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

The Chaplaincy Newsletter - November 2026



Our November Services

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

Sunday 8th - 11.30am - Act of Remembrance with RBL - All are welcome see flyer on page 3.

Sunday 15th - 10.30 - Eucharist service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

Sunday 29th - 10.30 - Advent Sunday - Eucharist Led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

Sunday 1st - 10.30 - All Saints Eucharist led by Revd. Teena Twelves

Sunday 8th - 10.30 - Remembrance service led by Revd. Teena Twelves

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

Sunday 22nd - 10.30 - Christ the King - Eucharist Led by Revd. Teena Twelves

Please check with churchwarden for joint services before travelling

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 faceboock 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

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

Chaplain's letter - November 2026



First a look back to October when our Harvest Festival services were held in Hesdin and Wimille (for Calais/Boulogne). Gifts collected have been donated to the local foodbank charities to help those who find it hard to put food on the table – thank you all for your generosity.

We enter now into our season of remembrance – giving thanks for those who have gone before us. John Bosworth and Marilyn Catchpole-Dossat have been working with the local branch of the Royal British Legion and a short service to remember those who died in the two World Wars will be held in the **Salle Paroissalle in Hesdin on Sunday 8th November – details are on page 3 of this newsletter so please let John or Marilyn know if you plan to attend.**

For the Principal Feast Day of **All Saints** there will be a service at the **Salle Limousin in Bleriot-Plage, Calais** at the usual time of 1030. This will also include a chance to remember those we have loved and lost, looking to All Souls which follows on the Monday. If you are unable to attend the service, but would like your loved one remembered in prayers, please send an email to me directly, and I'll ensure that this is done.

As previously noted, for our **Advent course 2026** we are going to be using the Church of England resource ***Advent from A to Z.*** Available as a booklet (£4.99), through the Everyday Faith app (free on Google Play on the Apple store), or by email (sign up by visiting the official Church of England Sign Up Page once seasonal email registration opens). The course '*invites you on a journey to explore what the season of Advent is all about. From 30th November to 24th December, Imogen Ball, Philip North and Andrew Zihni offer daily reflections, each taking as their starting point a different letter of the alphabet. Together they invite you to discover afresh the people, places, traditions and symbols of Advent. Each day includes a Bible reading, a reflection, an opportunity to respond and a prayer. There are also illustrations for each day as well as questions for group discussion or individual reflection. Whether you are keeping Advent for the first or the hundredth time, Advent from A to Z can help you prepare to celebrate the great gift that God gives us of himself in the birth of Jesus at Christmas*.'

We will be keeping to our usual practice of meeting online **after Evening Prayer from about 19h00** to discuss the Advent material and if you would like to join in this way**, please email me for the dates and link**. But there will also be the chance to attend one of two in-person discussions as Advent begins: at Boulogne/Calais and at Hesdin. Details of these are given below – again let me know if you will be attending and I'll make sure that you have the discussion points in advance.

Christmas will be celebrated in Calais with **Holy Communion on Christmas Day** at 10h30 for those who are staying this side of the water. If you need a lift let us know and we will try to arrange this for you – a link may also be available to watch a live-stream or via Teams (more on this in the December newsletter if it looks like a possibility).

The Advent/Christmas season is also the focus for our major ecumenical celebrations, so we are expecting to hold an ecumenical carol service in Calais on Wednesday 16th December, and have some form of carol service/worship in Hesdin (currently under discussion). So, look out for a flyer with all our Christmas dates on, hopefully available before the end of the month, and get them on your calendars! If you are interested in speaking with other Christians before then, the new term of the **Fraternité Oecumenique Partage-Priere** has begun at Condette. This monthly event (every fourth Thursday) begins with soupe and fromage from 18h30 then a film and discussion afterwards. It is always most interesting, and it's good to be with our fellow brothers and sisters from various denominations in the local area too. Let's hope that the autumn storms subside and we can enjoy a season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness'. Go well in Christ.

Blessings,

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

The new 'Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy online' teams link (for all worship/prayer/if you just want a chat!) is: https://teams.live.com/meet/932258521642?p=N0MZUkwxDo3wbeKDLn

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

NORD / PAS DE CALAIS BRANCH

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

The RBL Nord/Pas de Calais Branch will be holding an Act of Remembrance in the Parish Hall, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin-la-Forêt 62140 at 11.30 on Sunday 8th November 2026.

Rue de l'Arsenal is the small side street between BNP Paribas Bank and the Notaires office in Rue Charles Quint, just along from the Belle Epoque restaurant.

If the iron gates are closed, please ring the bell and someone will come to let you in.

We have compiled a Remembrance Book and would be grateful for any details of family or friends who died in conflict, be they service personnel or civilians.

Please contact John Bosworth, bosworthjj@aol.com, who is the Membership Secretary of the Legion Branch.

We hope to see as many as possible at the Act of Remembrance.

The service will be followed by a vin d'honneur

Montreuil: Remembrance - Programme for Wednesday 11 November 2026

The Remembrance Event initiated some years ago by Paul and Lalage Glaister; forms part of the programme of events in Montreuil that day. This year, on Wednesday 11th November at 10:00h there will be short wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Field Marshal Douglas Haig in the main square in Montreuil. The Mayor of Montreuil, M Pierre Ducrocq, will be in attendance, together with standard bearers from the Anciens Combattants and members of the Town Band. Lalage and I will lay wreaths and make short addresses in respectively English and French. **All are welcome to attend!**

9:30am - Moment of remembrance at the cemetery's Wall of Remembrance.

10:00am - Commemorative ceremony and wreath-laying at the statue of Marshal Douglas Haig, Place du Général-de-Gaulle.

11:00am - Mass at Saint-Saulve Abbey Church.

12:00a - Gathering at Place Gambetta, followed by a procession accompanied by the municipal band.

2:10-12:30pm Further tributes at military memorials, ending at the war memorial on Place Darnétal.

The Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy Celebrates Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival is one of the oldest traditions in human history. Long before supermarkets and delivery apps, communities relied heavily on the food they grew. A good harvest meant survival through the winter. So, when crops were finally gathered in, it was cause for celebration—and that's how the idea of Harvest Festival was born.

Across the world, different cultures have their own versions of this seasonal thanksgiving. But when we talk about the Harvest Festival in the UK, we're referringmto a deeply rooted celebration that combines pagan customs, Christian influence, and regional folklore. In fact, the word 'harvest' comes from the Old English 'haerfest' meaning 'autumn.'

While the concept of giving thanks for the harvest is ancient, the modern version we know today:



decorated churches; donations of produce, and community gatherings was formalised in the 19th century. It's widely believed that Reverend Robert Hawker of Cornwall held the first official Harvest Festival UK church service in 1843, encouraging people to bring produce and give thanks.

Hesdin congregation (above) held their Harvest Festival on Sunday 18th October in the parish halls. Contrary to the chilly, wet and windy weather on Sunday 25th October, Boulogne and Calais congregations were warmly welcomed by Thierry and Jane Langlet at their home in Wimille (below).





On both occasions, Reverend Teena led a lovely Eucharist service focussing on the global meaning of Harvest today. Whilst it is about thanking God for the provision of daily food and those who provide it, it is also about remembering those whose cupboards are bare, for parents skipping meals so their children can eat, and for anyone facing isolation and hunger on their own. It is a time to consider our abundant blessings in whatever form that may be, not just material but also spiritual. This season is not only about celebrating abundance, but also about sharing it through acts of generosity. In her sermon, Teena also spoke of our own acts of generosity within the Pas-de-Calais chaplaincy mentioning those who help set up for the service, read the lessons, lead intercessions or make pastoral visits to other chaplaincy members in need; with a final word about the financial generosity required for us to secure our future as a chaplaincy, a challenge Teena is endeavouring to meet over the months to come. In fact, the Harvest Festival becomes a reflection of God's kingdom on earth.

Both services were followed by a bring-and-share meal with some delicious food shared during a time of fellowship together. The generous gifts blessed by Teena during the service were taken to the Restos du Coeur in Hesdin and a new local association in Ardres called 'Le Tremplin Solidaire de l'Ardresis' where they were all greatfully received. ***Tanya Collins***

A big thank you to Teena, to Doreen & Jake, Thierry and Jane - and everyone else who helped in any way towards this special day of fellowship & giving. mcd/ed

Merry Montreuil in the Middle Ages

There's always something interesting going on in Montreuil!

Celebrating some of the town's colourful history, at the end of October, Montreuil organised a spectacular Mediaeval Festival at its ancient fortified Citadel. What does that period conjure up? Ancient crafts and music, quaint styles of dress, then of course knights in armour, jousting, fencing and archery. Well, it was all there on show that weekend.

Among the many displays of arts, crafts and food on show was a fascinating exhibition of the changing fashions and hair styles in the Middle Ages. It was presented my Mme Anita Grémont who is a local *coiffeuse* and also an expert on the history of hairdressing. Most intriguing was the list of hair products used in those times; long before modern chemical shampoos, conditioners, cleansers, sprays. Instead, their preparations were made from available natural substances. The lists of ingredients sound almost like witches' spells; though several of these components are still used in modern hair products.



Hennin headdress with plaits



Truffaut (false hair buns) with veil



The truncated hennin

Thus, in the Middle Ages ladies would wash their hair with a soap made from animal fat or vegetable oils, plant infusions, and egg white. It was mixed with wood ash, containing alkaline mineral salts that removed grease. To dry it, they would rub in powdered iris root to absorb the oily sebum, and also as a pleasant perfume; rather like supermarket dry shampoos, but a much 'greener' product! Other choice treatments were broom flowers and vinegar, or the juice of Swiss chard alleged to clear dandruff. For glossy hair, they applied a paste of walnut and oak leaves.

The hair brush did not yet exist. Combs were wooden, or sometimes made from horn. As women wore their hair long, untangling it was tedious and many used plaits or buns to reduce the knots. Wearing a veil or cloth headwear meant the hair did not have to be washed so often.
In pre-hairspray days, egg white was used to hold the hair.

To change the colour of one's hair; a natural bleaching agent was used, horse urine!
It was left to stand until the urea in it broke down into ammonia, then applied to the hair.
Ammonia is a key ingredient of modern hair bleaching products. Dyeing one's hair darker required soaking in a mixture of roasted oak apple and boiled walnut leaves (both rich in tannins).
The strangest recipe of all for a mediaeval shampoo involved soaking the hair for several hours in a paste of fried lizard, sautéed oak apples and vinegar.

I think I'll stick to my usual supermarket brand!

Michael Spriggs** - **Montreuil-sur-Mer

Annonce Concert - *Concert Announcement*



Bonjour à tous. En PJ vous avez l'annonce pour le prochain concert avec « L'Ensemble H.3 » le dimanche 22 novembre pour célébrer la fête de Ste Cécile. Un programme renaissance et baroque des œuvres de Monteverdi, Telemann, Rameau, Vivaldi, Händel et Byrd. Venez nombreux et je vous demande de le diffuser sans modération ! Pour réserver les billets c'est mieux de me téléphoner sur 03 21 41 79 43 ou par mail. N'arrivez-pas trop tard le jour car les piliers dans l'Eglise cachent la vue un peu ! Règlement sur place en espèces ou par chèque.

Merci à vous et à bientôt j'espère.

Amicalement, Ian

"The newly renovated church of Notre-Dame is hosting, for the 4th time, Ian Ward's "Ensemble H.3" in a concert to celebrate the patron saint of music, Saint Cécile. A top-rate chamber choir and orchestra perform works from the renaissance and baroque with France, Italy, Germany and England represented both chorally and orchestra alone. To book tickets, the best way is to telephone Ian on 03 21 41 79 43 and arrive early as you don't want to be stuck behind a pillar!"

Ian Ward
Chef d'orchestre / chef de chorale

+33 3 21 41 79 43 +33 6 47 39 75 77

To hear extracts please follow the YouTube link below
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERZmqx32fVU&authuser=0

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. 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.

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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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