

The Magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd,
Poitou-Charentes







Christmas 2021/New Year 2022

God bless you and those you love



December 19th 4th Sunday of Advent

AT 11.00AM, A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE OPENING OF OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING IN CHEF BOUTONNE

MORE WORSHIP SERVICES TO COME

Sunday 19th: Holy Communion at Chef Boutonne 11.00.am

- Christmas Day: at 10.30.am in Champagne Mouton and Courcelles
- Sunday 26th: on Zoom at 3.30.pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3145287597?pwd=UVJDNTVpZzJXSnFWYTk2ZFhBMW5Zdz09

Meeting ID: **314 528 7597** Passcode: CGShepherd

AND in January 2022

2nd	Courcelles	HOLY COMMUNION	10.30
	Champagne Mo	uton Morning Worship	10: 30.
9th	Cognac	HOLY COMMUNION	10.30.
16th	Zoom Service a	t 10: 30	
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3145287597?pwd=UVJDNTVpZzJXSnFWYTk2ZFhBMW5Zdz09			
Meeting ID: 314 528 7597		Passcode: CGShepherd	
23rd	Chef Boutonne	HOLY COMMUNION	10.30

30th Chef Boutonne: more will be known about all services after the Ministry Team Meeting of the 3rd December. Please pray for guidance for the Ministry Team. The Archdeacon of France will be joining this meeting.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE SERVICE IN CHEF-BOUTONNE ON 19th DECEMBER

We look forward to welcoming you to a service of Holy Communion with carols in the church of Christ the Good Shepherd at 11am on Sunday 19th December. We hope you find the following information useful.

The address of the Church is:

16 Avenue de l'Hotel de Ville, 79110, Chef Boutonne

PARKING

There are spaces available in front of both the Collège and the Ecole Maternelle which are situated to the right and left of the church. You may also park in the Mairie car park opposite the Ecole Maternelle and there is extra parking to the rear of the Mairie.

Please note that if you are bringing someone with <u>mobility issues</u> you may stop in the space directly in front of the church to allow them access to the building but we kindly ask you then to vacate that space so that others may do the same. The disabled space opposite the church has already been reserved for a member of the congregation who will be using a wheelchair. Andy, visible in his gilet jaune, will be on hand to assist and advise with any parking queries.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR SALE

There will be a range of Christmas items for sale at a table outside as you exit the church. These include Christmas candles, crackers, wrapping paper, novelty items and prayer puppies which were made with love and prayer by Val Knight, wife of our assistant chaplain, Paul, before they returned to England. Andy, still wearing his gilet jaune, will be on hand to assist.

DIRECTIONS TO RESTAURANT DES CANARDS

For those who are going for lunch after the service, I should like to remind you that they serve fairly promptly at 1pm. The restaurant is very easy to find - the address is Camping le Moulin, 1 route de Niort, 79110, Chef-Boutonne. As you leave the church take the road to the left heading towards Brioux sur Boutonne. Carry straight on for approximately 1 kilometre. You will pass the Château de Javarzay on your right. Do not take the right turn for Melle but carry straight on and the lane leading to the campsite will be visible on the left. The restaurant is in the stone building to the left at the end of the lane. PLEASE REMEMBER your pass sanitaire!

Wanda

This edition of *Jubilate is covering Four Sundays* and a few days in between):

This Sunday - 19th December

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day Services in Champagne Mouton and Courcelles

Both at 10.30.am

December 26th 1st Sunday after Christmas

Service on ZOOM at 15.30 h

January 2nd 2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 6th Epiphany

January 9th The Baptism of Christ

To make the most of this edition, go to each Sunday as it appears

With apologies to

Saint Thomas the Apostle
 Saint Stephen, the first Christian Martyr
 Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist
 20 December
 26 December
 29 December

who are also commemorated by the Church during this period.

The next edition of *Jubilate* is due to be published by Sunday 16th January 2022

The Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Advent 4 Dec 19

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Bible Readings

Micah 5.2-5

Psalm 80.1-8

Hebrews 10.5-10

Luke 1.39-55

THE '0' ANTIPHONS

During the last week before Christmas, there are a special little group of prayers called antiphons; These are called the O Antiphons, because they all begin with "O".

- December 17: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.
- December 18: O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.
- December 19: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.
- December 20: O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- December 21: O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- December 22: O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.
- December 23: O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

All these short prayers reflect a longing for the Messiah

The Carol "O come, O come Emmanuel" is based on the 'O' Antiphons. You might like to listen to it, and join in with a "zoomed" choir: You'll find it on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ula7NEx4U8

Christmas Eve Dec 24

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

2 Samuel 7.1-5,8-11,16

Psalm 89.2,19-27

Acts 13.16-26

Luke 1.67-79

Christmas Night (Dec 24/25)

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Late Arrivals

by TAVAH

There was a knock on the door. "Will you get it love?" Ben called from upstairs. Rachel was already there, and gasped in astonishment at the dishevelled man outside "Oh my word! Yossy, how lovely to see you! We didn't expect - oh goodness, come in, come in!" She stood back to let the weary traveller in, but he stood aside to reveal his companion, who was leaning against the doorpost. "Oh my dear, you look exhausted, here let me help you," and Rachel stepped forward to lend an arm to the slight form hidden under many outer clothes. With both of them safely inside, the older woman stoked the fire, fetched drinks, and urged them to make themselves at home. "Well my lad, you made it! It's been a long time! Congratulations on your marriage! How's my sister, and her hubby?" "Thank you, Aunty. Mum and Dad are well, and send their love. I'm sorry it's so late, we had to take it slowly because of, well, Mim's ..." He turned to his wife who'd taken off her weatherproofs, and her condition was apparent. She smiled wanly and tried to get more comfortable. "That's wonderful Mim! Congratulations, both of you! How long have you got?" "Too long, er, Aunty! But about two or three weeks yet. I hope!" "Well done Yossy boy!" Ben had come in and strode over to sweep his nephew up into a bear hug. Then he took the girl's hand. "You're very welcome, Mim, only", he looked back at his wife, "we've got a full house. The guest room's already packed with cousins - we can't squeeze any more in. There's five of us in our bed, and the boy's had to go in with the animals!" "Please don't worry Uncle. We've been sleeping under the stars for days now. We'll be fine on the floor. It's nice to be warm again!" "That's very gracious of you Mim," said Ben. Rachel said nothing. She was embarrassed she couldn't host them properly. Then, "If you're sure you'll be alright ... I'll get you some hot food." She bustled off a little self-consciously as her famed hospitality seemed a bit thin. "That would be very welcome Aunty," said Yos and he started to undo their bedding roll. Mim was snuggling down when the food arrived, but she struggled upright to eat, although she didn't manage very much. "Yos wouldn't let me bring all I wanted, and not any baby stuff. He's spent ages carving the most beautiful cot for Yesh- "For who dear? Oh, your little Yossy? Well, if your time does come at least you'll have me here to help. We've no cot now, though! With the twins and only one cot we used to take turns who had it, and put the other one in the straw to sleep. Quite cosy and warm. So if baby does arrive, we can always put him to bed in one of the mangers."

Read the Chronological Bible in One Year

Sunday 19th

Thursday 30th

Friday 31st

If you wish to do this exercise again, email <u>david.hawken@orange.fr</u> for the complete list of readings for the year.

If you know someone who would like this list, send it on to them or get them to send an email request themselves.

• The whole year's readings are also available in booklet form.

1 Peter 2:13 - 5:14

NOW Here are the readings for the rest of the year. YES! It's the end, or at the very least, the beginning

Jude 1:1-16

Jude 1:17-25, 2 Peter 1:1 - 3:18, 2 Timothy 1:1-18 Monday 20th Tuesday 21st 2 Timothy 2:1 - 4:22, Hebrews 1:1-14 Wednesday 22nd Hebrews 2:1 - 6:20 Thursday 23rd Hebrews 7:1 - 10:18 Friday 24th Hebrews 10:19 - 12:29 Saturday 25th Hebrews 13:1-25, 1 John 1:1 - 3:24 Sunday 26th **1** John 4:1 - 5:21, **2** John 1:1-13, **3** John 1:1-14 Revelation 1:1-20 Monday 27th Revelation 2:1 - 5:14 Tuesday 28th Revelation 6:1 - 10:11 Wednesday 29th Revelation 11:1 - 14:20

> Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119 v. 105)

Revelation 15:1 - 18:24

Revelation 19:1 - 22:21

CHRISTMAS DAY

Read Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20

PRAY

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.



Continuing our series:

Sandy's Church Alphabet

'V is for Vicar.'

In the course of my ministry I have been called many things, some of which are printable but by far the most common is the title Vicar. In fact I have never been a vicar so to clear up the confusion, using the letter 'V,' I will try to explain the multitude of titles for the clergy. These include Vicar, Rector, Curate, and Minister.

In the Church of England there are three ranks of clergy, Bishop, Priest and Deacon. At the moment Deacons tend to be clergy in the first year after College, someone suggested that it was similar to 'Work Experience'. Deacons are in parishes but their role is restricted and they cannot celebrate the Eucharist. All other clergy are in fact Priests; the Bishop being the top priest in an area called a Diocese. Apart from priests in administrative roles the rest are Parish Priests.

The Middle Ages saw two types of Parish Priest, firstly there were the clergy who came under the Bishop and such clergy were called Rectors. The Rector of a Parish received all the money from that Parish and was only answerable to the Bishop. Secondly there were Parishes that were served by a Monastery. The Abbot of a monastery would be technically Rector of a number of local parishes and the monastery would receive all the finance from these parishes. Of course the Abbot couldn't be in all the parishes at once so he would appoint some of his monks to act in his place. They were said to act 'Vicariously' for the Abbot hence they became known as Vicars. These names lasted through the centuries and so we have some clergy who are known as Rectors and others known as Vicars. Since the Church became short of clergy many Parishes were amalgamated and teams were formed. The senior priest in these teams became known as Rector and the clergy of the other churches became known as Vicars on the grounds that they acted on behalf of the Rector who in fact had the 'Cure of Souls', or responsibility for the whole amalgamated Parish.

The word Chaplain comes from the church in Tours where the keeper of the cloak of St. Martin was known as the 'Capellan' (from the Latin capella 'a cloak') A chaplain is a priest with special care for the military, a hospital a school or even a parish in France. Minister in Scotland is a title for the person in charge of a parish. He/She is aided by Elders and the Minister is often referred to as the Preaching Elder. Other free churches use a similar title but in, the Church of England, Minister often refers to those who assist with Parish Work or Worship. One of the oddest terms for the clergy is the word 'Padre' being the Portuguese word for 'Father' Many people who would not dream of calling a Priest 'Father' will quite happily call a military chaplain 'Padre'. Father by the way is used, not only by Catholics, but also by Lutherans, Eastern Orthodox, and by some Anglicans.

PS I have been called many things in the last sixty years but my Mother and Father gave me the name Alexander. Now the Scots often contract Alexander to 'Sandy' so we had better leave it at that, "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet". Now who said that?



A Prayer of St. Augustine of Hippo

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you:

Grant us strength of heart and purity of purpose,
So that no passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
No weakness from doing it, but in your light may we see light clearly,
And in your service find perfect freedom.
This we ask through Jesus the Lord...Amen







The First Sunday of Christmas (Dec 26)

Prayers

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-52



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

According to *discoverhappyhabits.com*, the most popular resolutions for 2021 were exercising more and improving fitness (50% of participants), losing weight (48%), saving money (44%), and improving diet (39%).

NO CHANCE!

Congratulations to those of you who can count yourselves successful with any of these.

But surely there are things more important and worthwhile than a healthy bank account and the "body beautiful".

There's the SOUL - When I "googled" the word the first umpteen entries referred to Netflix. Eventually an online dictionary helped:

soul: the spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal.

But even the dictionary does not mention God. The writer of the Book of Deuteronomy sums up the Ten Commandments in this way:

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your **soul** and with all your strength.

Jesus said:

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their **soul**? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their **soul**?

Let's get our priorities right in 2022

Seek God's Kingdom - there can be no better resolution

2nd Sunday of Christmas (Jan 2nd)

PRAY

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for eyer.

READ Jeremiah 31.7-14
Psalm 147.13-21
Ephesians 1.3-14
John 1:1-18

EPIPHANY

.... Is not just "We Three Kings of Orient Are". It commemorates:

- 1. the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi,
 - 2. the manifestation of his divinity, as it occurred at his baptism in the Jordan River
 - 3. the turning of water into wine at Cana, His first miracle







<u>BUT FIRST</u>

The time between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas, the last of those being called "Twelfth Night"

The song, 'The 12 days of Christmas" was published in England in 1780 without music as a chant or rhyme and is thought to be French in origin.

- The first day of Christmas My True Love, the Partridge in a Pear Tree (*Jesus Christ is my true love*). In ancient times a partridge was often used as symbol of a divine and sacred king.
- 2. The second day of Christmas Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The doves symbolize peace.
- 3. The third day of Christmas The three French Hens are Faith, Hope and Love. These are the three gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. The fourth day of Christmas The four calling birds are the four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- 5. The fifth day of Christmas The five golden rings describe the first five books of the Old Testament.

- 6. The sixth day of Christmas The six geese a laying stood for the first six days of creation.
- 7. The seventh day of Christmas The seven swans a swimming represented the the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
- 8. The eighth day of Christmas The eight maids a milking are the eight Beatitudes. These are Jesus' teachings of happiness.
- 9. The ninth day of Christmas Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. These are Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty and Continency.
- 10. The tenth day of Christmas The ten lords a leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- 11. The eleventh day of Christmas The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful apostles.
- 12. The twelfth day of Christmas The twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Add them all up (given that the Partridge in the Pear Tree is just one gift) and you get a total of 364 gifts

SORRY - no prizes for working out the cost, even with "Free Delivery"

Happy New Year 2022 to all <u>Jubilate</u> readers

NOW READ ON

The Epiphany (6 Jan)

Pray

O God,

who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72.[1-9]10-15

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

Wise men?

There is an Armenian tradition identifying the "Magi of Bethlehem" as Balthasar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia, and Caspar of India.

Whoever they were and wherever they came from, they understood that the Child was, at the very least, Some One Special. The gifts they presented had great significance, had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death.

If you're in France, you can make or buy your "Galette Des Rois", a traditional almond flatbread. It will be decorated with a paper crown and you can break your teeth on the light metal crown or figure hidden within. As you eat, you are at one with the visitors to Jesus soon after His birth. With them we can sing: "Glorious now we behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.

Heaven sings 'Alleluya': 'Alleluya' the earth replies.

God of gold, we seek your glory: The richness that transforms our drabness into colour, And brightens our dullness with vibrant light; Your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.

> God of incense, we offer you our prayer: Our spoken and unspeakable longings, Our questioning of truth, Our search for your mystery deep within.

God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering: The pain of all our rejections and bereavements, Our baffled despair at undeserved suffering, Our rage at continuing injustice.

And we embrace YOU, God - With - Us, In our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss.

By Jan Berry (from The Book of a Thousand Prayers -Angela Ashwin. Publ.Zondervan)

The First Sunday after Epiphany (Jan 9th) The Baptism of Christ

PRAY

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

READ

Isaiah 43.1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-17,21,22

RENEWAL OF FAITH

In some churches it is the custom at the beginning of the calendar year to renew their profession of faith.

Even if you've never been baptised or confirmed (why not think about it?) these credal statements of belief are for all who would call themselves Christian.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in Him

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind??

I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in Him

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN

Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

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