



## PAS-DE-CALAIS CHAPLAINCY (Boulogne, Calais and Hesdin)

<http://www.anglicanspdc.com>

Since last year's Synod, the Pas-de-Calais has had an eventful year full of challenges and changes. The summer months saw us busy with interviewing candidates for the new post of combined Chaplain and Refugee Project officer in the Calais area, after a very long interregnum. We were thrilled and delighted when Revd. Kirrilee Reid accepted the post. Her previous experience on the Greek island of Lesbos, volunteering with the Moria refugee camp and her extensive experience of different churches and congregations made her the ideal candidate, and we are truly blessed to have her.



Kirrilee and her husband Ewan originally hail from Australia but her last post was in Scotland, as rector of Glencarse, near Perth. While Kirrilee had a busy summer downsizing from an enormous rectory and sorting out her three children's future accommodation, the Chaplaincy got down to house-hunting, purchasing a car and all the 101 activities that are necessary when a new Chaplain is appointed. Our grateful thanks to all those chaplaincies who so generously donated to the Bishop's Lent appeal and made it possible for us to purchase a Renault Clio. Ministering to the migrants and the congregations means a car is a must-have!



Kirrilee was licensed in November – by two bishops (!), Bishop Robert and Bishop Trevor of Dover, Revd. Duncan Dormer (Director of USPG) and Archdeacon Meurig. It was a joyous occasion bringing together past Chaplains, ecumenical friends, and the various partners in the project. It was also an occasion to worship with the Carmelite sisters who kindly lend us

their chapel in Boulogne twice a month.

In a short space of time we have changed our service patterns in Boulogne and Hesdin so that both congregations have a morning and evening Eucharist; we have doubled the number of church members who have level one safeguarding and have quadrupled those who have level two; we have learnt new hymns and ways of worship but above all we have grown closer as we seek together for what God intends for our Chaplaincy.



Social events have always played an important role in bringing our three congregations together and 2018 saw the usual strawberry tea, quiz nights etc. But the presence of a permanent Chaplain has meant we have also been able to join in both Advent and Lent



meditations together and over Eastertide we were led by Kirrilee on our own pilgrimage around the three centres, joining in worship from Palm Sunday through to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, culminating in Easter Sunday at sunrise for the annual ecumenical service on Wissant beach and in our churches later in the day.



As we move forward, we are reflecting on how our churches can become more involved in supporting Kirrilee in her very important mission with the migrants. This is a new post with four stakeholders financing it (the Diocese in Europe, USPG, the Diocese of Canterbury and the Pas-de-Calais Chaplaincy), so we are in uncharted waters, but we give thanks to the Lord for bringing us this far and go forward together in faith. We would not have reached this stage in our story without the prayers, help and support of so many people and no words can express the thanks that we owe them.

