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At the present time the Church Mouse is an independent voice speaking for any member of the Church subject to the editor's discretion, and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Chaplaincy, Archdeaconry or Diocese.

All photos have been checked against Tin Eye.

SERVICES AROUND THE CHAPLAINCY January/February 2026



BRENS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---|
| Sunday 18 th January | 11h.00 | Holy Communion by extension – Peter Gibbs |
| Sunday 25 th January | 11h.00 | Zoom Morning Prayer - Robin Johnston |
| Sunday 1 st February | 11h.00 | Holy Communion by extension – Peter Gibbs |
| Sunday 8 th February | 11h.00 | Zoom Morning Prayer |

CAHORS

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 18 th January | 10h.00 | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 25 th January | 10h.00 | Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson |
| Sunday 8 th February | 10h.00 | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 18th February | 11h.00 | Holy Communion – Ash |
| | | Wednesday – Martignac |

CARCASSONNE

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday 25 th January | 10h.30 | Morning Prayer – Paul Gifford |
| Sunday 8 th February | 10h.30 | Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 22 nd February | 10h.30 | Morning Prayer |

CAYLUS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday 26 th January | 10h.30 | Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson |
| Monday 9 th February | 10h.30 | Morning Prayer – Celia Scott |
| Monday 23 rd February | 10h.30 | Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson |

TOULOUSE

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| Sunday 18 th January | 10h.30 | Holy Communion – Revd Jacqueline Rodwell |
| Sunday 1 st February | 10h.30 | Service of the Word |
| Sunday 15 th February | 10h.30 | Holy Communion – Revd Jacqueline Rodwell |

VAYRAC

There are no Services in Vayrac in January 2026

Tuesday 3rd February 10h.30 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson



Follow us on Facebook! Our page is 'Anglican Chaplaincy of Midi Pyrenees and Aude' (under development). Carcassonne page is at 'Anglican Church in Carcassonne'. Please have a look and follow the pages and like the posts! It all helps to spread the word that we are here and are open to those who are looking to join us.



The Reason we are all here.

O Lord our God, you call us in the depths of our being, you have a purpose for us: open our ears to your call, open our hearts to your love, open our minds to your purpose, that we may know you and give ourselves fully in your service,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

(Taken from David Adam – Clouds and Glory)



THE LIGHTBEAM PROJECT – supported by the Cahors congregation

Dear Friend,

We extend our sincere thanks for your generous donation. Your valued support of The LightBeam Project is instrumental in making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of disadvantaged children.

We are truly grateful for your contribution of £50 from the Cahors Worship Centre of the Anglican Church, Europe, towards the maintenance and development of the SOLE Lab at DIKSHA. The LightBeam Project has evolved into a highly effective educational resource for DIKSHA students, fostering enthusiasm for learning while strengthening teamwork and significantly enhancing language skills.



We would like to assure you that all contributions received are utilised with the utmost care and responsibility to maximise impact and further our mission of providing equitable learning opportunities for children.

The continued support of generous donors such as yourself enables us to positively shape young lives and help children experience a happier, more enriching childhood.

Thank you once again for your kindness and commitment. We sincerely hope you will continue to partner with us in advancing our shared vision of celebrating and nurturing childhood.

For further information about The LightBeam Project, we invite you to visit www.thelightbeamproject.org and follow us on Instagram @the_lightbeamproject for updates and insights into our work.

Yours sincerely, Monika Banga



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND CAROL SERVICES FROM AROUND THE CHAPLAINCY

From Gourdon- part of the Cahors Worship Centre.



It was a wet Wednesday night when the Gourdonais accepted an invitation from the Anglican church of Cahors to take part in our service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Saint Pierre, giving us an opportunity to share one of our best Christmas traditions. The evening was spent alternating between the French and English lessons and carols. Howard who played the organ joined us from time to time to conduct the congregation.

What a beautiful and joyful sound we made, with and without music. Everyone giving their all!! The evening ended with mince pies, mulled wine and fellowship. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this evening such a wonderful success.

From Vayrac – held in Betaille.

This carol Service was held at the end of November and started our season of Advent.



Advent and Christmas at Toulouse.

We were very busy this year - starting with our Stand at the TWIG Fayre, where we were a Christian presence among the hustle and bustle, and sold some Christmas cards and goods (making approx 250 Euros for Chaplaincy funds). Our "be a part of the nativity scene" was, as usual, a great draw, and lots of children and adults alike had their photos taken - spreading a bit of the Christmas story far and wide! Thanks to Ian, Jenny and Karen for their help



on 15th Dec we had our 9 Lessons and Carols service at Pibrac church, led by Rev Jacqueline. It was a joyful evening - with readers from our church, Toulouse Scouts and Girl Scouts, the International School of Toulouse and several other local churches. Our Christmas choir led the congregation (numbering around 200) in the familiar Christmas carols as well as performing some solo items. The IST Junior Choir were also there, singing some solos pieces and 2 with our choir.



special day. Thanks to Zena and Janet

Our first service of 2026 was Morning Prayer to celebrate Epiphany. As the weather was very cold, we used the "Sunday School / coffee room" rather than the main church, as the heating is more effective! As well as exploring the Epiphany, we also started the year in a healthy vein, with a version of the Christmas story with lots of Fruit and vegetable references (puns)...and the finishing line "So make Jesus one of your 5 a day, every day, and have a happy, healthy and joyful Christmas. Zena won the feve!

We then had mulled wine, mince pies etc afterwards. This service is an event in the local "anglophone" community, and it is great to have such an ecumenical and community evening. Thanks to all involved for their hard work.



Our "Christmas Holy Communion" service was led by Rev Jacqueline on 21st December. It was a lovely service and had a real "family feel". We shared mulled wine and other seasonal refreshments after the service.

Christmas at Floure – Carcassonne. Thank you, David Phillips and Margaret Snow, for your contributions – the Editor had to “do” some editing!!



On Christmas Day we had a service of Carols, readings and prayers. We had 12 visitors who joined the service. It was great that we were "open" on such a





Our seasonal worship began when we welcomed Kate Clark (as she is now) to lead our Carols and Communion by extension - the picture shows our altar ready for the service. We followed with very welcome mulled wine and mince pies! Soon after that, some of us attended the Lessons and Carols service led by Revd. Jacqueline Rodwell at the beautifully decorated church at Alaigne.



We continued our Christmas worship on the 28th, as a number of our regulars were visiting the UK for Christmas itself. Morning Prayer had a special significance in a quiet church, beautifully decorated

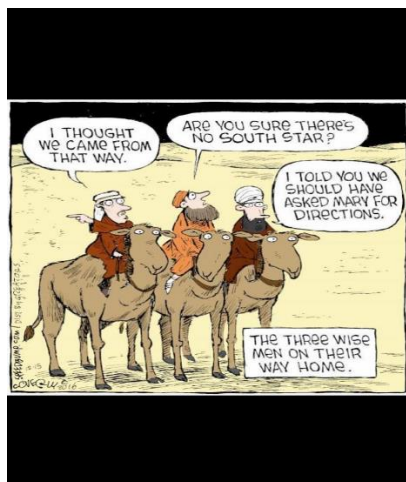
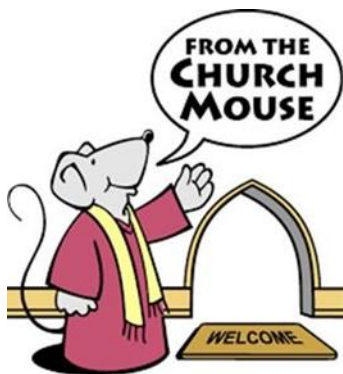
by the villagers with a huge creche that annually fills a whole side chapel! Although the Catholic parish does not use Floure church regularly, we are honoured that one of our regular French worshippers looks after the church and builds the creche with her friends each year - pictured.

January brings a new year and a warm welcome to Paul Gifford to lead our two services this month. A mixture of Readers leading our worship is much appreciated by our congregation, and we thank them all for their support to our worship!



**To all our Readers wishing you a
Happy & Peaceful 2026**

**From the Church Mouse & thank you for
all your contributions over the year and I
look forward to even more in 2026!**



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This week begins on **January 18th until January 25th. The Church at Terre Rouge in Cahors will be hosting the service on **Friday 23rd January at 6pm** – all are welcome.**



Even though it's the middle of January it's still not too late to think about resolving to make changes and do things in 2026.

Here are some ideas!!

1. Get up to date with your safeguarding requirements. All Council members **NEED** to have completed:
Basic Awareness
Foundations
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse (recommended)
The link is <http://safeguardingtraining.coportal.org/>
This works on laptops/IPads and desktops – it might be a difficult on iPhones – You will be asked to set up an account with a password (don't forget to write it down!) Celia Scott our Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer is always willing to offer help and support with setting this up.
2. **Volunteer** – every worship centre needs more volunteers – welcoming, refreshments, reading the lessons – one more person in every worship centre would make a great deal of difference.
3. **Download "Daily Prayer"** – just search Daily Prayer -The Church of England and it is free. It looks like this. You can read or listen to Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer. It has been a lovely find





Images of Epiphany



Gold



Frankinsence



And myrrh

And finally, a galette de roi, the delicious pastry and marzipan, unique to France, where you find a feve and become a king for the day!



After Epiphany we start to look towards Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 18th.

At Cahors we are very lucky to have a professional church embroiderer in our congregation, who has over the years made some really magnificent lectern falls. Her name is Andrea Higginson, who was trained by the greatest church embroiderer Jane Lemon of Salisbury cathedral fameⁱ All Andrea's projects have deep & serious importance of symbolism and meaningful prayer and contemplation and long reflection before even beginning to contemplate a piece.



This lectern fall was made in 2007 and represents Lent – Andrea was inspired by the symbolism of the passion flower – she also used the form of one of the flowers in her garden – the cross is the outline of the one given to June embroidered on linen (represents penitence) with leather and silk and hand and machine embroidery.



CAHORS PRAYER CIRCLE – 2026



The importance of prayer in Jesus' life is referred to throughout the gospels. He rose early to pray, continued at night whilst His disciples slept, taught them how to pray and prayed to His Father for his disciples and for those who crucified Him.

Whilst we pray during our Sunday services, it is easy to give little time during the rest of the week to thank God for his blessings, to remember before Him those less fortunate than ourselves and to ask for His guidance and help during all times of our lives, not just the difficult ones.

You may not be aware of the existence of the Prayer Circle, a group of eighteen people who are (or have been) members,

mostly of the Cahors congregation, who pray for those in need. It was set up more than 12 years ago and its members communicate by email. The Prayer Circle prays mostly, but not exclusively, for those members of the Cahors congregation who request support for conditions causing them, or someone very close to them, concern. This means that several Prayer Circle members are likely to know the individual(s) concerned and to appreciate their needs. These might include poor health, bereavement, loneliness and/or lack of finance, housing or jobs.

Currently the Prayer Circle members (the prayERs) are praying for five people (the prayEEs) although numbers have been closer to twenty in previous years. Two-monthly updates are requested from each prayEE, or somebody who can advise on their behalf, in order to keep prayERs as up to date as possible.

If you would like to join the Prayer Circle as a prayER or have a need for prayer support as a prayEE or wish to update the information of a person you know and for whom the Prayer circle is praying, please contact Revd June Hutchinson or me by email, phone or in person.

The Prayer List (containing the data for those prayEEs for whom prayer has been requested) is circulated by email. All prayERs are blind copied to ensure confidentiality and are asked to respect the confidentiality of the information they receive. A list of members of the Prayer Circle prayERs is maintained by me for circulation of the Prayer List and related matters only.

Yours prayerfully,

GRAHAME WOOD

Prayer Circle Coordinator

| Name | Phone | Email |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
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| Grahame Wood | +44 (0) 1483 762093 | grahamewood@dsl.pipex.com |





Archdeaconry Synod: Winter Sessions 2025/6

The Synod has held five workshops over this autumn/winter looking at different aspects of our work in the chaplaincies.

The first session in October was on mission strategy and led by Revd Vivian Sockett. This explored how we can nurture and encourage communication and outreach in our chaplaincies.

Following on from this, we had a session on the use of Alpha courses, which we can use to explain our faith to new folk joining us who want

to know more about what we believe. This was led by Revd Tiffany Cawood. She also pointed us to resources available that could help us run such sessions in France.

The third session was more technical, about managing chaplaincy finances, and was led by Mtre Roc of the French Protestant Church. This was very helpful, as it is can be quite a challenge to keep up with all the constant changes in French red tape!

In December we had an important session on Safeguarding led by the Diocesan Safeguarding lead, Grace Fagan Stewart. The Diocese in Europe will be subject to a safeguarding audit in 2027 (as part of a project that covers all dioceses in the Church of England) and she talked us through the tasks that chaplaincies need to take in 2026 to prepare for this.

The final meeting, held in January, was entitled “Care for Creation”. This was led by the Diocesan and Archdeaconry environmental officers, Chris Lynch and Michelle Lavaud. They are both relatively new to these posts and are developing programmes through which we can enhance our awareness of environmental issues at local level, particularly encouraging local churches to reduce their carbon footprint. More on this to follow!

Overall these sessions provided an excellent opportunity to hear about some of the training and resources that are available to support us in our various roles and tasks and to share ideas and experiences with other chaplaincies across France.

Further information about all these sessions are available on the French Archdeaconry website if you would like to explore further at <https://anglicanfrance.fr/archdeaconry-meetings-autumn-2025/>

Anita Phillips Carcassonne

January 2026