



The Chaplaincy Newsletter – May 2026



Blessings to all our readers

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

Chaplaincy Services in May

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

3rd - 10.30 - Lay led by worship leader Marilyn Dossat

17th - 10.30 - Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

Salle Limoisin, 6 rue Abbé Limoisin, 62231 Blériot-Plage, Calais - Chaplaincy Secretary Clare Page

10th - 10.30 - Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

24th - 10.30 - Pentecost Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

31st May - Trinity Sunday Chaplaincy Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

Venue tba - check with churchwardens

This newsletter, together with contact details for our Church Wardens, and Chaplaincy Secretary is also on our website <https://anglicanspdc.org>

Find us and details of our services at www.achurchnearyou.com

We are also in the British in France directory: www.britishinfrance.com



Chaplain's letter May 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, near and far,

Yesterday was our AGM, and we gathered together again in the little church at Estréelles for worship before moving to the village hall for a meeting and to feast together. It was a beautiful day, and all ran smoothly, thanks to the combined efforts of all three church communities. So, thank you all for everything that you did to make my first AGM with you such a success.

For those who weren't able to be present (and indeed, to remind those who were!), there are a few things to share.

First, as I preached in the service, I want us to take our lead, our blueprint, for the church from that described in the reading from Acts. As I approach having been with you for six months, I want us together to think through how we will share the Good News, join God in mission, be a church that is devoted to teaching and discipleship, celebrates and feasts together in fellowship, worships with faithful authenticity, and undergirds everything with prayer.

Continued on next page...

Beginning with that last one, and for those of you who missed, it, here's the prayer that I included in our Lent course 'New Beginnings' earlier in the year which I'd encourage you to add to your daily prayers. A church that prays together is a church that grows together!

God of all, creator of hills and fields, sea and sky, enfold us in your love as we make our daily paths through the Pas-de-Calais. Make us bold to follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, and to make your love and his sacrifice known to all we meet, through the power of the Holy Spirit: building your Kingdom, step by step, in this place we call home. Amen.

As agreed in the last Chaplaincy Council meeting, we are to trial a new worshipping calendar. There will be a pattern of one service of holy communion in each church community every month, with an additional service which will rotate, so that there is almost always a Sunday service somewhere. A full list to Advent is now available, and local church secretaries will shortly be circulating the dates for each church. You are all warmly invited to attend any service in any church community to celebrate the holy feast together! It is worth making the effort to travel and we can help arrange lifts for those who need them. Weekly Evening Prayer also starts on Tuesday evenings at 18h00 from this Tuesday 5th May – and you can join our online gathering here:

Meeting link: <https://teams.live.com/join/9337368053069?p=vBFO9GPrfioD4AeVf8>

Thanks to John and Joyce Bosworth and other helpers in the Hesdin community, we had a wonderful St. George's day barbeque, with glorious weather and much fun shared by all present. Events such as these offer a chance to get to know one another better, to keep in touch, and also to welcome others who are not part of our church community – and raise much-needed funds too. These sorts of feasts are the hallmark of a thriving church, and we should look to do more of this, including after or alongside our services, as many people will appreciate the opportunity to 'come and see' in an environment that feels less formal. I'll be discussing with the Chaplaincy Council how we organise this for the year ahead at our next meeting.

In terms of teaching and discipleship, I'll be offering two further courses online on Tuesday evenings – one beginning on Tuesday 26th May at 18h30 – following on from Evening Prayer. If you would like to join please send me an email so that I can send through the course material in advance, and so that I know who to expect. This first course will be a reflective course on 'holiness'- what it means to live in holiness today – and we'll be taking our inspiration from the stories of various saints and holy people commemorated by the Anglican church during those five weeks of Ordinary time. In the autumn, we shall have a more traditional Bible study – the book is yet to be determined, so if you have any particular requests, please get them in now!

And finally, or perhaps to summarise all the above, we are going to be thinking together about the mission of our church and what part God calls each one of us to play. We'll do this through a day 'retreat' when we will come as a Chaplaincy to reflect and pray, most likely on a Saturday in June. The details will be emailed directly to everyone once we have firmed things up, and I hope as many of you as possible will join in.

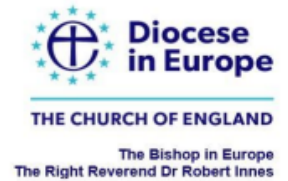
I continue to delight in being here with you, and am very much looking forward to playing my personal part in all the above. Please do remember that as a House for Duty priest my canonical responsibilities – to prepare and lead worship, to attend to those who are seriously ill and dying, and to chair Council meetings – take priority in terms of my available time (just Sundays and Tuesdays). Equally my skillsets and interests – teaching and ecumenical work – will also determine the part I play in moving us forward. This means there is much around local evangelism, pastoral care and visiting (including for home communion), and home prayer and Bible study groups which I can help to organise and direct, but won't be able to take on myself. And so, we each need to prayerfully consider our gifts and what it is we can bring to the table to support our mission and what God is calling us to do here in the Pas-de-Calais. I am sure such prayers will bring much fruit.

With every blessing, Revd. Teena

Eastertide 2026

Dear Friends,

For licensed and PtO clergy, wardens, Readers, archdeaconry synod reps in the archdeaconries of France and Switzerland plus other licensed clergy in the diocese, London and Brussels office staff



Archdeacon of France, Monaco and Switzerland

The Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, Archdeacon of France and Switzerland, will be leaving the Diocese in the summer.

Peter 're-joined' us in December 2020 having been a Chaplaincy Warden in the Toulouse area for many years in the 1990s and early 2000s. He was an ordinand in our Diocese. He served some 15 years of Parish Ministry in the Leicester Diocese before coming back to us as Archdeacon.

During his time as Archdeacon, Peter has recruited a remarkable 20 chaplains for France and 7 for Switzerland. He has been active ecumenically with both Protestant and Catholic colleagues in France and The Old Catholic Church in Switzerland. He has led ground-breaking constitutional work in France, enabling our chaplaincies to have new constitutions that conform with revised French law. He established a new national legal presence for the Archdeaconry which has enabled us to become members of the Federation of Protestant Churches. In the post Brexit environment, much work has been done to establish an effective visa route for priests coming newly into France as well as understanding the complicated Swiss work-permit process at a Cantonal Level.

Peter's work has often involved gruelling and difficult engagement with chaplaincy conflict, where he has achieved resolution to some deeply entrenched issues. In the 'Post Covid-era', Peter has been travelling for about 150 days a year. He has become something of a diocesan expert for cost-effective travel arrangements in and around France and Switzerland.

With his recent marriage to Liz in May of last year, combined with the amount of travel required to effectively fulfil the role of Archdeacon, Peter has, after a good deal of soul-searching (and conversations with me), discerned that he now needs to better balance his vocation as a husband in (newly) (re-)married life and his role as an ordained priest.

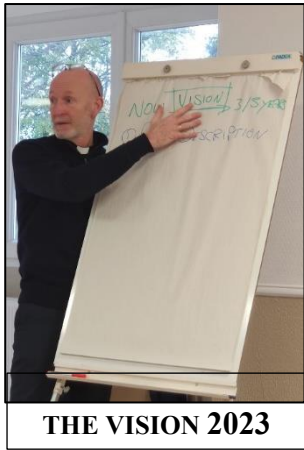
As part of this re-balancing, Peter will be returning to the Diocese of Leicester, taking up a role to assist in the change process taking place in the Diocese. Peter will be saying farewell to the Diocese in Europe and colleagues at various events over the coming few months, including our June Synod.

We are enormously grateful for all that Peter has given us, and I hope that his remaining months with us - last official working day will be 31st July - are happy and fulfilling. Arrangements for archidiaconal cover in France and Switzerland from August, and the appointment of a successor to Peter, will be put in train soon.

Yours in Christ

Robert Gibraltar in Europe.

Robert Gibraltar in Europe



A Very Big 'Thank You!' Archdeacon Peter.

For the planning: the patience; the interviewing and the management of a tremendous amount of paperwork and a lot of prayers in between, and in finding Revd. Teena Twelves our lovely new Chaplain.

Here are some special memories from the Pas de Calais Chaplaincy of your presence with us during times of interregnum.

2024 Good Friday in Estreelles 'St Omer' Church



2024 Easter Sunday in Hesdin's Worship Centre



Holy Saturday Eve in Boulogne, an early service at Wissant beach and a Chaplaincy Joint service in Estreelles 'St Omer' Church Easter April 2025



Revd. Teena Twelves' Installation Nov 2025 - When the Vision Became a Reality

We will all miss such a wonderful Archdeacon. The Pas de Calais Chaplaincy wish you and Liz, blessings in abundance for your future happiness together in Leicester.

5th April 2026 - Easter Morning Holy Eucharist - in Hesdin



A beautiful Easter service led by our chaplain the Revd. Teena Twelves; with Easter candles, the reaffirming of baptisms and many blessings. Plus hot cross buns to follow...!



Pics courtesy of George Murray

Prayers for Christ Church Lille

You may have read in the news that Christ Church Lille has had to close its doors after a fire took place in the chancel (on 20th April), mainly affecting the altar and major destruction of a window. They are thankful for the neighbour who reported seeing smoke and the rapid response of the fire brigade. At the moment, the building is not usable, not just because of damage, but because of the aftermath of a fire, smoke, soot and so on. Please pray for the chaplain and all members of the church community, and that they will be able to open the church again very soon. Thank you!

Commémoration Mémorial de l'Otan - 12th September

I've been asked to represent the Anglican church at the memorial service for NATO soldiers killed in conflict around the world. This ecumenical service on the morning of 12th September is followed by a civic service, at the memorial site near Frethun. I don't know much more at present, but I've been asked whether I will be accompanied, and if any church members would be interested in attending, please do let me know so that I can 'confirm their identity' as requested with the president of the Federation du Memorial de l'Otan - presumably a security matter for obvious reasons. *Revd. Teena - church.teena@gmail.com*

26th April 2026 - Chaplaincy Eucharist followed by AGM and Lunch



A 'Thank You' letter from Pat



Having at last given up my position as Churchwarden for Calais, after twenty-four years, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me. I would also like to thank you for the rose and the book given to me at the Chaplaincy AGM, in honour of my work for the church. I have many memories and have made many friends.

I am still a worship leader, a Chaplaincy council member, and a Synod representative, so I have not given up everything. I have also been put in charge of the archives, so, if you have anything you feel would be of interest to the Chaplaincy's history, please let me know. I pray that I can still be useful, and hope God can help us to expand and bring the good news to others. **Pat Page**

Pics curtesy of George Murray - thank you George for capturing the moment ! mcd /ed

Lent Virtual Sponsored Walk

During the period of Lent, Pauline Cecchin, Boulogne's churchwarden, was 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 was also joined by Lalage Glaister, previously Churchwarden of Boulogne, and friends from Benelux and France Trefoil Guild.

The group completed an amazing collective walk of 590kms. Our walk started at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in the Heart of Boulogne-Sur-Mer. We continued our walk to visit the Calais congregation via Hesdin, crossing the English Channel to Canterbury Cathedral then to Rochester to 'visit' Gael and Gillie Lewis. Our next destination was a visit to West Sussex for an ice cream with Martine Collins in Ferring, Worthing on the Sussex Coast. We then travelled to Westminster Abbey where '[Royal Maundy](#)' is the ancient Anglican tradition held on Maundy Thursday, when the British monarch distributes special, legally tender silver coins to worthy recipients. The coins, known as Maundy money, are presented in red and white purses, commemorating Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

To conclude our journey, we headed to the 'Riverhill Himalayan Gardens' in Sevenoaks, Kent, to see the beautiful bluebells before returning to France.

The group found the daily discipline of walking helpful as part of their Lenten journey. Gael & Gillie even continued adding to the collective total whilst in Australia!

200 Euros was raised for the charity, Maria Skobtsova House.

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).

Martine Collins



Saint George's Day BBQ

At the home of John & Joyce Boswell - Thank you both for a wonderful day!
Every picture tells a story! - *our chaplain said it all in her letter on Page 2.*



200€ was raised for the chaplaincy charities....
SNSM Lifeboats - Calais, l'Arche - Boulogne, France Alzheimer - Hesdin

Underground Tunnels in Montreuil-Sur-Mer

Montreuil can count many historical treasures above ground – but underground it yields equally fascinating veins of history.



Mediaeval Cellars

Our regional newspaper La Voix du Nord reported over Christmas that one of Montreuil's oldest streets, the rue du Clape en Haut, had had to be closed to traffic because major structural cracks had appeared in some of the houses.

The cause was identified as subsidence; and the reason is that Montreuil is riddled with ancient underground workings, tunnels, passages and cellars. An archaeological survey carried out in the 1990s in the area around the Eglise Saint-Saulve charted 140 cellars - including mine! - mostly dating from the 16th to 18th centuries. And one of the most spectacular examples is now an important tourist attraction: the cellars at 88-90 rue Pierre Ledent, the main road through the centre of Montreuil.

They were rediscovered 20 years ago during building works on the site of the former Henry print works, and have been confirmed as dating from the 13th century. These remarkable structures comprise a series of bays over which the ribbed vaulting soars to a height of 16ft. The arches are supported by sandstone pillars, the whole giving the impression of entering some mysterious ancient chapel.

On the street side there were two large openings through which goods were lowered. During the Middle Ages, the cellars served as a storehouse for barrels of wine as the constant cool temperature created ideal storage conditions.

And yet more tunnelling: a very different set of excavations was carried out during WWII when Montreuil was under German occupation. In 1943, as part of the construction of the 'Atlantic Wall' defences, the German garrison built an entire underground barracks underneath the ramparts. The notorious Todt Organisation conscripted hundreds of French prisoners, villagers and local farmers to construct the complex. The barracks were fully equipped with a kitchen, ventilation, boiler room, water supply and sanitary facilities, all linked via a network of over 600m of passages. The Germans abandoned it before completion upon the arrival of the liberating Canadians in September 1944. As the works were unfinished, some of the tunnels collapsed causing serious damage on the surface. After the war, the tunnels then remained completely sealed for many years.

Mouse-eared bat in Montreuil's WWII tunnels



Their re-opening was the happy result of an initiative by the municipality and nature conservancy groups to use the complex to create a unique wild life habitat - for bats! The tunnels afforded ideal conditions for these flying mammals, which quickly took up residence. Seven species have been identified, and their numbers have continued to grow every year. Sections of the workings have been closed off to protect these nocturnal visitors; but the rest of the complex is accessible and is open to the public on selected dates. *Michael Spriggs*

The Office de Tourisme Montreuil -sur-Mer has details of guided tours for both of these sites.

Address: 11-13 Rue Pierre Ledent, 62170 Montreuil-sur-Mer

Phone: 03 21 06 04 27

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS.

written by Revd Dr Tim Keen

It matters more than almost anything else we do. It matters more than the Coffee Rota or the selection of readers. If the Church cannot be safe for the vulnerable – children, survivors of abuse, those at risk, those who carry scars invisible and visible – then we should think carefully about why we exist.

We go. We attend. We listen. We read but do we take notice of its importance for those who attend and those who should be made to feel safe.

Sadly, I have been asked many times as to who would be abused within our community, well you just have to look around you to know the age group of our members who attend church.

We are all vulnerable and while we may think we are not, it only takes a minor misjudgement physically or mentally to throw us into a very different world. Safeguarding is not merely about responding to an incident, certainly not, or about saving the church's reputation, it's about shaping a positive, caring culture.

From my experience many do view Safeguarding with suspicion, as interference but it's not about this, it about showing care and implementing a culture of care and understanding in a Chaplaincy, where everyone is valued and respected. Culture is not about policies in cupboards or the display of policies it's about a lifestyle of implementing a caring environment where we are thinking about everyone's physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

It is also built on policy implementation and attending training where people can get to know and understand the risks to themselves and others. Safeguarding is not optional; it is not an administrative hoop but a moral commitment.

Policies sit in folders or on pinboards, never read by many but Culture lives in people.

And I will remember that Safeguarding is not a bureaucratic imposition it is a necessity, perhaps through beginning with training and then putting into practice what you have learned or observed. Practice makes perfect in the end. **Revd Dr Tim Keen**

Thanks to Daphne Power for sharing this article.

Safeguarding: The Chaplaincy are busy working towards compliance with the Safeguarding obligations in preparation for the audit if we are selected by the Safeguarding Committee.

This is very important as it is much the same as the school Ofsted inspections and we would not wish to be classed as a Chaplaincy which requires improvement.

So, if you would spend a little time undertaking a simple training course in Safeguarding please do so, this will reflect positively on the Chaplaincy's commitment to Safeguarding.

How do I do this? you may ask. Well, it very simple, just go to the Diocese in Europe website and click on Safeguarding and then on Training, register with them to complete the course.

Start with the Basic Awareness and it will give an insight into our responsibility and a duty of care towards each other.

If you need support, please email me daphne_power@hotmail.com and I will guide you through it.

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 europa.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.

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:

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.

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. *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

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

<https://www.churchofengland.org/signup> - Daily media digest