent Pilgrimage

Boulogne churchwarden, Pauline Cecchin, will be joined by members of the Pas de Calais chaplaincy in a challenge to raise much needed funds for the Maria Skobtsova House by completing a 'virtual sponsored walk'. Pauline will also be joined by friends from Benelux and France Trefoil Guild. Participants who wish to donate towards the fundraising and self-sponsor their own efforts please contact Pauline.

In the heart of Calais, the M.S. house offers sanctuary and hospitality to vulnerable refugees, in the spirit of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, and Maria Skobtsova, 'Saint Mary of Paris'.

The house helps women in need of care and rest. For more info about the work of the M.S. House please click on the link: <https://www.refugeehousecalais.org/home>

An additional aim of the walk is to focus on a positive Lenten daily discipline. Walking has proved beneficial to our bodies, minds and souls.

The walk will begin on **Ash Wednesday 18th February** and finish on **Good Friday 3rd April**.

We will start from Porte Neuf, Old Town gate, near the Cathedral in Boulogne and head in the direction of Calais, towards the Tunnel.

Participants can exercise as often and go as far as is comfortable for them - walking or cycling either outdoors or using a treadmill or exercise bike at home.

Please email your distance walked on the following dates to: [martinecollins@yahoo.com](mailto:martinecollins@yahoo.com)

**Sunday 22nd February - Sunday 1st March - Sunday 8th March - Sunday 15th March - Sunday 22nd March - Sunday 29th March - and finally Friday 3rd April.**

Martine will plot our virtual Pilgrimage distance and route.

Thank you so much for your support towards this very worthwhile cause. We hope you enjoy some peaceful walks throughout the season of Lent. **Pauline and Martine**



## A Farewell to Daphne & Tom Power

On the 18<sup>th</sup> January, after our first beautiful Eucharist service led by our new Chaplain Revd. Teena Twelves; Hesdin congregation joined together to say a very fond farewell to two of our most, faithful, long - standing and loved members of Hesdin and the Chaplaincy. The beautiful cake was made by Lesley Childs...

Daphne as our Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer has kindly offered to continue in her role until a new CSO can be recruited.

We wish them every blessing in the next chapter of their journey; leaving France and returning to the U.K.



We thank them both for their help and support in so many ways to Hesdin church and the Chaplaincy - and as a small token, Hesdin along with others in the Chaplaincy, offered them an RHS voucher to choose some plants for their new garden...

**Marilyn - churchwarden**



## Past and Present in the Pas-de-Calais

We have just said a sad farewell to Tom and Daphne Power, two treasured members of our congregation (as seen in the previous article) who are leaving France to retire to the UK. Over the years since the Hesdin congregation was established - back in 2003 - we have seen many changes, with



**The 15th Century Church  
in Huby-Saint-Leu**

many families coming and going. But happily, many of those founder members remain very supportive of our church today.

In the early days of Hesdin, we met in the Church in Huby-Saint-Leu. This is a splendid mediaeval building but it proved to be not a very practical venue, with few facilities and in winter a very slippery access path! At that time, the congregation included several families with young children. Now, 20 years later, our congregation has aged accordingly;

those children, then barely teenagers, have gone on to follow their adult lives. And, sadly, over the years we have lost a number of those stalwart early members.

All this has taken place against the backdrop of the profound demographic changes in recent times between England and our part of France. Many of the British couples with homes in the Pas-de-Calais have been here for a very long time. Reasons cited for this choice of location – in addition to the French way of life - include the proximity to the UK, property prices, the greater sense of space and, importantly, the ease of access following the opening of the Channel Tunnel 30 years ago.

Then in 2016 we had Brexit. However, apart from all of its other effects, happily Brexit has not had had much of an impact on our activities, though it has probably acted as a deterrent to those British who might otherwise have been contemplating buying a home in France.



Hesdin was the most recent of the three modern congregations that now make up the Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy. The first was Boulogne, but the origins of the Anglican Church there go back even further. In the 19th century, Boulogne was a magnet for British travellers (including notably Charles Dickens!) and the Anglican community established their own place of worship in Boulogne, St John's Church. However, a century later the English community had dwindled to the point where it was no longer viable, and the building was turned it into a garage.

**Former St John's Anglican Church, Boulogne – as a garage !**

It has been pointed out that the nature of the Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy is very different from, say, one of similar size in the UK, where congregations would usually be more closely knit and would be able to engage in local fellowship activities throughout the week. The three congregations that make up our Chaplaincy are spread over an area equivalent to the whole of Kent and East Sussex combined! Which is why today we greatly value those opportunities to share our worship with our fellow congregations, and will ensure our fine tradition over here continues to flourish.

*Michael Spriggs*

## TWIN FAIR - George Murray



George writes that BACO – British Association of the Côte d'Opale - which has several members in the chaplaincy, will be taking part in the Twin Fair in Calais on February 28th and March 1st. This colourful indoor brocante, a joint event between Dover and Calais which brings together associations, social groups, performers and the general public, with stands offering everything from antiques to bric-à-brac; there is also a bar and buffet.

Last year at this yearly event, there were over 6,000 visitors. This year the organiser, Marie-Christine Livermore, is hoping for 10,000. The unlikely theme will be...

**"Harry Potter in Calais"** - What to expect?  
The Hogwarts Express? Harry himself?

BACO will use the event to raise its profile and attract new members. As well as its social activities, it will feature its strong musical side, under the baton of Ian Ward; and its monthly Book Club, led by Tom Treasure.

To maximize footfall at the stand, BACO will offer a Lucky Dip and an English book exchange. If you have books, you no longer want, or household items that can be offered as prizes in the Lucky Dip, George will be pleased to receive them.



Twin Fair, Forum Léon Gambetta, 23 Boulevard Gambetta, 62100 Calais.

Saturday February 28th 11.00 - 19.00 and Sunday March 1st 10.00 – 17.00.

Entry is free. Limited parking on-site, carpark at Calais Coeur de Vie - 5 mins walk- or in the street - free Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

**The newspaper article on the Twin Fair was taken from the Nord Littoral on the 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

**On Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in the magnificent Church of St Pol.**



The “Ensemble H.3” directed by Ian Ward will be celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Michel Richard Delalande. He was a French Baroque composer and organist who was in the service of King Louis XIV. He was one of the most important composers of “grands motets”. They will be performing his “De Profundis” alongside works by Telemann and Bach. A stellar line-up of 5

vocal soloists as well as Hermine Prudhomme, flute and Jean-Pierre Menuge, recorder. A choir of 25 and an orchestra of 20 coming from France, Belgium, Holland and the UK who are well known in the Pas-de-Calais and the Somme.

Tickets are priced at 15€ and free for children 16 and under. To reserve in advance please call Ian Ward on 03 21 41 79 43 or email [ward.ian@orange.fr](mailto:ward.ian@orange.fr)

### Press Release

An English conductor, a European choir and orchestra, 7 soloists and a remarkable setting to celebrate the 300 th anniversary of the French composer Michel-Richard Delaland. On Sunday March 8th the stunning Eglise Saint Paul in St-Pol-sur-Ternoise in the Pas-de-Calais hosts the “Ensemble H.3” directed by Ian Ward who has lived near Hesdin for 20 years.

The original Church of St Pol was bombed in 1944 and the current one was built between 1958 and 1960. It has the finest acoustic in Northern France and a long tradition of concerts including visits from the “Orchestre National de Lille”

The composer was well-known in the Court of Versailles during the reign of King Louis XIV and composed numerous “grands motets” for the Chapelle Royale. Under Ian’s baton they will perform his “De Profundis” as well as works by Telemann (who also spent much time in Paris) and Bach.

Not only 5 vocal soloists but also Hermine Prudhomme on flute and Jean-Pierre Menuge on recorder playing a concerto by Telemann.

Instrumentalists and singers from France, Belgium, Holland and the UK who regularly play under Ian’s baton in such venues as the Abbaye de Valloires (Somme) and the Abbaye de Belval (Pas-de-Calais). More information and ticket reservations on 03 21 41 79 43 or [ward.ian@orange.fr](mailto:ward.ian@orange.fr)

**Control + click on the link for extracts**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERZmqx32fVU&t=19s>

## Safeguarding

Since our last Chaplaincy meeting, Safeguarding training has progressed and two members have completed the Awareness of Domestic Abuse, which is an obligatory training if you are a member of the Chaplaincy Council.

Reminders have been sent to every member of the council, outlining their training requirements, and hopefully by next month we will be totally compliant.

If any member of the congregation wishes and would like to be more enlightened on our duty of care for each other, I am more than happy to support you in undertaking the training required. It is not an arduous training and is done on line.

**Remember: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and covers many aspects of our lives.**

*Daphne Power - CSO*

**Safeguarding: Who to contact to raise a safeguarding concern** - taken from *Safeguarding Policy at the end of this Newsletter*.

If you believe that an individual may be at risk of immediate serious harm from others, or someone you know through your chaplaincy poses a risk of serious harm to themselves or others, you must take action.

Where there is an immediate risk of harm, you should contact the local protection services in the country where the concern has arisen.

In addition, all concerns should be reported within 24 hours to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. You can do this directly by telephone or email. You should notify your Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer, or, if the CSO is not available, another appropriate church officer who should ensure the concern is brought to the attention of the DST.

The DST provide a consultation line Monday to Friday, 10:00 to 18:00 Central European Time.

For urgent enquiries during operational hours, please call: +44 (0)207 898 1159 or email.

For non-urgent enquiries contact: +44 (0)7464 544 715 or email.

### Out of hours

For urgent enquiries outside operational hours, call our partners thirtyone:eight on +44 (0) 303 003 1111. You will be provided with initial advice and your referral will be passed to the DST.

For non-urgent concerns outside operational hours, please email and a team member will respond as soon as possible.

### Reporting a concern

To report a concern by email, please complete the referral form which you can [download here](#). Please email the completed form

to [europe.safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:europe.safeguarding@churchofengland.org). Our team will respond the next working day.

Please tell us if you need help in completing the form, or need to have a form in a language other than English.

## Some useful links:

### New: Useful English speaking helpline numbers in France

This link will take you to Janine Marsh's brilliant Magazine 'The Good Life France' everything you need to know about living in France.  
<https://share.google/57aPdZ37UEsGiHrjD>

### Monthly Chaplaincy Briefing

<https://mailchi.mp/f3bb5e0d3d4c/chaplaincy-briefing-12881882?e=0d70c5470d>

**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>

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