

# Newsletter

Christ Church Brittany

# Lent



March 2018

# Chaplain's Lent newsletter



We have arrived at last! Donna and I are very pleased to have joined you in Brittany and to become part of the fellowship at Christ Church. We are also blessed by the warm welcome from all and the patient help and encouragement we have received from several individuals who have gone the extra mile to help us find our feet! As we have discovered from the few people we have met already, you all have good reasons to have relocated to

Brittany and France. Our reason is YOU! The Lord of the Church has called us to partner with you in ministry to the English speakers in this area. That is the good news. The bad news is we don't have a clue how to do that! Don't worry, Jesus does and He has been working through CCB powerfully for years. It is fortunate that we step into the arena at the beginning of Lent, a time of listening to God and reforming our life and sharpening our faith through deeper fellowship and the proven spiritual disciplines, so that together we get to, 'Know Christ and then to make Him known'.

It seems that Jesus did not teach his disciples about prayer until they begged Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Might their interest have something to do with the jaw-dropping promise Jesus attached to prayer? "Ask and it will be given to you." When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He gave them a simple prayer we call the Lords prayer, but it boils down to this structure from Max Lucado.

*Father, You are good.*

*I need help. Heal me and forgive me.*

*They need help.*

*Thank You.*

*In Jesus' name, amen.*

I challenge you during Lent (starting with Ash Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>) to make all the worship services you possibly can. Because we are in this together! Set aside a space in your home and a time in your day for prayer. Use a devotional, or start with a Psalm, then work through the five topics for prayer in the Prayer Hand (Navigators)

## The Prayer Hand



Many believers find that prayer, especially spending long amounts of time in prayer, can be one of the hardest parts of spiritual discipline. The Prayer Hand is an easy way to remember five essential aspects of prayer: confession, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise. Pray through each of these five purposes, using the Prayer Hand to walk through each. Remember that prayer is ultimately about aligning our own hearts with God's, and just as the fifth aspect explains below (illustrated by the thumb), praises to God should permeate every part of our prayer.

The little finger represents **confession**—I agree with God about my sin.

*1 John 1:9—“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

The ring finger represents **petition**—I ask God to provide for my needs.

*1 Samuel 1:27—“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.”*

The middle finger represents **intercession**—I ask God to provide for the needs of others.

*Ephesians 6:18-19—“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”*

The index finger represents **thanksgiving**—I thank God for what He has done in, through, and for me. I also thank Him for His answers to prayers in the lives of those around me and for His ongoing work across the nation and the world.

*Ephesians 5:20—“...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The thumb represents **praise**—I let my enjoyment and adoration of God overflow into words. As the thumb is able to touch all four other fingers, so praise should permeate every part of my prayer life.

*Psalms 146:1-2—“Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”*

**Pastor Robin**

[pastor.robin@churchinbrittany.com](mailto:pastor.robin@churchinbrittany.com)

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

## Jan 18-25

*The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation'*  
Ex 15:2

*These words from Exodus, chosen by the Caribbean churches with their background of subjection and slavery, were the theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services. Christ Church members were present at four of these gatherings, in Gouarec, St Brieuc, Ploërmel and Lorient. You can read below the accounts of those who were present at the different celebrations. **Laura***

### *Henrietta's account of the service at Gouarec*

On a dark, wet evening in January, three of us visited the Communauté des Augustines de la Miséricorde de Jésus in Gouarec to take part in a service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For me it was an evening of lovely surprises.

First, the huge windows of the convent chapel, glowing with rich reds and blues in the gloom of a deserted side street. Next, the sheer size of the place. I'd expected somewhere small and dim, tucked away in a corner. This convent towered above us; inside, the chapel seemed to have the dimensions of a cathedral nave, accentuated by a plain wooden cross three stories high.

Any nervousness we might have felt was swept aside by the Sister Superior, whose warm welcome belied her daunting title. She took us into an enormous and immaculate vestry where she coached us (with much laughter and warm encouragement) on our parts in the service. Each of us was to read out one of the biddings during the prayers. Then she seated us in the front row of the chapel, facing the celebrant and two ranks of empty choir stalls. The remaining seats, behind us, were soon occupied by some twenty sisters, all dressed in white with black veils, and a group of brothers from the sheltered Community of St Joseph, which the Community sponsors.

In the service, we prayed for liberation from fear, prejudice and discrimination. We had readings from Exodus (the song of Moses and Miriam, about crossing of the Red Sea) and the Gospel of Mark (the healing of Jairus' daughter). The Celebrant, Père Celestin, spoke of the God of Exodus, who saved his people from the Red Sea; and the God of love who, in Christ, saves us from ourselves. I didn't understand every word of the sermon, by a long chalk. But what has stayed with me is the haunting repetition of a phrase "notre Libérateur" (echoing the sense of both Bible readings); the sisters' beautiful singing, and the loving welcome that united us the moment we walked through the door.

I'm glad we went. Apart from the contingent from St Joseph's, and (I think) one other visitor, no other churches were represented. How sad it would have been had there been none at all.



## *Robin Hillman's account of the service at St Brieuc*

This modern church was a new venue for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service for the St Brieuc area. Père Yves L'Abbé has, for a number of years, taken responsibility for organising it and a preparatory meeting last November brought representatives together from the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican churches, the Église Protestante Unie and a variety of independent evangelical churches. It was agreed that the service would be based on the format drawn up for this year by the Caribbean churches. Scripture had been used to justify the enslavement of the people of the Caribbean and stripped them of their identity, dignity and freedom. The same scriptures became the inspiration and motivation for the reclamation of their liberty. The motif of this year's service was Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression. This passage allows us to see that the road to unity must often pass through a prior period of suffering.

Representatives from each of the participating churches took part in the service by helping with readings, prayers and short homilies. Unfortunately Père L'Abbé was unable to be present as he was still in a convalescent home recovering from having being knocked down on a pedestrian crossing. The Bishop of St Brieuc, Mgr Denis Moutel, introduced the service and took an active part in it before pronouncing the final Blessing. The service was well attended and there was a warm atmosphere (both from efficient heating and a supportive congregation!) which was friendly and welcoming to everyone. Bishop Moutel had set the tone by mixing with and chatting to members of the congregation before and after the service. An excellent music group provided support with two of the verses of 'Amazing Grace' being sung in English. Denominational differences were quickly forgotten as all were truly united in their worship together. A collection was taken for ACAT (Christians against Torture).



## *Rob Brookes' account at Ploërmel*

On Sunday lunchtime we went to the Maison Mère des Frères, to share a picnic lunch with members of L'Eglise Evangélique before going to L'Eglise Saint Armel in the centre of Ploërmel for an ecumenical service. There were around 80 people there, and the service was in both French and English. The singing was very good and the service was enjoyed by all present.

## Laura's account of Lorient

St Bernadette, Lorient, 23rd January



The ecumenical group of churches in the Lorient area arranged a service at the modern RC church of Sainte Bernadette. A flower arrangement in front of the altar illustrated the theme with chains for enslavement and candles for liberation. A music group accompanied the songs and a solo flautist provided musical interludes. A homily was given by Pastor Corinne Charriau from Vannes representing the Eglise Protestante Unie. She reminded us of the prayer of Abbé Couturier who asked God that unity

would come 'according to your will, according to your means'. A collection was taken for 'Le Nid' which supports women locally who are seeking to be free from a life of prostitution. A 'pot de l'amitié' was served afterwards in the adjacent parish hall.



## Annual General Meeting and Meeting to Appoint Churchwardens.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 14 Rue Générale Dubreton, Ploërmel, commencing at 12.30pm. This is an important event in the life of Christ Church and it is hoped as many people as possible will attend.

Elections and appointments will take place on the day for the following:

1. Two Churchwardens – A Churchwarden's term of office is for 1 year only. The election of the Churchwardens takes place before the commencement of the AGM.
2. Elected Council members - Elected Members terms of office are for 1 year only.
3. Assistant Wardens and Sidespersons – The Council would again like to appoint a number of Assistant wardens and Sidespersons and their names are to be ratified at the Annual Meeting.

Independent Examiner – We will wish to elect an Independent Examiner, whose term of office lasts for one year and who verifies the accounts and financial statements. The Independent Examiner is not a member of Council.

If you would like more information on any of the above please speak to the Chaplain, a Churchwarden or a member of Council.

# Letter to the Editor

William Richmond, Letters to the Editor



The seven religious freedoms listed in the Barnabus Petition (see Jeremy's "Chaplain's Letter", February 2018) appear highly commendable but are not without their problems:

1. what counts as a "religion"? More people stated "Jedi" as their religion than they did "Sikhism", "Judaism" or "Buddhism" (making it the fourth largest reported religion) in the 2010 census;

2. ISIS fighters are frequently described as religious fanatics. Where do we draw the line under acceptable religiously inspired acts?

3. ought we to allow religious practices that are unacceptable, such as the slaughtering of un-stunned animals, underage school girls being taken away to be married, and female and male genital mutilation?

Religious freedom already has modern case law. The freedom to wear a cross or a hijab is the same freedom.

The Barnabus organisation does not bear scrutiny. Its discriminatory and Islamophobic agenda includes:

"Directing our aid only to Christians"

"making known the aspects of the Islamic faith and other ideologies that result in injustice and oppression of Christians and others"

"inform(ing) and enable Christians in the West to respond to the growing challenge of Islam to Church, society and mission in their own countries".

(<https://barnabasfund.org/en/about/who-we-are>)

Moreover, their version of Christianity is highly selective. Searching their site for "Baptist" or "Evangelical" produces multiple results; try "Roman Catholics", "Jehovah's Witnesses", "Quakers", or "Palestine" - all featuring strongly in persecutions - and there are none. The only result for "Church of England" reports that it is "sad" that Synod supported a ban on so-called "conversion therapy" for gay people.

Similarly, their coverage of the dreadful persecutions in Myanmar focuses on a claim that, "a new threat (to Christians) is now emerging as jihadists head to the region to 'support' Rohingya Muslims." How a story is told is important.

The last paragraph of their petition deserves a careful reading:

"We believe that, as a nation, the UK has again left the pathways of God" - does the UK nation not include non-Christians?

"We have forsaken His laws" - such as allowing women to become priests, or granting civil rights to gay people?

*“With this will probably come the loss of our fundamental religious freedoms” - “probably”: no certainty, just fear - and the exploitation of fear.*

*“We believe that we are still, as a nation, in the hands of our sovereign Lord” - “nation” again. But where was this “sovereign Lord” in Kensington and Chelsea council decisions about the cladding used on Grenfell Tower?*

*“...it is He who will determine our destiny” - not Parliament, then. Are English Christians some sort of Elect? Is this an appeal to Biblical primacy, enabling us to kill “witches” again?*

*“Meanwhile we, as His people, must, like Nehemiah of old, pray, build and be equipped and ready to respond to every kind of attack (Nehemiah 4)” - is this a call to armed resistance? It was Nehemiah who forced the wholesale dissolution of mixed-race marriages and introduced a language test (the earliest reference to such a thing) to justify discrimination and persecution.*

*“2 Chronicles 7:14 ‘If my people, who are called by my name, will... turn from their wicked ways... (I) will heal their land.’” - England belongs to the Christian. Or, perhaps, only to the “true” Christian.*

*Please think carefully before lending your support to this organisation.*

**William Richmond**

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## Sponge cake recipe

The recipe uses only a yoghurt pot to measure the ingredients. It was a recipe Trevor followed when he was a chalet host in the Alps and is fool proof and allows for a different flavour cake each day. 1 yoghurt into the bowl, clean the pot, 1 pot veg oil, 2 pots sugar, 3 pots flour ( add a sachet of baking powder if you don't have self raising flour) and 4 eggs. Mix it all together very well, pour into your baking tin and cook at 180 for 30 to 40 mins depending on your oven, just check with a skewer to see it is cooked in the middle. You can add other bits to it for example, if you use a lemon yog you can put the zest and juice of a lemon to give more taste. You can substitute one of the pots of flour for coco powder and use a vanilla yoghurt, just use your imagination. I use a round tin about 27 cm diameter but you could always use 2 smaller tins and the sandwich together after.



*Try this easy but delicious sponge cake which Dianne and Trevor kindly provided after the Christmas Eve Service at Huelgoat. Having tasted theirs and indeed made my own I can vouch for its being easy and scrumptious! Editor*



# Contacts

## CHAPLAIN:

The Rev Robin Adams Tel: 07 80 56 26 32 mobile

E-mail: [pastor.robin@churchinbrittany.com](mailto:pastor.robin@churchinbrittany.com)

Blog : <https://pastorrobin9.wixsite.com/website>

**CHURCH OFFICE** :14 rue Général Dubreton, 56800 Ploërmel

Web Site: [www.churchinbrittany.com](http://www.churchinbrittany.com)

## CHURCHWARDENS AT PLOËRMEL:

Norma Parker Tel: 02 97 75 42 37

e-mail: [normajaneparker@rocketmail.com](mailto:normajaneparker@rocketmail.com)

Chris Wilson Tel: 02 97 72 19 29

e-mail : [wilson.christopher@orange.fr](mailto:wilson.christopher@orange.fr)

## HUELGOAT:

Carole Turner Tel: 02 98 78 24 68

e-mail: [carlen2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carlen2@hotmail.co.uk)

## ROSTRENEN:

Laura & Robin Hillman Tel: 02 97 51 74 2 6

e-mail: [kermoran@orange.fr](mailto:kermoran@orange.fr)

## NEWSLETTER:

### Editor:

Alfred Adgey

e-mail: [church.newsletter@orange.fr](mailto:church.newsletter@orange.fr)

*Contributions for the April Newsletter accepted up to  
Saturday 17th March*

# Christ Church Brittany ..

*“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Mark 1:15*

Please pray for:

1. The Chaplaincy Council meeting today at Ploërmel. The members of the Chaplaincy Council and its officers, that they will prayerfully make the right decisions.
2. The Lent Groups at Ploërmel on Tuesdays, Huelgoat on Wednesdays and Rostrenen on Fridays, helping us to reflect on our faith and new life in Christ Jesus.
3. The Ploërmel congregation. Père Pierre and the people of the RC parishes of the area in Brittany.
4. **Service at Ploërmel** **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**
5. †ell - the good news of Jesus - "to know Jesus Christ and to make him known". CCB's witness to Christ among English speakers living in Brittany.
6. Our chaplain, Robin, as he organises his pastoral care and ministry to us across the three churches and the very large area which he has to cover.
7. Robin Hillman, our secretary, recognising the extra work that he has undertaken during the vacancy and preparing for the ACM.
8. Our neighbours at St Bartholomew's, Dinard, & Christ Church, La Manche.
9. Robin and Donna having to completely fit out and furnish their new home ready for moving in on 1st May.
10. The Huelgoat congregation and the Worship Team. For Père Lommig and the people of the RC parishes of the area.
11. **Services at Huelgoat, Ploërmel and Rostrenen.** **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**UK Mothering Sunday**
12. †end - to those in need by loving service with the compassion of Jesus. The ministries of Les Mains Ouvertes, and Les Restos du Coeur.
13. Causes that the Chaplaincy supports, Friends of Tread and Les Frères de La Mennais.
14. Huelgoat Worship Team meeting.
15. The Lent Milk Bottle Appeal for the Bishop's "Lent Appeal for Young Refugees in Calais."
16. The members of the Chaplaincy Council and its elected officers with gratitude for their service to CCB over the last year.

# .. Prayer Diary February

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17. All who lead us in worship and minister to us; the musicians, audio teams, readers, intercessors and all who work behind the scenes to help us enjoy worshipping and meeting together.
18. **Service at Ploërmel** **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
The Annual Chaplaincy Meeting at Ploërmel.
19. †transform - situations where there is conflict, violence, exploitation or suffering from natural disasters. Troubled parts of the world where people live with fear, injury and death.
20. Intercontinental Church Society (ICS) and its Seasonal Chaplains' reaching out to holidaying visitors in Switzerland.
21. Joy Dale, assisting our chaplain Robin in ministry at Huelgoat and Rostrenen.
22. The newly elected members of the Council and its officers; that they will be guided always by the will of our Lord and rely on his strength as they serve CCB.
23. Social evening at Ploërmel.
24. The congregation at Rostrenen; Père Jean-Marc and the people of the RC parishes of the area.  
Our ministers and their worship teams as they prepare for Holy Week.
25. **Services at Huelgoat, Ploërmel and Rostrenen** **Palm Sunday**
26. †treasure the earth that God has created through and for Jesus.
27. Diocesan Bishop Dr Robert Innes; Bishop David Hamid; Archdeacon Meurig Williams; Rural Dean Debbie Flach.
28. All forms of Outreach in CCB; that it continues to reach people and draws them to church to hear about salvation through Jesus Christ. Suzanne and the La Source Singers, Elaine and the Salsasize group, The Drop-in Centre partnership at Huelgoat.
29. **Tenebrae Service. 6.00 pm at Ploërmel.**
30. **Good Friday. Service at Rostrenen, "Hour at the Cross" at Huelgoat, "Stations of the Cross" walk at Callac**
31. CCB and all of us who worship there; our unity, mutual support and encouragement of each other.
- 1 April. **Services at Huelgoat, Ploërmel and Rostrenen** **Easter Sunday**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."  
1Peter 1:3*

# SHARING GODS' GLORY

By Donna Adams

Does your life bring glory to God? As you live your daily routine, is God being glorified in your home, neighbourhood, friendships or church?

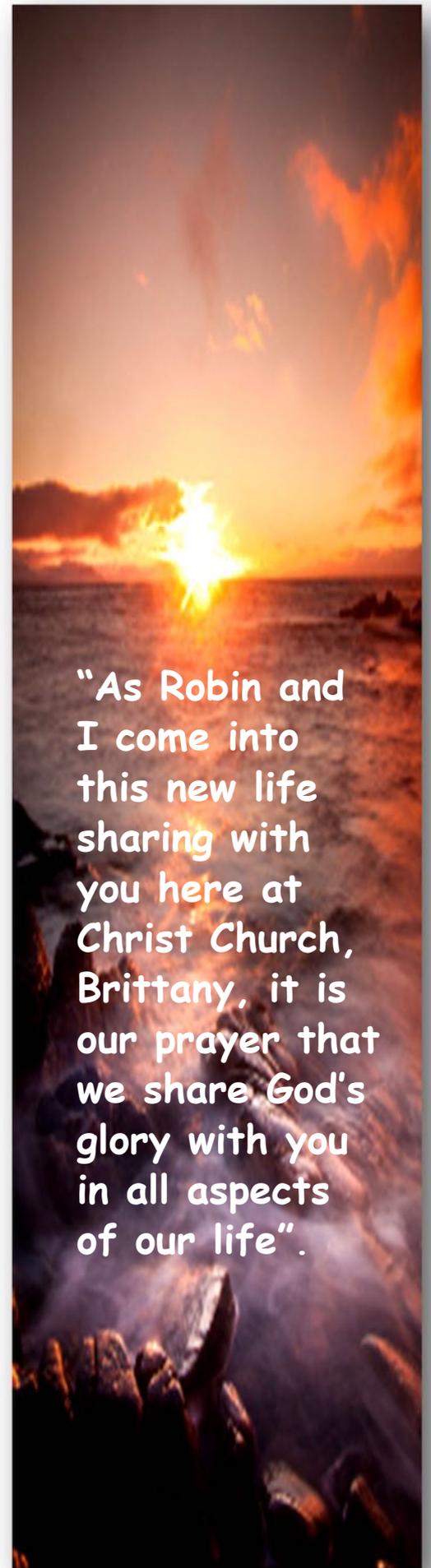
"We magnify God's glory as we bring others to experience it for themselves. This is true happiness. Those who are created in God's image, redeemed by God's son and destined for an eternity in God's presence find our highest joy in multiplying God's praises." This quote from my daily devotional grabbed my attention this morning.

As Robin and I come into this new life sharing with you here at Christ Church, Brittany, it is our prayer that we share God's glory with you in all aspects of our life. Whether that is as we pray for you, have coffee together, share a meal, take a walk or minister to you and alongside you through life's joys and disappointments.

To call ourselves Christian, is to associate with the One who called people into relationship with a heavenly Father. At times that means holding others up in prayer, other times loving the unlovely, or perhaps addressing sin in another's life. Kind words or actions to an unbelieving spouse, or a good deed to a neighbor who knows nothing of the cross of Christ and its' power in the world. Sharing a good book, watching a movie together or simply holding a hand can all be powerful witnesses to a God who longs for intimacy with each one of us.

Not all of us are called to preach or teach, but we are all called to share His glory in our daily lives. We will experience joy and happiness as we share our salvation with others.

"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20



"As Robin and I come into this new life sharing with you here at Christ Church, Brittany, it is our prayer that we share God's glory with you in all aspects of our life".

## Christ Church Brittany Lent Appeal 2018

In recent years, you have given very generously to the Christ Church Brittany Lent Appeal. This year's Appeal is in aid of the Bishops Lent Appeal.

In his letter, Bishop Robert explains:

In the middle of 2017, a survey was undertaken of unaccompanied minors who had been living in the area of Calais for on average 7-9 months. More than 95% had experienced police brutality. 75% had been arrested and detained for varying periods of time. More than half had experienced being woken up in the middle of the night and moved on with nowhere to go. More than a third had family in the UK but the process of getting permission for reuniting with their family was causing long delays. Less than five percent had been given any access to information about asylum law.

Volunteers from France and Britain are struggling to meet the most basic needs of these migrants (with generously donated food, clothing & blankets). But what they and the migrants themselves are urgently seeking is human warmth and hope.

Funds raised by the Appeal will be shared between two projects:

1. A safe house and outreach ministry to child migrants run by an elderly Catholic monk – Br Johannes Maertens – who is a member of the Pas de Calais church congregation.
2. To finance small projects that might be necessary by the new priest (currently being recruited to Chaplain the Pas de Calais congregations) in his work as refugee project officer.

Being able to get out of the cold for a while and talk to a friendly face, to have help to understand the administrative system, to have help with language learning or other practical skills, these are all small tasks that our fund could help with. Helping with these small tasks could make a world of difference to the lives of the stranded migrants in the Calais area.

There will be updates on these projects posted regularly on the Diocesan website at [www.europe.anglican.org](http://www.europe.anglican.org) Do keep an eye out for these regular updates.

*Do please join in our appeal, your help is really needed. To obtain your 'boîte d'épargne' for your daily contributions during the 40 days of Lent, have a word with Carole at Huelgoat, Laura or Robin at Rostrenen or Alison or Ian at Ploërmel, or email Alison at [alison.desoer@gmail.com](mailto:alison.desoer@gmail.com).*



The Passion Play at Loudéac which is unique in Brittany involves 250 volunteers in a moving representation of the story of Christ's passion and crucifixion. In the tradition of Medieval mystery plays it is easy to follow for anyone familiar with the gospel story as it relies heavily on visual effects. Held in the Palais des Congrès seating is comfortable and there is parking on site. Performances are on Sunday afternoons 11th, 18th and 25th March at 3 pm and last 2 hrs 45 mins including an interval. Tickets are 15 euros each but there is the possibility of obtaining a small discount for March 11th if you book through me : [laura.hillman8@orange.fr](mailto:laura.hillman8@orange.fr) (02 97 51 74 26) - I must have numbers by Feb. 26th. **Laura**



At the closed pearly gates, Forest Gump is met by St. Peter, himself, who said " Well Forest, it is certainly good to see you. Heaven is filling up , and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short but you have to pass it before you can get into heaven."

" It is good to be here, St. Peter " replied Forest. " But nobody told me about an entrance exam. I hope that it will not be too hard. Life was a big enough test for me "

St. Peter continued " No. I know Forest, But the test is only three questions. First, what two days of the week begin with the letter T. Second, how many seconds are there in a year. Third What is God's first name ? "

Forest leaves to think the questions over. Returning the next day, St. Peter waves him up and says " Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers "

Forest replied " Well, the first - which two days in the week begin with the letter T. Shucks that s easy Today and Tomorrow "

St. Peter's eyes opened wide as he exclaimed " That was not what I am thinking, but you have a point, and I did not specify, so I will give you credit for the first answer. How about the second question ? "

" How many seconds in a year. That's harder " replied Forest.

" but I thunk and thunk about it, and I guess the only answer is twelve "

Astounded St. Peter said " Twelve Forest. how in heaven's name did you come up with twelve seconds in a year ? "

Forest replied " Shucks. There's got to be twelve. January 2nd, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2nd..."

St. Peter said " Forest hold it, I see where you are going with this, and I see your point. though that was not quite what I had in mind But I will have to give you credit for that one too. Now let us go on to the final question. " Now Can you tell me God's first name ? "

" Sure. Replied Forest " It's Andy "

" Andy" exclaimed an exasperated St. Peter. " Oh I understand how you came up with the answers to my first two questions. But how in the world did you come up with the name Andy, as God's first name ? "

" Shucks. that was the easiest one of all " Forest replied " I learned it from the song

" Andy walks with me,

Andy talks with me

Andy tells me I am his own"

So St Peter opened the pearly gates and said

Come on in Forest "



### Winnings

Have you every read a newspaper and come across an item about someone who has had a BIG win on the pools or lotto and told the reporter, we don't know what to do with it.! Thought to yourself, yea right.

It can happen you know, it did so to me, I had a BIG, BIG win and was at a loss as to what I would do with it.

Most years the local school children come round door to door selling raffle tickets to raise funds for days out and such like, I buy a couple and throw them at the back of the drawer 'til months later when having a sort out, I then chuck them away.

A few years ago, about 3 weeks after buying some tickets ,a lady came with an envelop which had a prize from the school draw, I was so excited, maybe the TV, it was the first prize. On opening the envelop and reading what I had won, I read it then again, looked it up in the dictionary, yes, that was right. Just to make sure i went to my friend Caroline as she works over here her French is good, she read it and we looked at each other then burst out laughing, more like hysterically than anything else. My prize was five tone of sand, no it's not a printing mistake, it was for 5 tone of 0 to 4 grade grey sand from the local quarry and you have to pick it up yourself, however you did have a year to do so.

I used to go to French lessons at that time so i asked my teacher to phone up to see if it could be changed for something else, after she finishing giggling she made the phone call but was told it's that or nothing.

My big win soon got around to people who knew me, if nothing else it gave all those who heard about it a good laugh, However, a little while afterwards the next door neighbour to Caroline asked if I still had the prize, if so was I willing to sell it on, silly question! Her brother was covering up the track near his house and could use this sand at the right price, so we came to an agreement which suited everyone and each thought they had a good deal. I give her the voucher for the sand in exchange for two bags of cat biscuits, he was happy thinking that's cheap, the cat biscuits cost more than the tickets so I was pleased and my cats, they was very happy, you could say it turned out purrrrrrfect.



**Karen**

# The Panto at Ploërmel

Wow, what a fabulous night it turned out to be as the latest Panto from CCB Players hit the stage. Raucous fun, much merry making, shouts of 'The best yet' and other shouts of 'Oh no it wasn't', another fun laden evening for the folk at Ploërmel.

This year, for what is becoming a not to be missed annual event, it was the turn of 'Aladdin', written by Stuart Arden. A short synopsis tells us it is a tale about Aladdin, a washerwoman's son who falls for a beautiful princess. In his urgent need for wealth, he is tricked into accompanying the wicked Abanaza on an expedition to retrieve a magic lamp. Abanaza traps Aladdin in a cave, but with a lot of magical help Aladdin escapes and (after a few twists and turns) love triumphs.

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Now this brief outline of the plot does nothing to paint the picture of the actual extravaganza that took place, which started with a wonderful, impeccable version of the sand dance, which entailed a quite complicated dance routine and, essentially, keeping a straight face throughout. The whole production, including the Sand Dance choreography, was directed by the wonderfully talented Sue Coe, who also played the delightful Maid to the beautiful and enchanting Princess Hoo-lz-Shee, (Elaine Wilson). The Empress Hoo-Sed-Zat, the mother of the Princess, was played by Jean Thompson, and the Emperor Hoo-Can-Tel by Michael Coe, who both gave wonderfully authoritative performances. The story itself was narrated by Wishy-Washy, the laundrywoman, played by newcomer to the group, but clearly very experienced, the lovely Jean Brook. The star of the show was of course Aladdin, played by the talented singer songwriter, Arthur O'Donovan, who can ever forget his Gourka the Greek in last year's production. The mother of Aladdin and Wishy-Washy, the rather cranky Widow Twanky, was played by the gorgeous Suzanne Cross, who has trodden many a board in her time. And what would a panto be without a real villain, Uncle Abanaza, hiding behind a forest sized beard for most of the evening, we think it was Jeremy Cross hiding in there somewhere, and he just naturally fitted into the role, as all real actors do, of course.

Finally, we had the Slave of the ring, played by Geoff Mallinson, and the Genie of the Lamp, played by Ian Desoer. Both Geoff and Ian are new to the group but brought to life the real magic of the theatre.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and thank Dianne O'Donovan, the real-life Mum of Aladdin, who worked tirelessly in the background organising props. And also, Chris Wilson for all the technical wizardry, which apart from some mis-timed party poppers and a lap top computer that he was later seen throwing into Lac au Duc because after three faultless rehearsals it actually malfunctioned on the night, was a perfect example of what a difference technical advances can make to a production. Costumes were produced/made/bought/stolen by the actors themselves with help from a large and extravagant wardrobe of Eastern clothing owned by Lena Linton, who spent many, many years living in Dubai.

Finally, this piece cannot go unfinished without mentioning the fabulous food cooked by our ever-talented Jenny Brayshaw, a supper of chicken tajine, chosen to give an authentic Arabian taste to the evening. We are ever grateful to Jenny for her work and for setting up the evening ready for the delicious delights that followed with the Panto itself.

So, another panto completed and successfully put to bed, and whilst Sue is walking around, shaking her head, and mumbling 'never again', the group themselves are eagerly awaiting details of next year's production. And on that score, I have some great news of a special offer coming your way. As you know we always have a full house for the Panto but we are now offering you the chance to book early for next year. At only double the price of a normal ticket this is a great opportunity to make sure you don't miss out next year. You will also be entered into a prize draw, the winner of which will get a chance to mingle with the stars of the show and help them clean up at the end. And whilst you are at it, why not consider reserving your seat. As you know at the moment you will be seated randomly but for a measly 10 Euros extra you can reserve a seat and make sure you sit with your friends or family. Just quote 'ryeanhair' when you book to take up this fabulous offer.

*“.....You will also be entered into a prize draw, the winner of which will get a chance to mingle with the stars of the show and help them clean up at the end. And whilst you are at it, why not consider reserving your seat. As you know at the moment you will be seated randomly but for a measly 10 Euros extra you can reserve a seat and make sure you sit with your friends or family. Just quote 'ryeanhair' when you book to take up this fabulous offer”.*

See you all next year, 'Oh no you won't'!!!

Chris

A smile costs nothing and produces a lot,  
 It makes the person who receives it richer,  
 without making the person who gives it poorer,  
 It only lasts an instant,  
 But the memory of it is sometimes eternal.  
 Nobody is too rich not to need it,  
 and nobody so poor as not to be worth it,  
 It creates happiness in the household and helps business dealings.  
 It's the delicate sign of friendship  
 A smile gives rest to a person who is tired  
 Gives courage to a person who is discouraged  
 It can't be bought, lent or stolen  
 Because it's something that has no value  
 apart from the moment when it's given.  
 And if it should happen that you meet someone  
 who no longer knows how to smile,  
 Be generous to him and give him your smile  
 Because there is no - one who needs a smile more  
 than someone who can't smile at others.



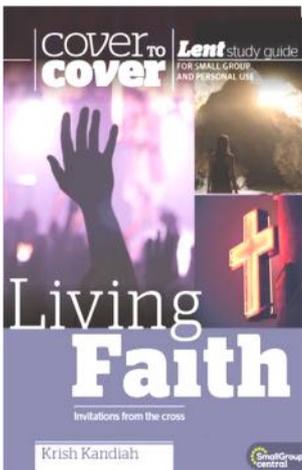
Supplied by Helen Hedge.

A poem which has significant memories  
 having been read at a Remembrance  
 service for her dear husband, John

Editor

Raoul Follereau

## Lent Groups/Lent Course



It has been decided that this year's lent courses should be based on the Lent Study Guide 'Living Faith'- invitations from the Cross.

The guide takes time to explore the rich tapestry of meaning that surrounds this central and most defining moment in history. Over six studies, consider the final words of Jesus on the cross, as recorded in the Gospels. Each of these sayings can be seen as a unique invitation to connect with God. So, discover another level of living faith as you hear and respond to Jesus' gracious words, which welcome us:

**Rostrenen Lent Group meetings: Fridays 16th, 23rd, March 2nd, 9th 16th, 23rd at 3 pm in the Salle Paroissiale, 4 rue Joseph Penneç, Rostrenen.**

**Huelgoat: Adopting the same programme, weekly, commencing there on the 21st**

**Ploërmel at dates to be announced.**

## A Further Snapshot of Our History

If you read A Snapshot of Our History in the last Newsletter you will have noticed one piece missing from the jigsaw of our past and that was a reference to the Revd Jeremy Cross. In fairness to the authors of the history, it was felt by them that Jeremy was very much part of our lives today and not remotely thought of as history. However, this further snapshot is a little more than just history though, as it is also an attempt to thank Jeremy, and Suzanne for all they have done for Christ Church since their arrival in Brittany.

When Jeremy and Suzanne were looking for a house in France they first sought a church and having discovered Christ Church at Ploërmel they then began their search for somewhere to live within a 15-minute drive. They came across their dream house near Réminiac and once moved in and settled there they began to regularly attend the church at Ploërmel. Jeremy quickly received Permission to Officiate from the Bishop and so was able to step in and take services occasionally when the then Minister, Hazel, was not available.

After Hazel had left Christ Church the Bishop appointed a number of locums for three monthly stints at a time. During this period, we had been endeavouring to appoint a new Minister, but without success, and it was at this point in mid-2012 that Jeremy stepped forward and offered to be our temporary Priest in Charge. His offer was gratefully received, particularly by the Churchwardens, as this lessened considerably the time that was being spent in introducing a new locum every three months. Jeremy stepped into the role with great enthusiasm and continued on a non-stipendiary basis until the Rev Fred Trethewey was appointed in October 2013.

Jeremy resumed by presiding at occasional services as and when needed until Fred left to go back to the UK in October 2016, when once more, he took up the role of Interim Minister, again on a non-stipendiary basis, until our new Chaplain, the Rev Robin Adams, was appointed and joined Christ Church on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, allowing Jeremy once more to step back into retirement.

It is hard to put into words how grateful we are to Jeremy for all that he has done for Christ Church, particularly for his leadership and guidance during these times when he was Interim Minister. He was expecting to retire when he moved to France, but each time, when needed, he has stepped into the breach to lead us.

We mustn't forget Suzanne's role in all of this, a constant source of support for Jeremy, accompanying him to Rostrenen and Huelgoat every month, (and not forgetting Jess, their dog, who also travelled with them, of course) and in addition is on the rota for piano playing at the Ploërmel services. In 2016 Suzanne also created a community choir, the La Source Singers, which has proved extremely popular and worthwhile, with over 40 members, both English and French, regularly practicing and singing taking place at charity concerts, retirement homes, Carol Services etc, etc.

We would like to finish by expressing once again our heartfelt thanks to Jeremy and Suzanne for all their help, support, leadership and guidance, and look forward to their continued involvement in Christ Church, albeit we are sure with rather more time devoted to retirement than they have been able to devote in the past.

**Norma Parker and Chris Wilson**

A BEETLE DRIVE & CURRY  
NIGHT  
PLOERMEL SOCIAL EVENING  
FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH  
STARTING AT 7.00 PM



The cost is 7.50 Euros per person for a light 2 course supper but please remember to bring your own drinks. Tickets need to be purchased in advance from myself or Sue Coe. Vegetarians and non-curry eaters will be catered for. Please indicate your preference on the booking form located in the coffee room.

Thank you.

[elaine.wilson@orange.fr](mailto:elaine.wilson@orange.fr)

## Church Services for March and Easter

### Ploërmel

- 4<sup>th</sup> Third of Lent – Holy Communion 11.00am
- 11<sup>th</sup> UK Mothering Sunday – Prayer and Praise 11.00am
- 18<sup>th</sup> Fifth of Lent – Holy Communion 11.00am followed by the Annual Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday – Family Service with Holy Communion 11.00am
- 29<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae Service 6.00pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday – Stations of the Cross at Callac (56) – 10.30am
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion 11.00am

### Rostrenen

- 11<sup>th</sup> UK Mothering Sunday – Holy Communion 10.30am
- 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday – Holy Communion 10.30am
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday – Service at 10.30am in the Salle Paroissiale
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion 10.30am

### Huelgoat

- 11<sup>th</sup> UK Mothering Sunday – Holy Communion 2.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday – Word and Worship with Holy Communion 2.30pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday – An hour at the cross 2.30pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Sunday – Holy Communion 2.30pm

*The views expressed in the contents of this Newsletter are those of our contributors and not necessarily the views of Christ Church.*