



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

The Chaplaincy Newsletter - September 2026



We're back and we hope you have all had a great summer!

A prayer for God's mission in the Pas-de-Calais: by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

September Chaplaincy Services and other info.

'Vision For Life' - All Chaplaincy Day/Retreat, Les Tourelles, Condette.

Sunday 6th September, 10am - 3.30pm

THE DAY WILL INCLUDE: Opening worship – reflection – prayer time – review of the Chaplaincy Vision statement – a celebration of the Eucharist - a BYO and share lunch – sharing of ideas: bringing the Vision to life – prayer time/quiet time in groups or congregations – closing worship and prayers

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

13th - 10.30am - Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

20th - 10.30am - Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

27th - 10.30am - Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

1st - 29th September - Five-week online Bible Study Course - Every Tuesday at 16.30pm.

Revd. Teena - church.teena@gmail.com – 06 86 18 86 26

This newsletter, together with contact details for our churchwardens, and chaplaincy secretary is also on our website <https://anglicanspdc.org>

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

Our Services are also on the facebook page link below - feel free to share the link with friends

<https://www.facebook.com/PasDeCalaisAnglicanChurch/>

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

Chaplain's letter September 2026

I hope that you are all feeling blessed by the cooler weather – and wasn't the soft, refreshing rain welcome after that spate of 'canicules' – God is good!

First thing I want to remind you of and further to my previous letter to you all on the subject is the **Away-day at Les Tourelles on Sunday 6th September**. The agenda for the day is attached below. It's going to be an opportunity to pray and reflect, individually and together. It's not essential to be there for the whole day, but if you can come just for the morning or the afternoon that would be simply wonderful. It is so important that we take this journey as a church community – so if you need help getting there, do let me know. You will see that we are going to have a 'tire-a-sac' lunch but I invite you to bring a little something to share also, so that we can truly 'feast' together. And our Communion feast will be...something a little bit different! I shall say no more – if you want to know, you'll have to come!

A reminder that we are coming together online on the 4th Sunday of each month, as well as on Tuesday evenings each week, at 1830 for **Evening Prayer**. On the 4th Sunday we also follow on to **Talking Theology Together** - a discussion on a theological topic (don't worry, it's not all high-brow, and we learn from experience of each other). It would be good to have more of you joining us. You will find the links on the website, but for ease they are also given below.

Also, starting after evening prayer on Tuesday 2nd September, we will begin our next online **discipleship course, exploring the Gospel of St. Matthew**. We've only a few months left of this Year A, in which Matthew is the Gospel most regularly read on Sunday, and I thought it might be useful to have a bit more background on the man, the community he was writing for, his interpretation of the Good News, and what it means for church today. I do need you to sign up (send me an email or text) so I can send you the course materials in advance, but you don't need to attend all the sessions, just join us when you can from 19h00 (ish) using the Tuesday evening prayer link. **September's theme is 'Being Anglican'**. The Council at its last meeting agreed that during October each church community would hold its own Harvest Festival. Please give generously as your donations will go to your local good causes. Thankfully I won't be doing what one of my old vicars did and eating 3 harvest meals a day...or the Vicar of Dibley Christmas thing...

And whilst we are on that subject, I know that it will feel (horribly) early – but I'm starting back at the choir at the Observatoire in the first week of September, and I know that Christmas music will be on the menu. Things as big as Christmas need advance preparation! I would dearly love to worship with (some of) you with a service of Holy Communion on **Christmas Day** this year.

So.... who's going to be around? If you will be here, and would like to worship, send me an email, with Christmas!!! as the title, saying where you would prefer to be (online or a church base) and we will see what we can muster up. Last year Ben and I celebrated Midnight Mass in the gîte I was staying at at the time. I'm not saying it wasn't lovely and a beautiful memory for the future – but I'm meant to be worshipping with the church family...

In other news, we're going to begin reframing the Prayer Circle which has prayed faithfully over the last few years for those in need, to bring it in line with the latest guidance from the House of Bishops on healing ministry and prayer ministry. I would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to be part of the new arrangements as they are developed. If you've not been involved in anything like that before, don't worry – full training and support will be given to everyone. It's a very special ministry, something I am particularly passionate about, and one in which I will be encouraging you as the lay people of the church to take the lead (and not only because, as my former training incumbent used to grumble frequently 'no-one ever tells the Vicar'...)

A healthy church is always underpinned by a solid foundation of prayer, and the more bricks in the wall, the better it will stand.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Condette on Sunday 6th September, until then, go well in Christ.

Blessings,

Revd. Teena - church.teena@gmail.com – 06 86 18 86 26



TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER / DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

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

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER / TALKING THEOLOGY TOGETHER – 4th SUNDAYS

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

AGENDA – RETREAT AND VISIONING DAY – LES TOURELLES – 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

0945 Welcome and coffee - Please help yourself to coffee/tea as we chat and gather together.

1000 Opening worship - A short service of morning praise and prayer.

1020 Reflection (Revd. Teena) - A short reflection on the mission that God is calling us to and how we might go about discerning the way forward.

1030 Group prayer time - In small groups, using the space (including outside if the weather is nice) have an informal discussion of Revd. Teena's reflection and some time to share your own views, and hold it all in prayer – silently or aloud as you are most comfortable.

1100 Coffee break - Please help yourself to coffee/tea and continue the conversations or catch up with others.

1115 Review of the Chaplaincy Vision Statement – in groups.

Using the copy of the Chaplaincy Vision Statement in your packs, discuss together whether it is still 'fit for purpose' whether things have changed in our circumstances/need to change in the words what is missing. Collate feedback for sharing in the final part of the morning session –nominate a 'spokesperson.'

1200 Feedback - We will hear feedback from each of the groups

1215 Eucharist (Revd. Teena) - A short Eucharist with an emphasis on prayer and contemplation.

1245 Lunch – Tire-a-sac

To ease catering, please bring your own packed lunch – and perhaps one small item to share with others (e.g. cake, crisps, crudités, chocolate...)

1330 Bringing the Vision to Life – group work

Choose one area of the Vision Statement (as amended, if amendments are made) and try to come up with at least 3 practical suggestions as to how this might be made a reality.

1415 Feedback - We will share the ideas from each of the groups.

1445 Group prayer time/quiet time - There will be a selection of Bible passages available to reflect upon which will relate to the themes of the Vision Statement. You may wish to do this reflection in conversation with others, or in quiet contemplation by yourself. Again, please make use of the space available. There will be no feedback following this session – unless you want to offer a matter for prayer in the closing prayers, in which case speak to Revd. Teena.

1510 Closing worship - A short service of Evening praise and prayer.

1525 Closing prayers and depart - (Revd. Teena) - We will offer prayers of thanksgiving and offer all our ideas and endeavours up to God.

Even Older Than the Dinosaurs

If, like many British second homeowners you live in the Pas-de-Calais in a pleasant converted ferme (a traditional country farmhouse), you may well have a fine old red marble fireplace as the centerpiece of your sitting room. If so, then the material was almost certainly extracted from the quarries at Marquise, near Calais.

Dating back to Roman times, these quarries are still in operation. You can see the spoil heaps as you drive south from Calais along the A16.

Marquise marble is justifiably famous; and its presence in this part of France is something of a geological quirk as it is a much older rock occurring in an area which, as we can all see, is largely covered by the more recent chalk layers. Now, it is hard to grasp the scale of geological time: indeed, 19th century geologists aroused considerable controversy by challenging the established 17th century interpretation of the Old Testament that the earth had been created in 4004 BC!



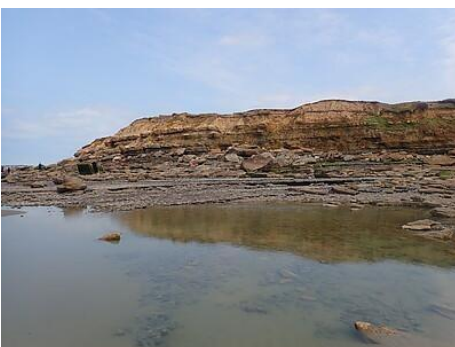
Marquise marble fireplace

The chalk we can see over much of the Pas-de-Calais is a major rock sequence created as the result of millions of years of deposition of the skeletons of tiny sea creatures laid down over what was then a vast shallow ocean.

That was in the Cretaceous period, 65-140 million years ago. On land, it was the final age of the dinosaurs, which ended with their extinction as a result of a huge, catastrophic asteroid impact. This event saw the demise of, amongst others, such fearsome creatures as Tyrannosaurus Rex: pace, Steven Spielberg, these reptiles did not appear until well after the preceding Jurassic period!

But something unusual happened around Marquise. Much older rocks were being pushed up to the surface by vast subterranean forces deep within the earth's crust. This belt of rock, the so-called Ferques inlier (after the local village) is from the much earlier Devonian period and overlying Carboniferous - from which we mine, coal - dating from almost 350 million years ago. And is this material that is exploited in these quarries today. Marquise 'marble' is in fact a misnomer – it is actually a dense limestone, coloured hues of reddish-pink by the presence of iron and manganese; or bluish-grey from minerals called feldspars. The product is a durable stone that takes a fine decorative polish, which led to its misnomer as a marble. It lends itself to shaping and polishing, and is used for a variety of architectural uses, including ornamental fireplaces. For example, Marquise marble is in splendid evidence in Canterbury Cathedral, where it forms columns in the Trinity Chapel and in the Crypt.

All this such a long time ago ... but a key principle of geology is that the processes that formed the earth all those aeons ago are exactly those that shape our world today. So, bringing us right up to date, one can see today the same process of sedimentation – the forming of rock layers by chemical and physical processes – in the cliffs along the Côte d'Opale north of Boulogne, where layers of sand and clay are slowly being transformed into rock. In just a few dozen million years, they will turn into sandstone and slate!



The cliffs at Audresselles

Michael Spriggs

Raising funds for the Pas de Calais Branch of the Royal British Legion.



SUMMER BARBEQUE - Saturday 22nd August 2026



In Commemoration of the 541st Anniversary of
The Battle of Bosworth Field, which took place on August 22nd 1485 when Henry Tudor
defeated Richard III to end the Wars of the Roses and initiate the Tudor Era.



On Saturday 22nd August, we held a barbeque in our garden at Marconne, to raise money for the Royal British Legion. It lashed down with rain on Thursday and Friday and was still raining on Saturday morning.

Getting everything organised was, to say the least, interesting. But with help from friends and neighbours, we got there.

The rain stopped, the guests turned up, including John and Jenny Knight, Chairman and Secretary of the RBL. The barbies were lit, the wine was poured and a great time was had by all.

We had sausages, chicken, burgers and a great assortment of salads. I really must thank Jim Rowe, RBL member, who manned the BBQ and the ladies who did such sterling work in the kitchen while I ran around like a

headless chicken trying to keep the show on the tracks. Everyone left by 5pm and Joyce and I surveyed the wreckage. We immediately got to work on our cleaning plan...and then we relaxed, had a bite to eat and a glass of wine in the peace and quiet.

More than 40 guests raised 325€ for the Legion. A terrific success.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who donated, helped, supplied prizes, came, ate, drank and enjoyed themselves. Below are just a few of the pics taken on the day by Jenny Knight.

See you all next time...

Many thanks and love from John & Joyce Bosworth



Many thanks to Tanya Collins for sharing this lovely poem by Steven Brown.



THE BEND IN THE PATH

WE ARE ALL ON A JOURNEY
A TREK HERE ON EARTH
WE ARE ALL ON A PATH
THAT STARTED WITH BIRTH

OUR PATHS ARE CONNECTED
OUR PATHS ARE APART
OUR PATHS ARE LIT WITH SUNSHINE
AND AT TIMES IN THE DARK

SOME PATHS ARE LONG AND NARROW
OTHERS SHORT, WINDING WAYS
AT TIMES THE ROCKS AND THE HILLS
GO ON ENDLESS FOR DAYS

THERE ARE THINGS THAT LAY WAITING
THERE ARE TWISTS, TURNS AND STRIFE
AND WHO KNOWS WHAT LIES
'ROUND THE BEND OF OUR LIFE

NO MATTER THE PLACE
ON YOUR PATH YOU MAY BE
THERE IS A GUIDE WHO WILL LEAD
HE IS JESUS, YOU SEE

HE KNOWS ALL OUR PATHS
FROM BEGINNING TO END
HE IS THE ONE WHO SEES
WHAT LIES 'ROUND THE BEND

SO WHY WOULD WE TRAVEL
WITHOUT THE HELP OF OUR GUIDE
WHEN HE IS SO WILLING
TO WALK BY OUR SIDE

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.

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>

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

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2 bags of BBQ charcoal - to give away for a small donation of one euro each to the chaplaincy. Contact George Murray

georgemurray@sfr.fr.

06 08 04 31 34.