

JUBILATE

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



Sunday 8th May 2022



**So here it is ! Officially! Since the Dedication last Sunday:
This is the Church of Christ the Good Shepherd in Chef Boutonne[79110].**

It's not, of course, our ONLY place of worship. The others, currently, in alphabetical order, are:

- Champagne Mouton (Parish Room of Eglise Saint-Michel)[16350]**
- Cognac (the Protestant Temple)[16100]**
- Courcelles (Eglise Saint Nicholas)[17400]**

**They all begin with the letter "C". But so does the word "Christian".
The Church is not the building: it is the people - you and I.
Whichever congregation we attend, we are Christians united in the worship of God
and the service of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let our love for one another and
for those we meet day by day be a reflection of our love for God and His love for us.**

DEDICATION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD in Chef Boutonne

This being an English essentially occasion, cups of tea were offered on arrival. This church in Chef Boutonne is only a small building so the 60 seats had to be booked in advance - they were all taken.

The opening ceremony - and main purpose - of the gathering was to dedicate the building, formerly a French Reformed Church, for the use of the Church of England Chaplaincy in Poitou-Charentes. It was conducted by the Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, the Right Reverend Robert Innes, assisted by the Archdeacon of France, the Venerable Peter Hooper, and the Chaplain and Area Dean of Aquitaine, the Reverend Tony Lomas. Leaders of the Poitou-Charentes Chaplaincy and members of the congregation joined our three special guests outside the building. Prayers of thanksgiving and commitment were said, with enthusiastic "Amens". Everyone then entered the church for a service of rejoicing in which those two themes - thanksgiving and commitment - were again emphasized. The singing was loud! After ending with "To God be the glory - Praise the Lord" we lined up to shake hands with the Bishop at the door, then trooped over to the garden behind the Mairie for a *vin d'honneur* and other refreshments.

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Words from your Warden

Well, what a week that was.

On Tuesday we had our AGM: all went extremely well, and we have two new members of council.

The members of council now are:

Catherine Chambers

Paul Davis

Kathryn Dean

Sally Freeman

Wanda McKercher ,

Jane Thomas

and Sue Wilcock

Their contact details can be found on the website

www.churchinfrance.com.

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“Can these stones live”?

Sermon given by Rt.Revd.Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
at the Dedication of the Church of Christ the Good Shepherd
on Sunday 1st May 2022

(The Bible Readings at this service were:

EZEKIEL chapter 37 verses 1 to 14

And

GOSPEL OF JOHN chapter 20 verses 19 to 23)

Looking around this church building and indeed this local area, I invite us to ponder the question ‘**can these stones live**’?

There are certainly plenty of stones around the neighbourhood. The stones have been assembled into buildings used for different purposes and they represent different things.

There are the stones associated with the State – used in building the elegant Mairie just opposite.

There are stones that speak to us from history – consider the fine chateau down the road a little way.

There are stones that have a link to the world of entertainment – I’m thinking of the Collège next door, named after the famous film director François Truffaut.

Then there are the stones that have been used to build ordinary human dwellings – the many modern villas along the Avenue de l’Hôtel de Ville.

And all these stones, whilst they embody good and important elements of human life, are not the church. Although the church can sometimes find itself wanting to be like one of these other buildings.

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The church can want that official sense of place and importance in society that the State enjoys, like the Hotel de Ville. It can want to feel rooted and secure in history, like the chateau. It can yearn to be as appealing and entertaining as a great film maker. Or it can just want to be as helpful and welcoming as well-ordered home.

Now the stones that are around us in this building formed part of a structure that was once the “Eglise Reformée de France”. That name is still proudly displayed on the West wall outside. But that Church closed. You could say that it ‘died’. And a church that is dying or has lost confidence in its *raison d’être* could very well be tempted to find a new identity and value through being important or well rooted or entertaining or helpful.

In reality, the church is a creature of the Holy Spirit. The church lives by the breath of God. Without the Spirit’s breath, there are only bones as dead as those in the cemetery down the road. Without his breath, a church is as dead as a fading nameplate.

With Ezekiel, we can ask, looking around us, “Can these bones live?” Can these stones live? And the church lives not by being important, or well established or entertaining or even by being homely. The church lives by the breath of God. “Not by might, nor by power, but by Spirit” says the Lord. And with the inspiration of the Spirit of God, the dry bones live and yes the stones they also live!

The breath of God inspires a legacy and a story. God knew that the price of this building had been reduced. God inspired the vision of Wanda and Carolyn of a place where the Anglican chaplaincy could focus its praise. God lives in the promises held out when courses such as Christianity Explored are held here. And God will live in the words and sacraments offered here in this consecrated place.

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THANK YOU!!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who brought food contributions for the refreshments , those who helped serve drinks and food and to those who helped set up and clear away at the end of the dedication celebration on 1st May.

Thanks to the Commune of Chef-Boutonne who provided the liquid refreshment and tivoli, tables, etc free of charge as a welcome gesture to our new worship centre.

We have received many messages saying what a successful evening it was. Bishop Robert, Archdeacon Peter, and Dean Tony certainly enjoyed themselves and managed to speak to many who were there. It was also a great pleasure to welcome French Protestants who had seen the announcement in Nouvelle République, together with several people who have worked hard on the fabric of the building and garden and our new neighbours at No14 Avenue de l'Hôtel de Ville. Unfortunately the Mayor could not be there as he had tested positive for Covid!!!

Thanks for your support - much appreciated.

Wanda

And a BIG 'thank you' to Wanda and Andy - and to others who helped.

We also want to acknowledge the work put in by Carolyn Carter (Churchwarden) and members of the Council to prepare for this landmark occasion in the life of our Chaplaincy.

And so we move forward

BROCANTE AT CLUSSAIS LA POMMERAIE

SUNDAY 15TH MAY 8h00 - 17h00

Angela Larmuth has very kindly booked tables for us to sell items in aid of Chaplaincy funds at this event. She will be selling plants, we shall be selling books but we need YOUR bric-a-brac and larger items. I have received offers from several members of the chaplaincy to man the stall but any extras would be welcomed for a commitment of one or two hours.

Please bring items to the services on 8th May at Chef- Boutonne (Wanda) or Cognac (William) and they will help to give a good start to our fund-raising efforts for the current financial year. If you cannot attend either of these services but have donations please contact Wanda 09 64 12 29 54 or email wandamckerchar@aol.co.uk and she will arrange collection.

Many thanks for your support.

VIDE-GRENIER

Dimanche 15 mai 2022

Bourg de LA POMMERAIE

Commune de Clussais La Pommeraie 79190

D 45 ⇒ Direction école, mairie. Pas à la salle des fêtes.

De 7 h à 18h.

1€ le mètre linéaire (minimum 3 mètres)

Pas de réservations

Organisé par le Foyer Pour Tous de CLUSSAIS LA POMMERAIE

Renseignements :

05.49.07.98.38 Anglais -- 05.49.07.68.52 -- 06.72.11.95.88

Buvette Sandwichs

IPNS Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

Barbecue Friday 10 June 2022 starting at 12.30

Venue: Home of Liz and William Jones at 16720 Saint Môme les Carrières.

We know that this event is traditionally held at the end of August/early September, but this is the last time we can use this venue (see footnote). It also gives us the opportunity to offer celebration to the 70th Jubilee of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, being celebrated on 5 June.

So, we can look forward to an occasion for us to get together as a Chaplaincy in a social setting, hopefully outdoors in the garden, weather dependant. We have previously enjoyed our day despite the rain by using the grange.

As per previous years the meal with starters, main, cheese, dessert plus wine and coffee will be provided. We just ask that everyone brings their own covers (plate, bowl, cutlery, glasses). There will be no set price for the meal; we just ask everyone to be generous and put their contribution anonymously into a bucket. There will also be a raffle, a book stall (you can buy or add to the collection), and a plant stall.

Many of you will have been before, so please spread the word to others – friends very welcome. However, we do need to know numbers so that we can ensure a good meal for everyone. Detailed directions to find the venue, just south of Jarnac, will be sent out closer to the date.

Please register your interest with William Jones at williamjones@orange.fr or by phone 05 45 82 12 93, as soon as possible, but not later than **Friday 3 June 2022**. Numbers will be limited to 60, as before, when we have had a waiting list, so do not miss out, sign up NOW.

Footnote: William and Liz have sold their home as it is just too big for their needs. But do not fear, they are staying in the area, currently on a house hunt.



WORSHIP IN THE CHAPLAINCY

for the rest of the month:

This Sunday (8th)

10.30 Holy Communion in the Temple at COGNAC

11.00 Morning Worship in CHEF BOUTONNE

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Sunday 15th:

10.30 Morning Worship via ZOOM

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

The Meeting ID is **314 528 7597** The Passcode is **CGShepherd**

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Sunday 22nd

11.00 Holy Communion in the Church of Christ, the Good Shepherd, Chef Boutonne

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Sunday 29th - *no gathering*

BUT *Jubilate* will provide you with some ideas for worship at home

Collects and Bible Readings for the Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season

(May 8th 2022)

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bible Readings:

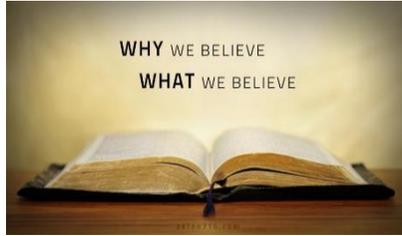
Psalm 23

Acts of the Apostles chapter 9 verses 36 to 43

Gospel of John chapter 10 verses 22 to 30

Revelation chapter 7 verses 9 to 17

SAYING THE CREED



"He descended into hell"

Sorry! There's no avoiding it: it is part of our Creed. When we recite the words, there is a tendency to gloss over them and not consider what they might mean.

What or where is Hell ? For some of us who are, shall we say, *mature*, hell is probably being caught in a crowd going to a pop concert or, worse still, being at the pop concert. (Just one example - you can think of your own!) It is something horrific, to be avoided. A punishment.

- and yet Jesus "descended into hell". Did he go willingly ? What happened ? In order to understand this, and why we "believe", it is necessary to see what was understood by the term in biblical thinking.

The Hebrew (therefore Old Testament) word for hell is *Sheol* which simply means 'the land of the dead'. There are no implications of life after death, immortality, reward or punishment: more a grey, shadowy place with no light or colour, where the dead are separated from one another and from God. Sometimes it's called 'The Pit'.

The Greek word was *Hades* - in mythology not a place but a person, the king of the dead.

The New Testament speaks of *Gehenna*, this time a *place* of desecration outside Jerusalem.

Popular thinking has embraced the idea of a three-decker universe, with Earth where we live, heaven above and hell beneath. Religious art has expressed this in many horrific ways, so far as hell is concerned, and then heaven seen as winged angels playing harps - realistic? Probably not!





The primary intention of the statement in the creed was to emphasize that Jesus was really and truly dead and buried. However, we may give credence to the idea that Jesus did not just go to the place or state of death but that in bearing the penalty and pain and torture on our behalf, he actually experienced the separation from God that hell implies. On the Cross, Jesus cried "My God, my God why has thou forsaken me?". As He bore the sin of the world, God could not look upon that sin.

Based on a short sentence from the Apostle Peter: "*He went and preached to the spirits in prison*" there grew up among the early Christian writers the thought that, having borne the ignominy of an innocent death, He was in the place of the dead to be the means of remission and healing to them. He was, as Saint Paul puts it "*the first fruit of them that sleep*".

For us, these days people think of heaven and hell not as physical places but as states of being. That is, heaven is being in fellowship with God and to be in Hell is to be separated from Him, but by our own choices.

When we say that we believe that Jesus "descended into hell" we are affirming that he died, that he died in our place, taking the punishment for our rebellion against the Father. All this before the great Day of Resurrection. To believe that He is our Saviour is to accept God's forgiveness and love. To disbelieve is to put ourselves in a position where we are alienated from God. Either can be the case on any day at any time. We don't have to wait for death to be a sheep or a goat (see Matthew 25). It is our choice, now!



The LORD is my Shepherd

LATE-NIGHT NEWS FROM PAULINE FERGUSON

Just before *Jubilate* was about to be emailed to you, Pauline sent this message from her pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

I am now more than two thirds along my walk to Santiago Compostela and realising that I might finish it! For me the last couple of days have been among the highlights of my Camino.

Yesterday I walked into the Leon hills, to Rabanal del Camino, alongside a fenced oak wood for many kilometers. All along the fence were crosses fashioned out of dead branches and twigs. It was extraordinary, stretching as far as the eye could see, crosses of every size along the fence. It struck me that this part of the path carried the pain of many people who were leaving their suffering at the foot of the cross. My cross is also there, giving me the comfort that people can experience by giving all of our sadnesses to Him. Then today was a glorious contrast when, along with thousands of other Camino pilgrims, I laid my stone carried from home at the simple monument Cruz de Ferro. I sang the Aaronic blessing, evoking the childhood memory of my Presbyterian church in Belfast, for peace in the hearts of those I love and pray for and also myself.

This is a mystical journey, offering many blessings to all who walk the Camino to Santiago de Compostela.



Pauline's pilgrimage doubles up as a fundraising exercise through UNHCR for refugees who have no choice but to walk hundreds of kilometres to safety and security. To make a donation, go to: <https://www.unhcr-droitsenfants.fr/>

Sandy's Church Alphabet

If you've been following the A to Z of Church matters, written by the Reverend Sandy Borthwick, you may like to know that every letter has been preserved and is in the process of being turned into a printed booklet.

This will be available at the end of May.

Copies can be purchased by writing to the editor:

david.hawken@orange.fr

There will be no set charge, but we hope you will be generous.

Gifts received for the booklet will be used in 3 ways:

1. Defraying expenses (paper & ink cost money - and so does postage!)
2. Chaplaincy funds
3. A charity of Sandy's choice (to be announced)

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Website: www.churchinfrance.com

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