

## Anglicans in Artois

This year our congregation has been enriched by the presence of Reverend Canon Bruce Hawkins who, with enthusiasm and commitment, has helped us to consolidate our faith. He comes from England to lead a Eucharist service on the first Sunday of each month, and he partakes in the fellowship meal which follows. On the third Sunday of each month we have Morning Prayer led by a member of the congregation. We are fortunate to be able to continue with the same pattern of services during the summer months and thus cause no disruption.

After some initial reticence from all, we successfully completed our Safeguarding training and are fully committed to the values and objectives of this initiative.

2017 has been an important year for the town of Arras due to the commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Arras. We, as a congregation of mostly English-speakers, were called upon to contribute and to help. Here are a few of the actions:

- Organization of a meal to host a delegation of Scottish officials who came to prepare the Scottish collaboration.
- Participation in a multi-faith service led by the Bishop at Arras Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> April and in presence of a representative of the Bishop of Ipswich. Brian Jones, a member of our congregation, read R.-L. Binyon's poem *The Arras Road*.
- On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Jeremy Towler, a member of our congregation and President of the Royal British Legion for the Pas-de-Calais, led, at the request of the family, a memorial service for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the Australian Percy Jamieson who fell in battle in the region.
- Numerous translations.

We continue to work well with other communities and our Christmas Carol Service has become the highlight of the year. This year Bruce, our priest, came over especially to lead it and was consequently able to meet the numerous worshippers who are friends but not members of our congregation.

During the year the congregation is involved with many and various activities: taking part in the Ecumenical life of Arras, hospital visiting and generally available to assist anyone in need. This aspect plays a large part in the life of our Chaplaincy. As Arras is the HQ of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, there are often young families needing help with language, hospital visiting, schooling.

We are grateful to the Bishop of Arras for all the assistance given to us over the years, the loan of the Chapel on Sundays, rooms to meet after each service and every Tuesday Morning for the Upper Room. The Upper Room is an open house to all French and British who meet for coffee and tea.

We look forward to the coming year and its joys and challenges.

**Katharine Giry-Deloison, Churchwarden 2017**

A photo of our "Upper Room", which is in fact downstairs, and where we hold many of our activities.

