

JUBILATE

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



Sunday 23rd January 2022

The third Sunday of the Epiphany Season

TODAY'S COLLECTS

Almighty God
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power.

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God of all mercy
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord

TODAY's SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- Nehemiah chapter 8: verses 1-3, 5-6, & 8-10

Ezra reads the book of the Law to the people

- 1 Corinthinans chapter 12: verses 12 to 31

Saint Paul speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ, each member playing their part in unity to build up one another in the Faith and to bring glory to God.

- Luke chapter 4: verses 14 to 21

Jesus, in his home town of Nazareth, reads part of the prophecy of Isaiah which refers to the Messiah, and indicates that it speaks of Himself

- Psalm 19: verses 1 to 6

The Heavens declare the glory of God

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Read the Chronological Bible in a Year

If you would like to join the *Jubilate* readers who have followed the reading scheme to go through the whole Bible in chronological order, the suggested readings can be sent to you either by email or in a printed booklet.

Contact the editor, stating your preference.

This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God

CHAPLAINCY WORSHIP

Having had a successful Opening service in December,
we return today **to Chef Boutonne,
to our Church of Christ, the Good Shepherd**

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

It will be a service of Holy Communion,
beginning at 11.00.am

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There will be no Chaplaincy service on Sunday 30th January.

A form of worship for you to use will be included in *Jubilate*

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From the start of February, services are likely to form the
following pattern:

- 1st Sunday of the month: Champagne Mouton & Courcelles +
- 2nd Sunday Chef Boutonne & Cognac +
- 3rd Sunday ZOOM
- 4th Sunday Chef Boutonne +
- (5th Sunday, when it occurs - Chef Boutonne)

+ denotes a service of Holy Communion

News of alterations to this pattern (including special services) will
be announced in *Jubilate* and on the Chaplaincy website



"**Christianity Explored**" is a Course which does what it says in the title. It gives participants the opportunity to discover - for the first time OR to rediscover - what the Christian Faith is all about.

A course will be held in the Church of Christ, the Good Shepherd, Chef Boutonne, starting March 17th. That may be a long way ahead, but time flies and it's worth thinking about straight away.

If you are interested in participating yourself, or know someone else who might be, contact

Roy Carter on: reverendr.carter100@gmail.com or

Paul Davis on: paul.davis16700@gmail.com

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CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL

The Council will be meeting on Tuesday 25th January.

Please pray for them

There is a list of Council Members published on our website
www.churchinfrance.com

If you have any thoughts about the Chaplaincy and its future, please contact any member of Council.

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Almost

Now here's a guy who has everything: wealth, position, good family, class, authority, influence, charm, looks, and personality. A lovely young man. They all say it. So blessed, yet still so humble; so vital, yet also compassionate. And above all, so law-abiding, so careful to do the correct thing, a shining example of a truly religious man.

No wonder the girls all love him, and the boys ache to be like him. The women want to mother him, or better still, call him son-in-law, and the older men nod and smile, and recall, truthfully or not, that they'd been like that themselves, once, before the pressures of marriage and family, work, success, poverty, or just life itself had worn them down.

He so wants to be good, though others think he is already. He's fastidious in his observance of God's law – he really wants to please Him. He's a dutiful son, because he loves his parents. He's generous to a fault, way beyond what's expected, and never a harsh word from his lips. He's looking forward to an advantageous marriage, and moving up in the family business. What a guy! What more could he want!

But he does want more. There's a growing dissatisfaction with his life. Nothing he can put his finger on, nothing that seems "wrong", but certainly something that niggled and now gnaws at him deep down. He's losing his joy, losing his purpose. What to do?

Now here's another guy, who has nothing. He's left home, his family, his job, and is just on the road, a traveller. Some friends travel with him, but none of them work either. They go from town to town, sometimes to the city, sleeping rough. No income, dependent on others' generosity, but – what a vibrant company! So much laughter, so much affection, such togetherness, all stemming from the guy at the top, their leader.

The paths of these two young men cross, and one asks the other what he should do to get out of the hole he's in. He emphasizes that he's kept all God's commands, doing his best to live a good life, and gives examples of his piety, but, there's something missing, something that's destroying his peace. Why? What could he have done wrong?

The poor man smiles, with love and compassion for this rich wretch. “There’s just one thing you need to do, to be saved,” he says. “Sell all you have and give all the proceeds to others in need. Then come and follow me.”

But for this rich young ruler it’s one step too far, so he turns sadly away, back to his wealthy life of lack and loss.

Another young man, on the other hand, an Italian prince, didn’t just obey but gave everything away, finding it the key to fulfilment and joy in the Lord.

Who are we like? Francis of Assisi? The temple widow, or the perfume girl, giving all we have? Or do we turn away, sadly?

Tavah

DO YOU ENJOY LISTENING TO & SINGING HYMNS?



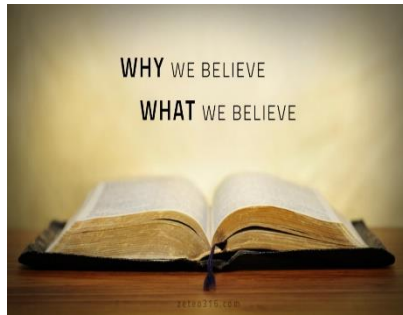
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HYMN - and WHY?

Write to the editor of *Jubilate* so that a list of favourites can be published, along with reasons for their popularity.

Does your best hymn have a well-known story behind it, or some personal memories. Share it with others - please.

Write to: david.hawken@orange.fr

SAYING THE CREED



Part 1. Introduction

There are not many church services go by without our saying a Creed of one sort or another. Probably the one most used is called the "Apostles' Creed". In the weeks to come we're going to have a closer look at it, in order to see **why** we say it and what each section could mean to us.

Of course, as with most things *original*, the Apostles' Creed does not date back to the Apostles - it is highly unlikely that they used it: they wouldn't need to. The first believers, especially those who had known Jesus closely, seen him face to face, just understood who He was and what part He was playing in their lives _ and maybe the Creed helps put us in a similar position.

The idea of a statement of Christian Faith can be found first on the lips of the disciple Thomas one week after the Resurrection. Jesus challenges him, and Thomas responds with the words "My Lord and my God" (John 20:38) - an affirmation of faith and commitment.

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Just before He left this earth, Jesus gave a command to his disciples (Matthew 28:19): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*". This credal formula is still used at Baptism today - it has stood the test of time.

The Christian writer, Tertullian, lived in the middle of the second century AD (just over 100 years after the time of Jesus). He writes about the basic faith of the Church in a series of phrases which, when put together, comprise most of what we call the Apostles' Creed; this was what the Apostles had believed and what they taught to converts to the Faith. It may not have been written down in their early days, but it was almost certainly a means of expressing what Christians believe.

As we pursue our way through the Creed, there may be parts of it that we disagree with or find we cannot fully understand. And that has always been the case. When we stand up in Church and repeat these words, we *should* begin with "**We** believe". As we say in another format, ' *This is the Faith of the Church*'. Some parts of it may remain a mystery to individuals. Some people may find it difficult to adhere to certain statements. But overall, this is what The Church - Christian people - believe. A creed is needed to define our faith, so that we can say "This is what I stand for - I think!" A creed sets a standard or norm around which various emphases may be based. As we go through life, we are confronted by God's love; we involve ourselves in that love; we ask ourselves questions (sometimes difficult) about that love. A creed helps us not to stray too far from what Christians have believed for 2000 years (and we're not far off the years when we can say that number accurately!). The Apostles' Creed leads us gently but firmly back if we are straying into subjective views of God or are maybe losing our way a little. Thomas proved that Faith could overcome doubt.

Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

Our AIM:

- To love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.
- To love our neighbours as ourselves
- To go and make disciples

Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes

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