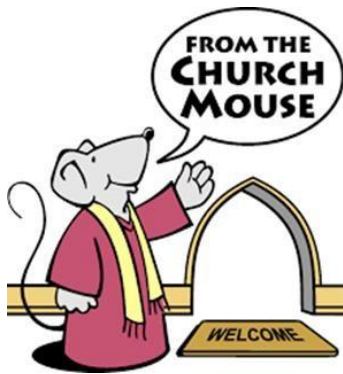




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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Church Mouse needs to let you know that all photos that you might agree to for the Church Mouse are now on the website and are also on Anglicanfrance. If you do not want your photo published – please let me know on gill.heyworth@orange.fr

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



Dear all,

Chaplaincy Day was a resounding success, and we enjoyed a meaningful and uplifting time of worship, fellowship and conversation at Montauban.

Thanks to all who were able to come, for making the day the success it turned out to be ... you all played an important part.

Each of our 6 worship centres were represented, including the new group at

Alaigne; and those of you who were unable to join us were remembered in our prayers.

To come together in community was so refreshing and stimulating ... to meet friends old and new, and to spend time in each others company gave a real sense of togetherness, briefly removing the geographical and physical distance between us.

For the day in all aspects ... organisation, service preparation, music, admin and publicity, willing participation, workshop presentations ... sincere thanks.

Please continue to reflect on the day, and our conversations; culturally, what informs our identity ... and what our response to God, in service to the chaplaincy and the Kingdom might be.

Date for your diaries: Chaplaincy Day 2027 - **Sunday 26th September**

Blessings on your day – Paul





The Reason we are all here.

A Daily Prayer for our Chaplaincy Stewardship Campaign.

Almighty God, everything we have is a gift from you - our time, our unique gifts, and our financial resources.

Help us to slow down and make space for what truly matters in our life of faith, and guide us to use our strengths and talents to lift others up and make a real difference. Give us open hands and generous hearts to invest in your vision for our future.

Amen

This prayer is linked in with the Autumn Giving Campaign and it is asked that it is woven into the Intercessions at every service.



The Autumn Giving Campaign

This year's Autumn Giving Campaign has begun. It started at the Chaplaincy Celebration Day at Montauban at the end of September. People who have just joined us may be familiar with an annual drive to get everyone to become an active part of their church. Longer standing members may never have experienced such a campaign here to use both our Time and Talents for God and give money to ensure our financial stability.

Currently we are running each year at a shortfall in our finances that we meet from our reserves. These reserves are large enough to ensure the employment of

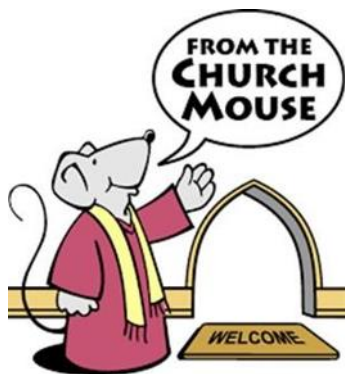
our chaplain for at least the three years of his contract, but we now need to look beyond that time. At Montauban, Rev Paul and I explained the different parts of the campaign which are both to increase the number of us involved in the running of our chaplaincy by giving our time and using our talents, as well as reaching out to everyone who can begin or increase their giving. After the presentation, everyone was given an information pack giving more details of our chaplaincy's situation.

The next step, starting later in October, is for both of us to visit every congregation to give you further briefings and the chance for you all to ask questions during a group discussion, or privately as you may wish. We have asked everyone's Congregational Representatives to encourage the maximum participation and give the information packs to those who are not able to join us then.

If like so many of us, you tend to put things to one side to do later, we have asked your representatives to encourage you to return your pledges of help or donation. We are very conscious that people have many calls on their disposable income. While we ask you to give as much as you can, we also know that some of you may not be able to increase your giving and that is acceptable. Please do study everything you receive and reflect prayerfully on how you can best participate. The campaign will run till the end of November, and we hope you will have responded by then. Our aim is to let everyone know the results by the end of the year.

Both of us want to thank all of you who are already committed to sustaining our chaplaincy. With your help we now have the opportunity to move forward in our faith with a positive plan for an exciting future with financial security and firmly grounded in our faith in God.

Ross JENKINS, - TREASURER



AFTERNOON TEA in aid of a Hospice in Dublin.

Over 20 people arrived for afternoon tea at Maggie Borrill's house in Prayssac – within the Cahors Congregation - to enjoy delicious hand-made cakes and a welcome cup of tea. The event raised €400.



Guess who joined us for lunch on Harvest Sunday?

Revd Andrew Hawken and his wife Sylvia joined us at Cahors for the service and lunch.

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Midi Pyrénées & Aude Summary of Chaplaincy Council Meeting on 22 September 2026

1. Chaplaincy Day

Preparations are well under way for Chaplaincy Day, with around 50 people expected to attend. Many generous offers of cakes and biscuits have been received. The team will set up the meeting rooms on Sunday morning, and the day will start at 10.00 am and finish at 4.00 pm.

2. New worshipping community in Alaigne

The launch of the new worshipping community has been delayed while permissions are resolved locally. It is now hoped that worship can begin around Christmas. In the meantime, possible temporary arrangements are being explored so that the group can begin to gather.

3. Safeguarding

The Council unanimously approved the Chaplaincy safeguarding action plan. Work will now continue on putting the plan into practice, including ensuring that risk assessments and local ecumenical partnership safeguarding arrangements are appropriately documented.

4. Finance Committee

Finance report for August 2026 - The Finance Committee reported an anticipated shortfall of approximately €13,000–€14,000, largely because giving to the general fund is currently expected to be lower than budgeted.

Projects for the 2027 budget

Congregations are asked to notify the Finance Committee by the end of November of any projects expected to cost more than €100 that they would like considered for the 2027 budget. A chaplaincy-wide calendar project is also being explored as a possible fundraising initiative.

5. Stewardship – Autumn Giving Campaign

The Council agreed that the Autumn Giving Campaign should go ahead. It will be launched at Chaplaincy Day and will invite everyone to reflect prayerfully on how they can support the life, ministry and future work of the Chaplaincy.

6. Communication Committee – AI assistance

The Council discussed the possible use of AI to help prepare meeting minutes and summaries. A proposal, including practical arrangements and costs, will be brought to the November Meeting.



A SEASON OF INVITATION

As the long summer days fade, we start preparing for our **Season of Invitation** – the months of October and November – the months leading up to Advent.

25th October – Bible Sunday

1st November – All Saints – Cahors hold a special service to remember members of the church who have died over the last 5 years.



8th November – Remembrance Sunday – this service is held throughout the Chaplaincy – poppies and bluets are often available.



22nd November
Christ the King

News from Toulouse Thank you - Sam Silverthorn

On Sunday 20th September we had a busy day in Toulouse. In the morning our monthly Holy Communion service was a special one for "Back to church Sunday". It was led by Revd Jamie Johnston and was very accessible, also including the creation-tide theme and some good hymns and songs to sing along to. After a takeaway pizza for lunch, the team set up the church for the Toulouse Ecumenical service, also for Creation-tide. We had a lovely service, mainly in French, led by Revd Jamie with members of churches from Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant denominations. The hymns were sung in English or French, and we joined with some other musicians from other churches. This was quite an experience!

After the service we provided an English Afternoon tea, replete with teatime treats: chocolate brownies, home-made custard creams, doughnuts and digestive biscuits - to name but a few - and both our teapots were pressed into service! It was really good to meet the others, amongst whom were the RC Suffragan Bishop of Toulouse, Monseigneur Jean-Pierre Batut, and Père Luc Kola who is the curé of Minimes, including Notre Dame de l'Assomption where we meet.



The Great British Breakfast Cahors Worship Centre.



Evening Prayer on Zoom - This new initiative by our Chaplain Revd Paul is on every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm (French time). Revd Paul sends out the service sheet on Monday evenings, and the Zoom link stays the same. Nearly 30 members of the Chaplaincy take part and it takes half an hour. It is lovely to stop for 30 minutes and enjoy the words of the evening prayer.

Our very first Chaplaincy Zoom Service will take place on Advent Sunday – November 29th at 11am. (French time). All Worship Centres will receive an invitation and the Zoom link. More details to follow. Zoom is ideal if you don't want to travel out on a cold November morning!



2026 was the ninth year David and I (with helpers James and Di) have done this event! So once again 3 sittings, 30 people, 66 sausages, bacon and 3 large Bury Black puddings, beans, tomatoes and 3kgs of button mushrooms (all cleaned by hand!!) and 30 of Georgina's chicken's eggs.

We raised €550 for the Chaplaincy plus €50 for Resto du Coeur Puy L'Eveque. Thank you everyone who attended.



The first mention of Christmas!

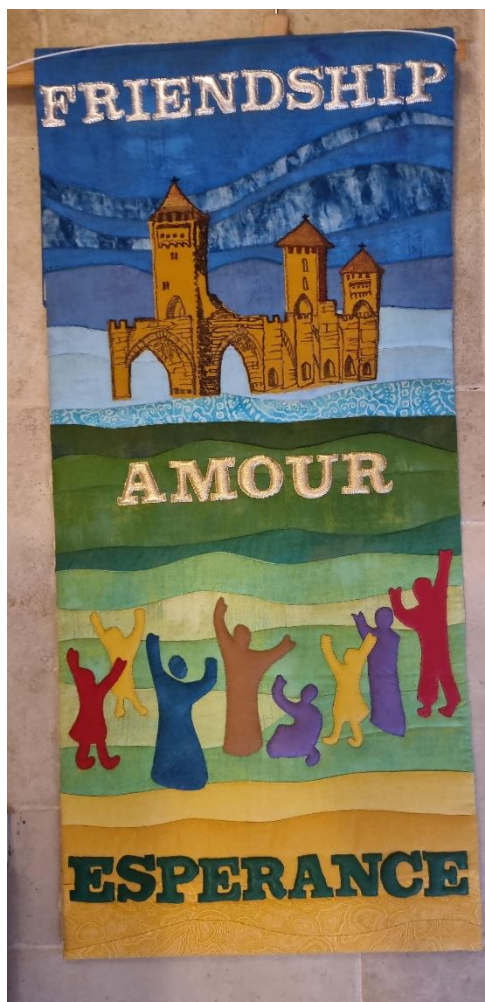
Toulouse - 9 lessons and Carols 7th December 19h.30 at Pibrac.

Cahors-
9 lessons and Carols – 10th December at Gourdon at 19h.00.

Terre Rouge – 9 lessons and Carols – 6th December at 10h.00

Betaille – 9 lessons and Carols – Sunday 6th December at 15h.30

Carcassonne - Wednesday 16th December at 18h.00. Annual service of 9 Lessons and Carols at St. Pierre, Alaigne.



The Cahors Lectern Fall Story

In 2025 Cahors celebrated 60 years of worshipping in Cahors and we said thank you to our founder Elisabeth Espitalie (who sadly died early in 2026). Andrea Higginson offered to make this special Lectern fall to celebrate Elisabeth's connection and dedication to the church. The hands and word FRIENDSHIP comes from the text Psalm 139 v 10. Elisabeth's hands are on the lectern (below). Words are both in English and in French as our chapel is used by both denominations. The symbolism of the colours – the blue is sky, peace and Mary. Green is hope, promise and growth and yellow is joy and energy.



The handprints of Elisabeth stitched on the back of the lectern