

Number 16  
January 2018

# ALCUIN NEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM SAINT ALCUIN OF YORK  
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHURCH IN TOURAINÉ

## ARCHDEACON TO VISIT ST ALCUIN'S

**I**N A DIOCESE AS LARGE AS OURS, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR BISHOPS AND ARCHDEACONS TO BE ON HAND AS MUCH AS IN ENGLAND. So we are particularly pleased to be able to welcome the Archdeacon of France and Monaco, the Ven Meurig Williams, to preach at our Eucharist on 28th January.

Meurig says *'This is a good time to be Anglican in France, and I am profoundly impressed by what I am learning about the journey you have undertaken to establish an Anglican community in the Touraine. This is an exciting development, and the foundations that have been laid over the past couple of years are a prom-*

*ising sign of the growth that we are experiencing across France. I am looking forward immensely to being with you at the end of January, and getting to know Fr John Neal and all of you who are working with him to be a vibrant worshipping and witnessing presence in Tours and the surrounding area.'*



### ON OTHER PAGES

Heroes of the Faith	2	Archdeacons—who are they?	4	More space in the case	6
Fr John writes	2	Meurig Williams	5	Younger Readers	7
Anne Jauneaud	3	How does your garden grow?	6	Crossword	7
Unity Week	3	Harvest Thanksgivings	6	Carol Services	8

[www.churchintouraine.org](http://www.churchintouraine.org)

## WHO'S WHO

### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Revd John Neal  
4 square Mantegna,  
37000 Tours  
johnlesneal@orange.fr  
02 47 64 07 92

### CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Deirdre Lewis  
deirdreplewis@gmail.com

Mr Barry Williams  
barry.williams@laposte.net

### SECRETARY

Mrs Carolyn Dehnel  
carolyn.dehnel@orange.fr

### TREASURER

Mr Roger Lewis  
roger.lewis@orange.fr

### SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Elspeth Eggleton  
grante@tripleaconsult.co.uk

## HEROES OF THE FAITH

### Cuthbert

### *Bishop of Lindisfarne*

Cuthbert was probably born in the Scottish lowlands around the year 640. At the age of eight a prophetic remark from a playmate turned his mind to sober and godly thoughts, and his upbringing as a shepherd gave him ample time for prayer. One night he saw in the sky a dazzling light and angels carrying a soul up to heaven, and resolved to dedicate his life to God. Some years later Cuthbert came to Melrose Abbey asking to be admitted as a monk. It was from here that he began his missionary work, which he continued from Lindisfarne when he became abbot there. Consecrated bishop in 685 he remained an indefatigable traveller and preacher, walking all over his diocese, and spending time as a hermit on Farne Island in between. After only a year however, he felt his end coming and resigned his office, dying on Farne in the company of a few of his monks.

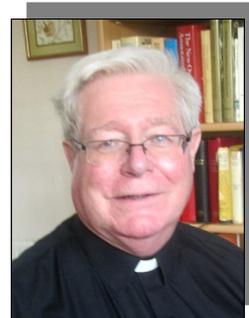


### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

**Across:** 1. Repentance. 6. Anoint. 7. Steal. 9. Pierce. 10. Urn. 11. Heap. 14. Mist. 15. Eli. 16. Stream. 17. Sinai. 18. Nathan. 20. Gethsemane.

**Down:** 1. Run. 2. Philip. 3. Nature. 4. Answer. 5. Cherubim. 6. Alphaeus. 8. Lengthen. 9. Patience. 12. Isaiah. 13. Bronze. 14. Martha. 19 Axe.

## FR JOHN WRITES



**I**N THE FIRST THREE CENTURIES OF THE CHURCH'S LIFE CHRISTIANS SUFFERED GREAT PERSECUTION—NOT FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVED, BUT BECAUSE THEY DARED TO GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP.

As a supposedly subversive secret society they were so feared by the authorities that they tried to stamp them out.

Gruesome stories abounded, such as Christians coming together to practise cannibalism, because when they met for the Eucharist they fed on the Body and Blood of Christ. A Roman governor, Pliny, even wrote to the emperor to assure him of their harmlessness. Even so, the authorities tried to deal with the situation by eliminating them.

For many centuries after, the Church knew not only peace, but a prominent—perhaps too prominent—position in society. Now things have changed. After centuries of dominance, Christianity is now said to be the most persecuted religion in the world.

Many are the headlines of Christians suffering and even being killed for their faith; but not in "civilised" Europe, though. Here we can go about our business unimpeded, except for some strident atheistic voices.

We are no longer seen as subversive. But is that really to our credit? Are we so bland that civil authorities can pursue their policies unchecked without any critique?

We who meet in memory of our suffering, broken, victorious Lord; we who share his meal; we who seek to share his passion for love and justice; we who follow his commands, rather than the norms of society; shouldn't we be just a wee bit more subversive?

*Father John*

## AT THE HEART OF OUR LIFE

### THE EUCHARIST



7.00 pm

on the 1st Sunday of the Month  
in the Protestant Temple  
32 rue de la Préfecture, Tours  
(tram: Nationale; bus: Gare Vinci)

11.00 am

with Junior Church  
on the 4th Sunday of the Month  
in the Parish Church of St Michel  
Le Bourg, Savigny-en-Véron

## THE ST ALCUIN CALENDAR

### *Our worship in the coming months*

January	7th	<i>Epiphany</i>	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	28th	<i>Candlemas</i>	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist and Procession	Savigny
February	4th	<i>2nd before Lent</i>	7.00 pm	Requiem Mass	Tours
	25th	<i>Lent 2</i>	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny
December	4th	<i>Lent 3</i>	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	25th	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Procession of Palms and Sung Eucharist	Savigny
April	1st	<i>Easter Day</i>	7.00 pm	Lighting of the Easter Candle and Sung Eucharist	Tours
	22nd	<i>Easter 4</i>	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny

# ANNE JAUNEAUD

**A**FTER NEARLY A YEAR OF ILLNESS, ANNE, A FOUNDER MEMBER OF ST ALCUIN'S, DIED AT THE CLINIQUE ALLIANCE IN ST CYR-SUR-LOIRE ON 18TH DECEMBER. Because of the Christmas holiday, her funeral was delayed until 27th December and was held at the parish church at Mettray, where she had lived for many years.

Fr John, as her parish priest, was invited to say a few words, which he did by recalling Anne at St Alcuin's.

We print the text of what he said below:

*Anne was one of the founder members of the Church of England community of St Alcuin and remained regular and faithful until illness overtook her.*

*How she heard of us remains a mystery, for she first contacted us out of the blue some six months before we were able to celebrate our first service.*

*Following that e-mail my wife and I visited her at her home here in Mettray and realised what a special lady she was.*

*From the start, it was clear that our Church was filling a big gap in Anne's spiritual life: her native Church worshipping in her native language. "A boon and a blessing" was how Anne described it. She was particularly pleased to be in an English church music environment. And, as well as being a faithful worshipper, Anne also brought her friend Elisabeth into our community.*

*It was a delightful surprise, too, when one Easter Day she drove the sixty km to our other Church near Chinon. Quite an*



*achievement at her age.*

*But the greatest memory of Anne was her cheerful nature. Nothing seemed to get her down – until the death of Philippe, that is. It knocked the wind out of her sails. And, of course, that came just as illness was overtaking her.*

*Now she is at peace: sorrow and weakness are past. What is left is our sorrow at having lost someone so dear to us. For her the new adventure of being in God's nearer presence is just beginning.*

*So, let us commend Anne to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.*

*God our creator and redeemer,  
by your power Christ conquered death  
and entered into glory.  
Confident of his victory  
and claiming his promises,  
we entrust N to your mercy  
in the name of Jesus our Lord,  
who died and is alive  
and reigns with you,  
now and for ever. Amen.*

**It is right that we at St Alcuin's pay our own tribute to Anne and so our Eucharist at Tours on 4th February will be a Requiem Mass for her. We hope that many who knew her will be able to share in this. Let us make it known as widely as possible.**

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**E**ach year the week between 18th and 25th January is kept throughout the world as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

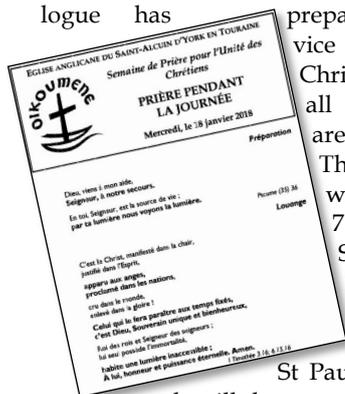
As usual, the group Christians in Dialogue has

prepared a service to which Christians of all traditions are invited. This year it will be at 7.00 pm on Sunday 21st January at the church of

St Paul in Tours and will be preceded by a conference connected to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran reform.

As this week, in England at least, also has an emphasis on experiencing the traditions of particular Christian groups, we at St Alcuin's will be offering a short office of Daily Prayer, in French, every day from 18th to 25th January, except Saturday and Sunday, at 12.15 pm in the Temple. This, which lasts no more than ten to fifteen minutes, is suitable for workers in their lunch hour as well as those visiting the sales. Do come and support this on at least one of the days if you can.

Sadly, at the time of going to press, we are unable to provide any information about Unity Week events in the Chinon area.








**TOURS**  
**DIMANCHE**  
**21 JANVIER 2018**  
ÉGLISE SAINT-PAUL,  
PLACE ST-PAUL, QUARTIER SANITAS

**16h :** accueil

**16h30 :** conférence  
« Du conflit à la communion,  
Luther hier et aujourd'hui »  
avec Elisabeth  
GANGLOFF-PARMENTIER,  
pasteure protestante, théologienne  
et Xavier GUÉ,  
prêtre catholique, théologien,  
recteur de la basilique St-Martin  
de Tours

**18h :** échanges  
autour du verre de l'amitié

**19h à 20h :** veillée oecuménique  
de prière

Entrée libre.  
Collecte à la fin de la  
conférence et de la veillée.

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

# ARCHDEACONS

*- who are they, what are they for?*

**UNLIKE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS, ARCHDEACONS ARE NOT A DISTINCT ORDER OF MINISTRY. Rather, they are usually senior priests who assist a bishop in ways that aren't specifically reserved for the episcopacy.** The *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* has defined an archdeacon as "A cleric having a defined administrative authority delegated to him by the bishop in the whole or part of the diocese." It has often been described metaphorically as that of *oculus episcopi*, the "bishop's eye". One archdeacon was known to describe himself as "the crook at the head of the bishop's staff".

An ancient office, the first mention of an archdeacon was in about 370. They started out as *diaconi episcopi*, deacons selected to administer the church's finances under the bishop's personal direction. Their role gradually developed and certain functions were reserved to them by law: not only financial administration, but also the discipline of the clergy and examination of candidates for priesthood. From the 8th century, there was in the West a further development of the authority of the archdeacon, who began to enjoy a jurisdiction independent of the bishop.

From the 13th century on, efforts were made to limit their authority by the creation of the new office of vicar general, who was a priest rather than a deacon. The Council of Trent completely removed archdeacons' independent powers. So, with very few exceptions, the office has now died out in the Roman Catholic Church.

In the Anglican Communion archdeacons serve the church within a diocese by taking particular responsibility for church buildings, the welfare of clergy and their families and the implementation of diocesan policy for the sake of the Gospel within an archdeaconry, a territorial division of a diocese. In the mind-boggling Diocese in Europe archdeaconries are of necessity very large. Ours covers the whole of France and others are even bigger. In England they can be quite small, such as, in London, a single borough. And, to add to the variety, the suffragan Bishop of Ludlow is also the archdeacon.

In the complicated world of ecclesiastical titles, an archdeacon is usually styled *The Venerable* instead of the usual clerical style of *The Reverend*.

In the Church of England the position of an archdeacon can only be held by a priest who has been ordained for at least six years, the requirement that an archdeacon be in priest's orders having been enacted in 1662. The legal act by which a priest becomes an archdeacon is called a *collation*.

The Anglican ordinal presupposes that the functions of archdeacons include those of

**P**erhaps the best portrayal of an archdeacon in literature is Trollope's Archdeacon Grantly in his 19th century *Barsetshire Chronicles*. Maybe you remember the television adaptation when the part was played to perfection by Nigel Hawthorne. The series—all seven episodes—can still be watched on YouTube.

examining candidates for ordination and then presenting them to the ordaining bishop.



But the bulk of an archdeacon's ministry is concerned with parishes, their buildings and their clergy.

In England, as part of this, they make an annual inspection of each church, often now delegated to an area dean, to see that all is going well. In the past this could be somewhat informal and more an opportunity to meet the churchwardens with the vicar. Certain items had to be covered such as the cleanliness of the linen, the keeping of registers and

ensuring that notice boards were up to date—and looking for cobwebs, of course!

Nowadays, with concerns such as Health and Safety and Safeguarding, there is a much more formal task to do. Is the Safeguarding policy fit for purpose? Has the boiler been serviced? What about the state of the electrics?

In the Diocese in Europe we are more likely to share the buildings of other denominations than have our own, so boilers, lightning conductors, etc. are not ours to look after. As far as Safeguarding is concerned, the policy has to be checked by the churchwardens and priest each year and a signed certificate sent to diocesan office.

Thus, in this diocese, the archdeacon's role is a more pastoral one. No drains and gutters for the Archdeacon of France to inspect when he comes to visit us. His main task is being a link between the bishop and the chaplaincies and helping chaplaincies to flourish. It is in that role we are very pleased to welcome our archdeacon, the Ven Meurig Williams.

## AND THE ARCHPRIEST?

**R**esearch undertaken some twenty years ago by a group of rural deans in the Diocese of Southwark managed to unearth some information about this ministry, which no longer exists under the name.

At one time ranked higher than archdeacons, their relative positions reversed because archdeacons spent more time in the bishop's presence. Over time archpriests morphed into rural deans, now known as area deans.

An indication of their former prominence was to be found in the 19th century when it was they who were authorised to confirm in the absence of the bishop.

With very few exceptions, area deans are parish based and if it can be said that archdeacons represent the diocese to the parishes, area deans represent the parishes to the diocese.

## THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

**I**n the Eastern Churches an archdeacon is the senior deacon in a diocese and has a liturgical role serving at hierarchical services (those at which the bishop is present and presiding).

# MEURIG WILLIAMS

**MEURIG WILLIAMS IS THE ARCHDEACON OF FRANCE AND MONACO, AND IS COMMISSARY TO THE BISHOP OF GIBRALTAR IN EUROPE.**

Born in Bangor, North Wales, Meurig grew up in a Welsh-speaking family. His father was a Baptist Minister and his mother was a school teacher. He has a brother who is a news presenter and political commentator for the BBC in Wales.

After reading modern languages at the University of Wales (which included a year in Bordeaux), Meurig taught modern languages in a large Welsh-language medium secondary school near Cardiff. He returned to the University of Wales to study for a degree in theology, before moving to Westcott House, Cambridge, to train for ordination. He was ordained in the Diocese of Bangor in 1992, and served a curacy in the port town of Holyhead on the North-Western tip of Wales. It was during his time in Holyhead that Meurig enjoyed frequent ferry crossings to Dublin, where he was inspired to discover more of his Ireland, his closest European neighbour.

From Holyhead, he became the Vicar of Pwllheli, a market town in West Wales, before moving to Cardiff, to be Vicar of Eglwys Dewi Sant (Saint David's

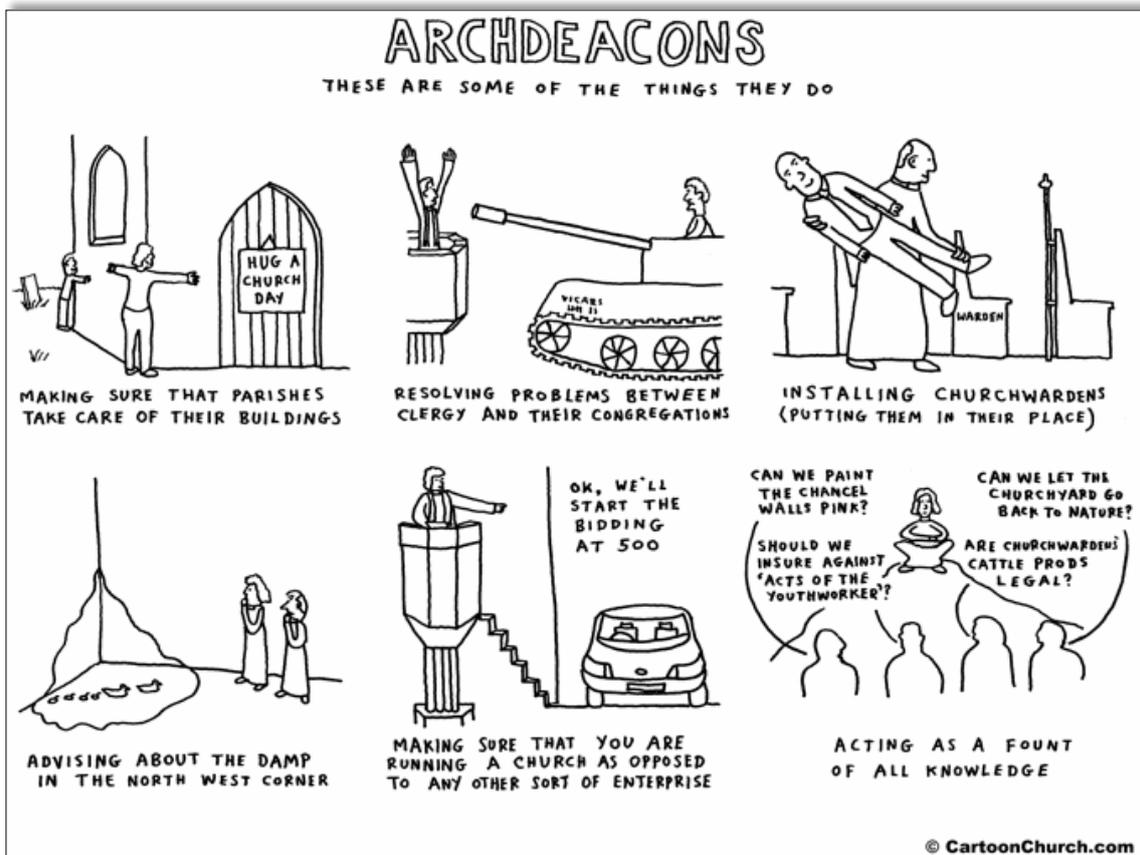
Church). In 2004, he returned home to become Archdeacon of Bangor, where he had responsibility for the parishes of the



North Wales coast, Snowdonia and the island of Anglesey. Seven years later, he became Chaplain and Commissary to Dr Geoffrey Rowell, the former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, who also invited him to become acting-Archdeacon of

North-West Europe (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). The current Bishop, Dr Robert Innes, licensed Meurig as Archdeacon of France & Monaco on Michaelmas Day 2016.

Meurig describes himself as a 'Welsh European.' He has enjoyed travelling to Europe from an early age. He has a home in Nouvelle Aquitaine (Corrèze) as well as his office-base in Brussels. As a fluent French-speaker, he is relishing his new role of serving, supporting and encouraging our Church of England chaplaincies in France and Monaco. He is particularly keen to be out-and-about in France, and is giving priority to being with chaplaincies on Sundays, where he can get to know the clergy, lay officers and worshippers in our diverse chaplaincies. As well as forging strong links between the Church of England in France and the Roman Catholic Church, Meurig is also a member of the Church of England's Reuilly Group, which encourages closer relationships with the Protestant and Reformed Churches of France.



# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

**THE SEASON OF LENT, WHICH THIS YEAR RUNS FROM 14TH FEBRUARY TO 31ST MARCH, is a time for preparation for the greatest Feast of the Christian calendar, Easter. It has also traditionally been seen as a time of repentance. But what does repentance mean?**

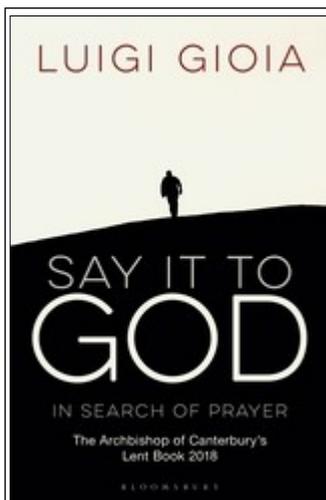
Repentance is not just about being sorry for sin and certainly not wallowing in remorse. It is about making a new start: something much more positive.

Imagine a garden full of weeds: it's no good just looking at it in despair. You need not only to clear the weeds away but to put in the plants you want to make it more difficult for the weeds to re-appear.

So it is with our Christian lives. Giving up sweets and chocolate is all well and good, but won't do the trick on their own.

Why not try some spiritual reading? The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, *Say it to God* (left) by a Benedictine monk is about prayer and *Reflections for Lent* (right) consists of daily commentaries on one of the readings from Morning Prayer.

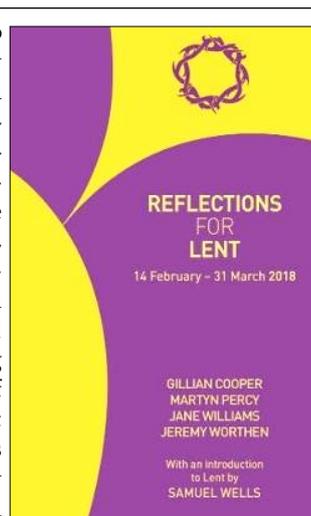
They are both readily available from Church House Bookshop. We suggest you don't use Amazon who, although taking your order, often in the end fail to provide Christian books.



In *Say it to God* Luigi Gioia provides a welcome encouragement to all those who feel the need to freshen their practice of prayer. For Gioia, prayer is not about methods or techniques, but trusting that God is truly interested in everything that happens to us and wants to hear about it. The book leads the reader into the theological aspects of prayer and how it relates to Christ, to the Holy Spirit and to the Church. This is done without using complex theological concepts but simply through scriptural quotations.

Chapters are kept brief intentionally to make the book suitable for daily reading over the Lenten period. With a foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury, *Say it to God* demonstrates that the everyday, even the most mundane of tasks and situations, can be applied in deepening our practice of prayer.

*Reflections for Lent* is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Covering Monday to Saturday each week, it offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers. Each day includes full lectionary details for Morning Prayer, a reflection on one of the Bible readings and a Collect for the day. This volume offers daily material for 14 February to 31 March 2018, taken from the Reflections for Daily Prayer 2017/18 annual edition. It is ideal for people seeking Lectionary-based reflections for use during Lent and Holy Week. It also features a simple form of morning and night prayer and a guide to keeping a good Lent.



## HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS



**O**ur harvest Eucharists on 24th September and 1st October were quite remarkable in the generosity of the response to God's goodness and the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. What we were able to donate to 'L'Embaradère', which is active against social exclusion in Touraine, was measured in boot loads. Thank you, everybody.

## MORE SPACE IN THE CASE

**H**aving no building of our own, all that we need for our services must be carried about each time: the "Eglise dans une valise". And there is a lot.

Part of the gear is our lovely ceramic chalice and paten which had to be swathed in bubble wrap each time to protect them.

Fortunately that is no more as Elizabeth Portway has made us fine bags to put them in, which are not only much more convenient to use, but decorative, too.



# FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

## LENT WORDSEARCH

The season of Lent starts in the middle of February and goes on till the end of March. It is a way of getting ready for Jesus' rising from the tomb on

J	H	O	L	Y	A	P	R	A	Y	Z
V	A	N	E	C	P	I	E	G	R	J
F	C	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
K	R	A	S	H	E	S	L	K	Y	S
F	O	R	T	Y	P	U	E	B	D	U
M	S	L	E	S	A	D	C	P	X	S
Q	S	P	R	S	R	U	T	R	Y	C
V	I	C	V	E	E	D	I	G	L	P
Y	R	Z	I	K	T	K	O	G	V	G
J	L	E	A	A	W	U	R	V	W	N
D	Z	I	H	C	R	O	O	G	M	F

Easter Day. See if you can find the hidden words, which all have something to do with Lent. They all go down or across. The answers are all in this list.

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Forty     | Pray    |
| Jesus     | Prepare |
| Holy      | Reflect |
| Easter    | Cross   |
| Sacrifice | Ashes   |

## ALCUINEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 11

by Philologos

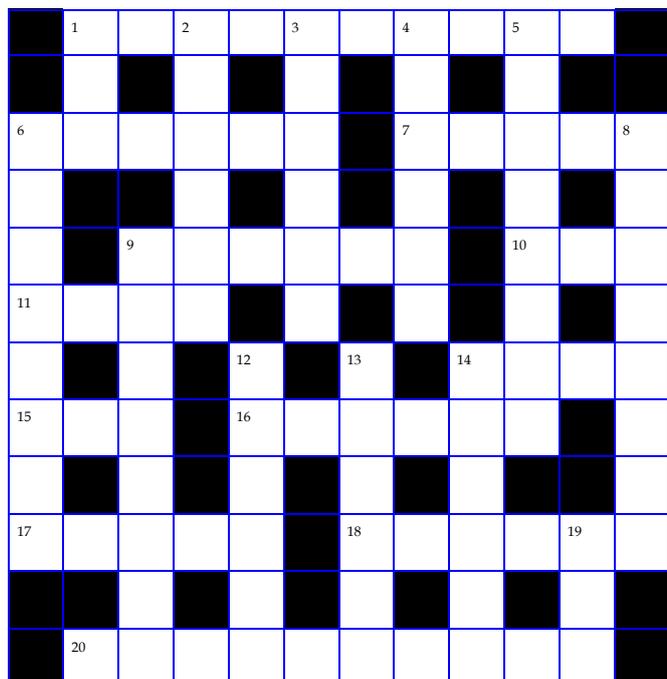
### Across

- Remorse (10).
- Consecrate (6).
- Break a Commandment (5).
- Make a hole (6).
- Pot (3).
- What Ai became (4).
- This initially watered the earth (4).
- Samuel's mentor (3).
- Small river (6).
- Mount that Moses climbed (5).
- Prophet in David's time (6).
- Biblical garden (10).

### Down

- Take flight (3).
- One of the twelve (6).
- All living things (6).
- Response (6).
- Guardians of Eden (8).
- The father of Levi (8).
- Grow (8).
- Forbearance (8).
- Second longest book (6).
- Statue metal (6).
- Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6).
- Wood splitter (3).

ANSWERS ON PAGE 2



# UNITY IN DIVERSITY

## *our Christmas Carol Services*

**F**OR MOST OF THE YEAR, SERVICES AT ST ALCUIN'S, WHETHER AT SAVIGNY OR TOURS, COULD BE INTERCHANGEABLE. Such difference as there is comes from the make-up of the two communities. However when it comes to our Carol Services that is quite a different matter.

From the start Carol Services at Tours have been bilingual and ecumenical—firstly just as a shared enterprise between us and the Eglise reformée, then gradually widening out until this year it included an Evangelical pastor and Roman Catholic and Orthodox priests.

The French have really taken the traditional English Nine Lessons and Carols to their hearts and they formed by far the greater number there.

Our singing was much enhanced by the 'Petit Chœur' of the Eglise reformée. The chanting of his reading, the coming of the Wise Men, by the Orthodox priest, Fr Jollet, according to his tradition was a spiritually captivating moment.

The readings may have been exactly

the same, as were many of the carols, but there the similarity between Tours and Savigny ended.

In our usual Sunday morning slot at Savigny, young people made up nearly a third of those present and participated fully in the worship, by reading, lighting Advent candles, taking the collection and, not least, giving some pretty impressive answers in the quiz prepared for them.

Then, of course, sausage rolls, mince pies and even Christmas pudding, much home-made, to end with.

And so, as we go from one year to the next:

*May the Lord bless us  
and watch over us,  
the Lord make his face shine upon us  
and be gracious to us,  
the Lord look kindly on us  
and give us peace.*

### TOURS



Martine Bouchery, *Reformée*, André Collange, *Catholic*, Gwyneth Cairns, *Evangelical*, Jean-Clément Jollet, *Orthodox*, and Fr John



Thanks to the "Petit Chœur"

### A SAVIGNY MISCELLANY

