

February 2019

No 59

# Christ Church Brittany



*The Candlemas Bells, also known as Snowdrops, symbolize hope.*

# Newsletter

To know Jesus Christ and to make him known

*I will also write on them my **new name**. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Rev 2:13*

**T**he phrase comes from Revelation, at the very end of the bible. Jesus has a message for seven different churches in Asia Minor. Jesus keeps mentioning the idea of “a name”. It’s all about how they’re known. Some of them have “a name” for being alive and impressive, but they’re not. And some of them have real and genuine “names” – there’s a real integrity to who they are. The book of Revelation has many references to secret names, which identify the spiritual core and power of a person. Knowing a spiritual name has real power. This was brought out in some of the exorcisms Jesus

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*What are the names you want for yourself? What are the names you fear? Imagine you accidentally overhear a conversation between neighbours, and they’re talking about you. What’s the worst thing they could say about you?*

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performed, where there was a discussion about who knows who’s real name. Mark 5:8 ‘For Jesus had said to him, ‘Come out of this man, you impure spirit!’ Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘My name is Legion,’ he replied, ‘for we are many.’

What are the names you want for yourself? What are the names you fear? Imagine you accidentally overhear a conversation between neighbours, and they’re talking about you. What’s the worst thing they could say about you? “Stupid”, “clumsy”, “loud”, “fat”, “ugly”, “ignorant”, “boring.” Worse? Often we accept the labels people attach to us even from childhood. Even if

we are repulsed by the name given by others or worse names we have given ourselves, we can subconsciously accept it’s power over us. Sometimes we act out in aggression against this false name and that becomes another way for the bad name to have power over us.

What would you most want them to say “Clever”, “funny”, “handsome”, “kind”, “musical”, “compassionate”, “thoughtful”, “godly”? What kind of name would thrill your heart?

You see we don’t have to settle for the names others have given you. We are not who other people say we are. But also (and this is also good news), we’re not even what we call ourselves. When we become Christians, Jesus gives us His name and His reputation. Incredibly, we can be known – by God Himself – and given the same dignity and status as His Son. Jesus says that he protects the disciple by the power of his name! John 17:10 ‘All I have is yours, and all

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*We don't find our true selves by becoming self-made men and women. And we're not at the mercy of other people's opinions. We receive our true identities from Jesus.*

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you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with

them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.'

Jesus' new name written on us is about our new status (like a surname). Our new name on the white stone is about the intimacy of being known by Jesus (like a pet name).

We don't find our true selves by becoming self-made men and women. And we're not at the mercy of other people's opinions. We receive our true identities from Jesus.

And when we live out of Christ's identity given to us, the striving can end and we can be who we're meant to be. Healing can often come

from rejecting the names we owned in childhood or youth and discovering our new identity in Christ. In your prayers ask God to show you the pet name he has for you? You might be surprised that he sees your true identity as being radically different that how you had previously labeled yourself.

"I will also give them a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it." (Rev 2:17)

*Pastor Robin February 2019*



## Ploërmel

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth before Lent – Morning Prayer 11.00am**

**10<sup>th</sup> Fourth before Lent – Prayer and Praise 11.00am**

**17<sup>th</sup> Third before Lent – Holy Communion 11.00am**

**24<sup>th</sup> Second before Lent – Confirmation Service 3.00pm (No morning service)**

## Redon Eglise St Charles, 10 avenue Gaston Sébilleau, Redon

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth before Lent - Holy Communion 10.30am**

**17<sup>th</sup> Third before Lent – Word and Worship 10.30am**

## Rostrenen

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth before Lent – Word and Worship 10.30am**

**10<sup>th</sup> Fourth before Lent – Holy Communion 10.30am**

**17<sup>th</sup> Third before Lent – Word and Worship with Holy Communion 10.30am**

**24<sup>th</sup> Second before Lent – Morning Prayer 10.30am**

## Huelgoat

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth before Lent – Fellowship in Finistère 2.30pm**

**10<sup>th</sup> Fourth before Lent – Holy Communion 2.30pm**

**17<sup>th</sup> Third before Lent – Fellowship in Finistère with Holy Communion 2.30pm**

**24<sup>th</sup> Second before Lent – Morning Prayer 2.30pm**

# CUSTOMS OLD AND NEW - CANDLEMAS

*Fr Malcolm*



Please come with me on a journey.

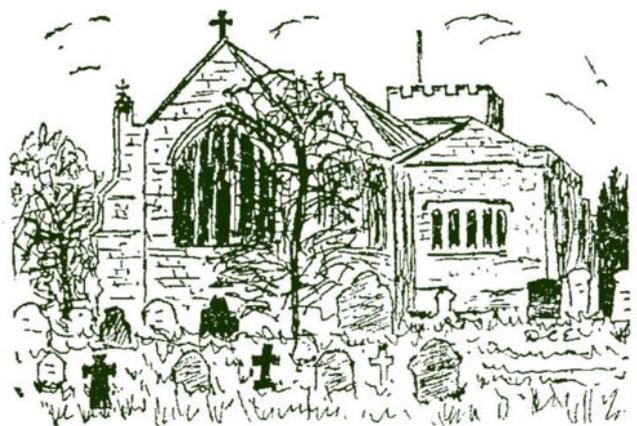
On a cold winter morning, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1966 to be precise, I stood, along with 11 other men in training for the ministry, in the ancient Augustinian Collegiate and Priory Church (now the parish church) of St. Andrew, Greystoke - in the Lake District. It was pitch black

and apart from a couple of electric light bulbs on by the main west door, there was no other light in the place. It was 7.00am. The villagers were all coming in, and excited voices could be heard from the choir vestry as the children prepared for the service.

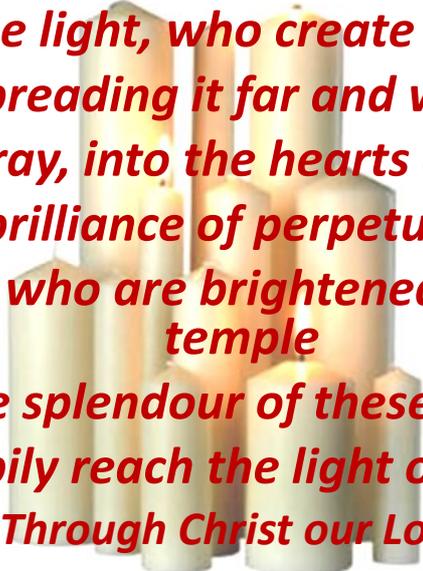
You might well wonder at what everyone was up to at such an early hour!

Just by the west door there were boxes of candles – large altar ones, smaller chapel ones and smaller ‘stick’ candles. Each person entering the church was given an order of service, a hymn book and a ‘stick’ candle. The villagers had seen this service before but to this student it was all so new – after all the church I went to did not have candles anywhere!

The Rector welcomed everyone and reminded us that today was 40 days after the Christmas celebrations and it was the day on which we remembered the presentation of Christ in the temple and also the Jewish Ritual Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary following the birth of Jesus. (The concept of ritual purification after childbirth carried over into the early Christian Church and followed into the Church of England at the Reformation when the service for the ‘Churching of Women’ was placed in the Book of Common Prayer.)



Having welcomed us all the Rector then blessed all the candles that were to be used in the church over the year and also the great Easter Candle which was for use on Easter Eve. The choir, students and villagers all then formed up in a great procession and a light from a candle was passed along the rows of people until everyone's candle was lit. (The Easter Candle was not lit, however, as that would happen at the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve – it was carried in the procession unlit.) The prayer was similar to the one in "Common Worship: Times & Seasons"



***O God, true light, who create light eternal,  
Spreading it far and wide,  
Pour, we pray, into the hearts of the faithful  
The brilliance of perpetual light,  
So that all who are brightened in your holy  
temple  
By the splendour of these candles  
May happily reach the light of your glory.  
Through Christ our Lord.***

The procession then began – all of us holding our candles singing the hymn "Daily, daily sing the praises" and wending around the ancient church just as people had done when the church was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century until that day when I experienced it all.

With the advent of Common Worship we have begun to re-discover some of the rich liturgical heritage that we have inherited so let's enjoy it. *Fr Malcolm*

## **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE.**

### **Candlemas**

*by the Rev'd Michael Palmer*

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, forty days after his birth at Bethlehem on Christmas morning. The church has held this feast from the mid fourth century onwards, and it is celebrated with a procession of candles reflecting the words of the devout Simeon who recognised in Jesus, God made man, a light not only to lighten the Jews, but a light for the whole of humanity itself.

The original ceremony included the offering of sacrifice to God of a pair of Turtle Doves or two young pigeons, as we read in the gospel of St. Luke, who also tells us of the blessing of the prophetess Anna, who also was present at the time. We may want to ask ourselves where were the Holy Family living at this time of the Presentation of Christ Jesus in the Temple. Did they return to Galilee from Bethlehem after Jesus' birth and then came back to Jerusalem to fulfil their religious duty at the Temple? Or did they stay on in the Inn at Bethlehem while mother and baby gained strength after the birth? But be well assured all these events actually happened as described in gospels; they are not merely legends or myths, and that is the joy of our wonderful Christian religion. So what is the message of the Feast of the Presentation? Firstly that God



respected the customs and traditions of his chosen people, the Jews, by allowing his only begotten son to be presented in the Temple, but much more significantly by revealing the true extent of his love for people of all races through the inspired words of Simeon who described the child as “a light to lighten the Gentiles”, as well as to be “the glory of his people Israel”. The light of Christ at Candlemas is represented by those myriad candles which are held aloft by the faithful, as we marvel at the Word made Flesh, so beautifully expressed by St. John in his so very special of gospels. In taking our humanity, Christ allows us to share in his divinity. In other words he assures us of eternal life in heaven with the Father and Holy Spirit together with the angels, the Saints and our loved ones who have gone before us. What more could he give us but that?

## CCB financial summary for 2018

*Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offering and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8*

We would like our members and friends to have an early general overview of our financial report for 2018. We shall compare actual for 2017, the budget amount going into 2018 and the (estimated) actual amount for 2018. For simplicity all figures will be rounded up or down to the nearest 1,000. The accounts with a much greater level of detail and accuracy (along with the Independent Examiner's Report) will be presented at the annual meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

	<b>Actual 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2018</b>	<b>Actual 2018</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Donations</b>	35,000	31,000	43,000	Good
<b>Other income</b>	4,000	4,000	5,000	Good
<b>All income</b>	39,000	35,000	48,000	Improvement
<b>Expenditure</b>	24,000	57,000	56,000	On target
<b>Surplus / deficit</b>	+16,000	-22,000	- 8,000	Still a way to go!

The major difference between 2017 and 2018 was the added expense of employing our new chaplain. This personnel cost is the major impact on the budget, involving salary, taxes, insurance, housing and travel expenses not required in 2017. Note the jump in expenditure from 2017 to 2018, which was anticipated in the budget for 2018. The impact of the jump in expenditure was expected to cause a 22,000 deficit for the year, but the drop was only 8,000 because of stronger giving.

The bottom line of our report is that expenditure was very close to that estimated in the budget. Whereas income was much stronger than expected. Even so there was still a deficit of 8,000 in 2018 and we hope to wipe this out by having a balanced set of accounts in 2019.

Our regular giving to the Church is part of our Christian duty "*Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.*" Proverbs 3:9

**Chaplain, treasurer and wardens**

Contributed by Liz from Huelgoat



RAFT, which has been running since 2015, takes unwanted donations such as clothes, food, medicine and shoes from supporters and then redistributes them to refugees displaced by the current ongoing conflicts such as in Syria.



Jill, one of the many helpers at RAFT in Taunton

## Carole's sewing kits

This pic to show examples of the sewing kits made by Carole at Huelgoat  
Many people have been asking about the design

It also shows that I enclose a note in the boxes that shows the origin!  
Shipment to Syria went first week in January via Cardiff. Our cheque will come in handy for fuel costs  
RAFT was frantically busy with volunteers all packing up boxes.  
I met the founder Frederica who expressed her thanks and wonder at how far our donations come from Brittany .



## Christmas Bring and Buy Huelgoat

We held a very successful Bring and Buy sale in December resulting in €140. Mulled wine and mince pies contributed to a very happy festive time and we were well supported in the Maison Parisiole

Many thanks to Vanessa and Barry who helped set up and clear away at the end. Also, they supplied Christmas decorations and greenery to help decorate the church in Huelgoat

We received many donations of baby clothes and warm adult clothing at the sale so it was a double result!

Donations from Congregations across Christchurch raised the total to £225 and I am pleased to have presented this to Raft the first week in January.

## Weekly Prayer Diary for February 2019

*Prepared by Donna*

### **MONDAY:**

Pray.... that we each continue in worship through the week  
.... for our Bishops Robert and David, our Archdeacon and diocese  
.... for the outreach of Le Mains Ouvertes

### **TUESDAY:**

Pray.... for wisdom for all negotiating the Brexit process  
.... for Robin, Jeremy, Joy, Malcolm, John, and their families  
.... for deep, caring relationships among our church members

### **WEDNESDAY:**

Pray.... that we will look for opportunities to share our faith  
.... for the healing of those suffering physical ailments  
.... for those who will be confirmed or reaffirmed .

### **THURSDAY:**

Pray... for our growth in all four locations of Christ Church Brittany  
.... for our lay readers Alan, Guy, John, Laura and Robin  
.... for those who need discernment for difficult decisions in their futures

### **FRIDAY:**

Pray... for the work of La Source, library and Singers  
.... that our children and grandchildren come to know Jesus  
.... for members of our Chaplaincy Council and Wardens

### **SATURDAY:**

Pray.... for our Christian brothers and sisters living under persecution  
.... for all who have roles in music and organising worship

### **SUNDAY:**

Pray.... that God will show us new ways to minister to our community  
.... for Sabbath rest as we worship and glorify God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**“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.”**

**Ephesians 6:18**

## A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS MADE AT THE MEETING OF THE CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2019 AT HUELGOAT

The financial picture for Christ Church Brittany for the 2018 year was encouraging in that there was an overall loss of approximately 8000€ compared with an anticipated budgetary loss of 22000€.

However there is still much to do to ensure the continuing financial security of Christ Church Brittany and the hope that sometime in the future it may be possible to support a full-time Chaplain.

The aim for 2019 must be to produce a balanced situation between income and expenditure which will require additional income to be raised.

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**The Council passed the following proposal in relation to Safeguarding: 'On completion of the necessary checks, Dr Peter Moodie should be appointed as the Christ Church Brittany Safeguarding Officer'**

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The Council passed the following proposal in relation to Safeguarding: 'On completion of the necessary checks, Dr Peter Moodie should be appointed as the Christ Church Brittany Safeguarding Officer'. Peter is a member of the Redon congregation. Until those checks have been completed Chris Wilson will continue to be the Interim Safeguarding Officer. The Diocese intends to hand over greater responsibility for Safeguarding to individual Chaplaincies.

The Revd Joy Dale has become a Level 2 trainer and those who require Level 2 training as indicated in the summary provided by the Diocese should note that she is running Level 2 training courses at Huelgoat on 30th January 2019 and at Ploërmel on 23rd February 2019 and therefore should make every effort to attend one of them.

The audit of Data Protection lists held by List Holders has been delayed until the second week in February.

A strategic plan for the next 3-5 years of Christ Church Brittany is being developed. The Liaison Groups and future Chaplaincy Council meetings will be considering the situation using S.W.O.T. (an acronym for **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats) and S.M.A.R.T. (an acronym for **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely) analyses.

Rescheduling of the Chaplain's rota as

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**Rescheduling of the Chaplain's rota as a result of the new congregation at Redon means that in most months the Chaplain will not be able to take services on more than one Sunday at Huelgoat and Rostrenen**

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a result of the new congregation at Redon means that in most months the Chaplain will not be able to take services on more than one Sunday at Huelgoat and Rostrenen. He would

like to supplement this with an additional monthly visit on a weekday to these areas but it will be the responsibility of each congregation to make arrangements for this to occur.

Each liaison group is to meet to select a Charity for which they would be

**The Annual Meeting of Christ Church Brittany will take place on Sunday March 31st after the service at Ploërmel. Janet Lageveen and Chris Wilson (as he will be giving up his current responsibility for Safeguarding) have indicated their willingness to stand for elections as Churchwardens for the 2019/2020 year.**

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prepared to take ownership and to present the details to the Chaplaincy Council at their next meeting on Thursday March 14th. The Annual Meeting of Christ Church Brittany will take place on Sunday March 31st after the service at Ploërmel. Janet Lageveen and Chris Wilson (as he will be giving up his current responsibility for Safeguarding) have indicated their willingness to stand for elections as Churchwardens for the 2019/2020 year.

A new Electoral Roll will come into being in 2019. All on it will have to resubmit application forms by Sunday 10th March 2019. There are strong reasons to ensure that the number on the Roll remains above 100 and anyone who regularly attends at one of the Worship Centres is urged to complete an application form.

From Ash Wednesday sermons and Lent Groups will be based on the Letter to the Philippians and will be

linked to the Alpha follow-up course 'A life worth living' for which a course book is also available.

The congregation at Redon has made a promising start with numbers attending the first eight worship events varying between 20 and 23.

This congregations is somewhat different in nature to our other congregations since it has worshippers from number of different nationalities of whom many are working and some of whom have young families.

A Confirmation Service will be taking place on Sunday February 24th at Ploërmel at 3.00 p.m. It will be taken by the Rt Revd Michael Langrish, former Bishop of Exeter, who will be acting for the first three months of the year as a locum priest at Dinard.

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A service at Rostrenen would take place on that morning so making it possible for anyone from that congregation who wished to attend the Confirmation Service to do so. At Huelgoat, however, there will be a Sunday service at 3.00 p.m. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services will take place in the Lorient and St Brieuc areas.

# Contacts



Visit our website

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

## Chaplain:

The Rev'd Robin Adams Tel: 02 97 72 95 79

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

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

## Clergy with PTO (Permission To Officiate)

The Rev'd Jeremy Cross Tel: 02 97 93 27 24

E-mail [jandscross@aol.com](mailto:jandscross@aol.com)

The Rev'd Joy Dale Tel: 02 98 26 13 85

E-mail [rev.joy@churchinbrittany.com](mailto:rev.joy@churchinbrittany.com)

The Rev'd Canon Malcolm Jones

Tel: 02 56 22 00 45

E-mail: [frmalmcolmjones@hotmail.com](mailto:frmalmcolmjones@hotmail.com)

## CHURCH OFFICE :

14 rue Général Dubreton, 56800 Ploërmel

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

## CHURCHWARDENS to the CHAPLAINCY

Janet Lageveen Tel: 02 98 99 63 14

E mail: [janet.lageveen@gmail.com](mailto:janet.lageveen@gmail.com)

Chris Wilson Tel: 02 97 72 19 29

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

## Ploërmel: Asst WARDENS

Norma Parker Tel: 02 97 75 42 37

Sue Coe and Rob Brookes

## Huelgoat: Asst WARDEN

Henk Lageveen Tel: 02 98 99 63 14

E-mail: [ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com)

## Rostrenen: Asst WARDENS

Graham Lissaman Tel: 02 96 29 66 81

Robin Hillman Tel: 02 97 51 74 26

## Newsletter: Editor

Alfred Adgey E-mail [church.newsletter@orange.fr](mailto:church.newsletter@orange.fr)