



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

<http://www.anglicanspdc.com>

@chaplaincy62

2020 was a full year for our chaplaincy. The pandemic came early in the year, gradually leading us to explore new ways of worship and of being together. We started off as usual with our priest, Kirrilee Reid, taking services and still introducing new ideas for services up to the outbreak and lockdown. Once lockdown came, the three congregations automatically “shared” their services. Kirrilee recorded her sermon on youtube and this was available to all three congregations: Boulogne, Calais and Hesdin. Unfortunately, Covid imposed considerable constraints on our chaplain’s personal life and her husband’s commuting between the UK and France, and she sadly decided to resign and return to her family in Scotland.

The Chaplaincy committee decided to start Zoom services every Sunday with the three congregations agreeing to lead them in turn. This has been a great success (albeit a steep upward learning curve and a lot of supportive phone calls to begin with!), uniting not only the three congregations, but also allowing us to keep in touch with our second-home owners, now unable to physically be with us. We give time before and after the service for people to chat and discuss anything they are worried about, but we also have a laugh together, and for those who have found internet connections difficult, the printed service is available on the website. Zoom has also enabled us to hold a weekly Wednesday Compline service, an Advent Bible Study using Bishop Steven Croft’s *Reflections for a Church in Lockdown* and a Lent reflection on Julian of Norwich. In Holy week, we held Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Zoom has also led to more regular Chaplaincy committee meetings, with no travel involved! Hesdin restarted their services in their meeting place in December but continue to lead a monthly Zoom service. Boulogne and Calais still rely on Zoom and were delighted to have Revd Sara MacVane lead them in their zoom worship on Easter Sunday.

Solidarité Anglicane du Pas-de-Calais, which administers the chaplaincy's charitable giving, organised a virtual pilgrimage during Lent, raising over 2300 euros for Restos du Coeur, l'Arche, Calais Lifeboats and the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The walkers (including a ninety-year-old) went from Hesdin to Worthing (via Boulogne and Calais), to “pick up” a virtual walker in the UK, called in to have coffee with Bishop Robert, then tea with the new chaplain Guy Diakiese in Liège and his pastoral assistant Ruth Nivelles where we heard about the exciting plans for the future. The way home went via Lille for tea and biscuits with our Area dean,



Debbie Flach and a short detour via Paris to see our former chaplain Sara MacVane. Nearly 1500 km were covered and the walkers all shared photos of their pilgrimage on Facebook. Sharing our daily photos was another good way to stay in touch during this time of isolation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/solidariteanglicanepdc>

Plans are currently underway for examining the feasibility of a house-for-duty Chaplain to serve the three congregations, working alongside a refugee officer. Despite the difficulties of

this year, the Chaplaincy is optimistic about the future!

