



The sleepy, sun drenched fields stirred at the rousing singing of 'Hail the Day that sees Him Rise'. This was Ascension Day at Pallanne, a tiny village vaguely located in the Gers between Pau and Auch, where Joy and John Errey have their home and extend a ministry of Christian living and hospitality. A new dimension for understanding the mystery of the Ascension of The Lord Jesus is created when the Day can be celebrated in the open air, with the snow capped Pyrenees in the background and a profound sense of wonder and Glory. Some 40 of all ages had made the journey through the highways and byways that criss-cross the area comprising the Chaplaincy of Pau with Mazeres.

David Houghton, locum for the month, presided at the Eucharist, while so many assisted with all the necessities to make this a true Feast Day. We had the Marquee, music, dressed altar, delight at meeting each other, and meanwhile the barbecue was sizzling away and in a flash after the Eucharist the area was laid out in classic French style for a splendid Lunch. It all went on well into the afternoon. There was no desire to leave!



The Gospel of Luke tells of the disciples witnessing the Ascension of Jesus, and then returning to Jerusalem in great joy, going back to carry out their work. I am sure that in our own way, we too experienced the joy of the Risen Lord and were inspired that beautiful day to share our joy as members of this wide flung community of faith.



The Rev. David Houghton
Photos John Errey