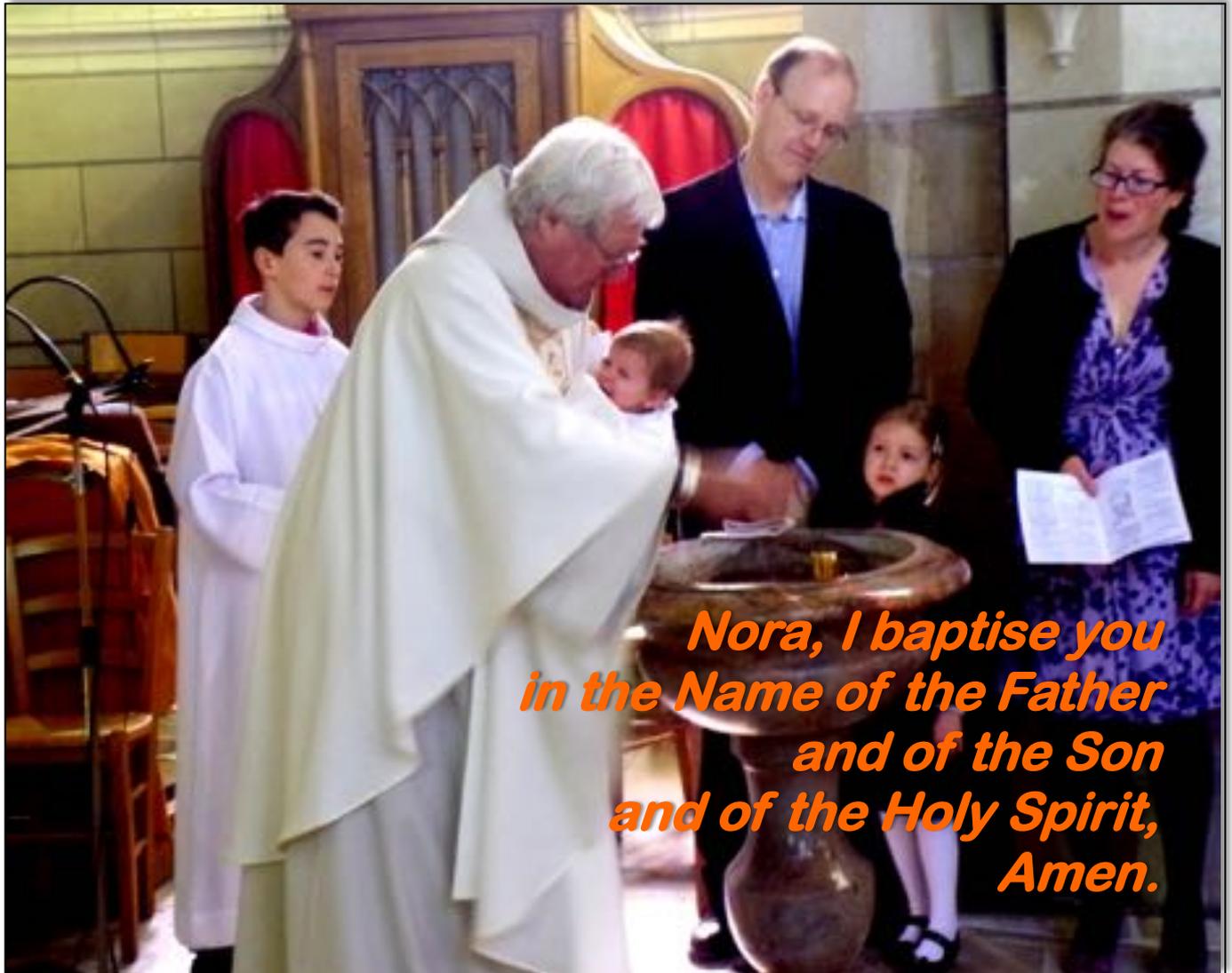


Number 18
July 2018

ALCUIN NEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM SAINT ALCUIN OF YORK
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHURCH IN TOURAINÉ



*Nora, I baptise you
in the Name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.*

ON OTHER PAGES

Heroes of the Faith	2	Hospitality and Fellowship	6
Fr John writes	2	Holy Communion Devotions	6
Easter Celebration	3 & 8	Younger Readers	7
A Year in View	4	Crossword	7
Archdeaconry Synod	5		

www.churchintouraine.org

WHO'S WHO

CHAPLAIN

The Revd John Neal
4 square Mantegna,
37000 Tours
johnlesneal@orange.fr
02 47 64 07 92

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Deirdre Lewis
deirdreplewis@gmail.com

Mr Barry Williams
barry.williams@laposte.net

SECRETARY

Mrs Carolyn Dehnel
carolyn.dehnel@orange.fr

TREASURER

Mr Roger Lewis
roger.lewis@orange.fr

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Elspeth Eggleton
grante@tripleaconsult.co.uk

HEROES OF THE FAITH

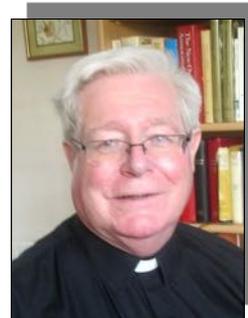
Wilson Carlile Founder of the Church Army

Wilson Carlile was born in 1847 in Brixton. He suffered from a spinal weakness all his life, which hampered his education. He entered his grandfather's business at the age of thirteen but soon moved on and learned French fluently, which he used to good advantage in France trading in silk. He later learned German and Italian to enhance his business but was ruined in the slump of 1873. After a serious illness, he began to treat his religion more seriously and became confirmed in the Church of England. He acted as organist to Ira D Sankey during the Moody and Sankey missions and, in 1881, was ordained priest, serving his curacy at St Mary Abbots in Kensington, together with a dozen other curates. The lack of contact between the Church and the working classes was a cause of real concern to him and he began outdoor preaching. In 1882, he resigned his curacy and founded the Church Army, four years after the founding of the Salvation Army. Under his influence it thrived and he continued to take part in its administration until a few weeks before his death on 26th September 1942.

**For all that has been – Thanks!
For all that shall be – Yes!**

Dag Hammarskjöld

FR JOHN WRITES



MANY PEOPLE'S IMPRESSION OF A PARISH IS FORMED BY ITS SUNDAY SERVICES. That is how it should be: we are most naturally ourselves when we gather as a community around the font, lectern and altar – Bath, Book and Bread.

But much more goes on behind the scenes. There are, of course, the "occasional offices", baptisms, marriages and funerals. And even in a small scattered chaplaincy like St Alcuin's we have a number of these.

If we were to stop there, that would be to limit the Church to its public worship and authorised ministers. What a caricature of its real nature.

The Church is not just the clergy. The first letter of Peter, which has close links with baptism, the sacrament which makes us part of the Body of Christ, reminds us that the Church is us all and that priesthood is to be found in the whole Christian community.

It is not that we are all called to put on fancy clothes when we assemble together, but that we are partners in God's work of reconciling the world to himself, not just on Sundays, nor only when we meet together, but 24/7.

For it is in our daily lives, often in very little ways, that we can show – or deny – God's love. Are we welcoming, or off-putting? Do we try to meet people's needs, or pretend they don't exist? Do we see Christ in others we meet, however unattractive?

As any priest can tell you, much ministry is low-key and unspectacular. Sometimes results are hard, or even impossible, to discern. But things build up, if we let God use us as living stones, building blocks for his kingdom.

Father John

AT THE HEART OF OUR LIFE

THE EUCHARIST



7.00 pm

on the 1st Sunday of the Month
in the Protestant Temple
32 rue de la Préfecture, Tours
(tram: Nationale; bus: Gare Vinci)

11.00 am

with Junior Church
on the 4th Sunday of the Month
in the Parish Church of St Michel
Le Bourg, Savigny-en-Véron

All Welcome

THE ST ALCUIN CALENDAR

Our worship in the coming months

July	1st	Trinity 5	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	22nd	Trinity 8	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny
August	5th	Trinity 10	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	26th	Trinity 13	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny
September	2nd	Trinity 14	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	23rd	Trinity 17	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny
October	7th	Trinity 19	7.00 pm	Sung Eucharist	Tours
	28th	Last after Trinity	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	Savigny

À TOI LA GLOIRE, Ô RESSUSCITÉ !

AT ST ALCUIN'S WE HAVE A GREAT AFFECTION FOR OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP IN TOURS, THE PROTESTANT TEMPLE. After all, it was the Church of England who invited the Huguenots to share the building with us in 1828 and where we remained until our worship in the Touraine came to an end in 1891.

We even take a semi-proprietary view of its delightful little organ, which contains pipes from its predecessor. Our 19th century forebears contributed over 40% of its cost.

The fine organ and the acoustic of the building mean that the Temple is the venue of numerous concerts, often on Sunday afternoons. For this reason the Temple is unavailable for our services until seven o'clock in the evening.

On Easter Day an important Bach concert was scheduled, so we were asked to celebrate our Eucharist at an even later time. This was particularly difficult for us. We had a baptism arranged, with a large number of children expected to be present.

We needed to find a solution and time was not on our side. We turned to the Diocese of Tours to ask permission to use one of their church buildings on Easter Sunday morning. The diocese, in the form of the archbishop, Mgr Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin, père Christophe Raimbault, the vicaire-général, and père Guillaume Morin, the curé of the parish of St-Côme-sur-Loire, were very obliging



sacristine, Madame Hélène Pelluard. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

The scene was set for a joyful celebration—and what a celebration it was. Almost 70 people were present in a beautifully decorated church, some regulars from our community at Tours, others from Savigny, visitors from Guernsey and the USA, as well as those of the baptism party.

The joy of Easter: the joy, too, of welcoming a new Christian by baptism—with many of our young people coming to sit on the step by the font to be even closer witnesses.

in our need and readily allowed us to use the church of Sainte Anne in La Riche. This was ideal as it is but a stone's throw from where the baptism family live, as well as having easy parking and being close to the western city bypass. So easy did people find it to get there, that one mum who came with her four children from south of Chinon said she would worship at Tours as well as Savigny if our Eucharist could normally be in the morning.

The day dawned bright and we were warmly welcomed to Ste Anne's by the

A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité we sang. Certainly glory to our Risen Lord. Grateful thanks, too, to all those who made such a celebration possible for us.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Across: 1 Streets. 8 Fear. 9 Apostle. 10 Spoken. 12 Exhort. 14 Balaam. 15 Throne. 16 Silent. 17 Treads. 19 Cleanse. 21 Obey. 22 Present.

Down: 2 Two. 3 Enthroned. 4 Toes. 5 Necklace. 6 Grandmother. 7 Lamentation. 11 Pharisees. 13 Hardened. 18 Scar. 20 Nun.



A YEAR IN VIEW—ST ALCUIN'S IN 2017

OUR REPORT TO THE ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE

Our Daily Life

Worship

We celebrate the Eucharist at 7.00 pm on the first Sunday of each month in Tours and at 11.00 am on the fourth Sunday at Savigny-en-Véron, near Chinon.

The core community in both places is very committed. Tours holds its own, with a great deal of enthusiasm, but, sadly, numbers continue to be low, because of the lateness of the service time, something we have started to address. The number who attend at Savigny, including children, has grown during the year and a junior Liturgy of the Word is provided for them. At both places each celebration is normally followed by a 'verre d'amitié', local if possible.

We continue to be well blessed by our organists, Barry Williams and Alix Devienne, who both encourage us to sing heartily in the English tradition.

Each church celebrated a Harvest Thanksgiving—at Savigny in September and Tours in October. The generosity of the gifts, donated to *L'Embarcadère*, a food bank in Chinon, was overwhelming. This year we held two Carol Services, each with a quite distinct flavour. That in Savigny involved our local community with a number of extra people and had a family flavour with a large number of young people present.



At Tours it was bilingual and ecumenical, including the involvement of an Evangelical pastor and Roman Catholic and Orthodox priests. Our singing was much enhanced by the 'Petit Chœur' of the Eglise réformée. The chanting of his reading, the coming of the Wise Men, by the Orthodox priest, père Jollet, according to his tradition was a spiritually captivating moment.

Publications

As well as service sheets for each celebration we print French versions of the readings and have available an outline Order of Service in French. We also publish a quarterly news-letter *AlcuiNews*. Our website, maintained by Peter Eggleton, has proved to be very useful to others outside our community. We have a flyer with French and English editions. During the early part of the year, we scoured the local telephone directories for people with English looking

names living at a convenient distance and sent them copies of the English version. The flyers were offered to us free by our bank, the Crédit Agricole, who also paid for the publicity for our Carol Services.

Chaplaincy Council

The Chaplaincy Council met four times in 2017, twice in Tours and twice in Chinon. Membership of the Council is evenly divided between our two congregations and, by sharing lunch together after meetings, a real sense of common mission is developing. Some time this year was spent on reflecting on the challenges we have faced in inaugurating a new Chaplaincy.

Our Family

In June, after our Eucharist at Savigny, we enjoyed a very successful picnic in the grounds of the Château de l'Islette, baby sister to the nearby famous Château of Azay-le-Rideau. Although the morning started out grey, fortunately it cheered up by lunchtime. It was wonderful to have all the children there, happily playing with toys bought for them for the occasion—paid for by a tombola, of course.

Sadly we lost three of our members during the year: Noël and Sandra Morgan returned to Great Britain and, in December, Anne Jauneaud died after a long illness. Anne was a founding worshipper at Tours, for whom our worship was "a boon and a blessing" after so many years of living in France.



Archdeaconry Synod

Although Fr John had been invited to Synod in 2015 and 2016, 2017 was our first attendance as an official Chaplaincy, so he was joined by our lay representatives, Carolyn Dehnel and Lesley Neal. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience, not only for the stimulating input from the speakers, especially Meg Warner's bible studies, but also for the opportunity to meet other Christians in our tradition in a beautiful setting: something of first importance to a small remote (in Church of England terms) Chaplaincy like ours.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships

The Anglican community continues to participate in "Chrétiens en Dialogue" an ecumenical bi-monthly gathering of Church leaders in Tours. We participated in the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we continue to be listed as ecumenical partners in the Diocese of Tours' *Annuaire* for 2017 - 2018 and Fr John was the featured "profile" in the January edition of *Eglise en Touraine*, the monthly magazine of the Diocese of Tours. Fr John is also a member of the Interfaith Group in Tours.

Partners in the Gospel

The ministry at St Alcuin's is very much a shared enterprise and many people in both our churches work very hard to ensure that our common life runs smoothly, thus enhancing our Christian witness. A special mention this year is to be made of Elizabeth Portway, who made us a pair of wonderful bags to carry our ceramic chalice and paten: they take up much less space in the "église dans la valise" than the previous bubble-wrap did and are altogether much easier to handle. A big thank you to her and all who make up our community.

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN

a snapshot of this year's Archdeaconry Synod, by Lesley Neal

IN THE WAKE OF THEIR IMPRESSIVE VICTORY LAST YEAR, the Transatlantics changed the name of their quiz team to the Famous Five, but could only manage to come in second this time.



A welcome cuppa

The three of us from St Alcuin's tended to eat together, but not always. It was pleasant to re-encounter people that we'd met last year and to introduce ourselves to new people from a variety of chaplaincies. It was particularly pleasant to share a dinner table with Archdeacon Meurig, who had fond memories of his visit to us in January.

The days began with Morning Prayer and there was a Eucharist each day, all differing in character. The Eucharist at the parish church, presided

over by Bishop Robert, attracted several women from the village – perhaps to see what the Anglicans get up to. I hope they found the music and singing superior to what they're probably used to.

On both mornings that we were there we had excellent bible studies from Michael Sadgrove. These were based on St John's gospel chapter 18, verses 24-40 and chapter 19 verses 1-16 and focussed on the confrontation between Jesus and Pilate. Dean Sadgrove actually used the phrase "Pilate's Passion Narrative". Pilate was faced with the truth and chose to walk away.

Two other sessions, taken by the sociologist Grace Davie, concerned understanding religion in modern Europe from



The bishop at play

within and from without.

"Brexit. How will it affect us?" This was a presentation by Matthew Lodge from the British Embassy in Paris and painted a less rosy and a far more honest picture than previous speakers I have heard.

The House of Clergy and the House of Laity met separately to air a variety of subjects and at the latter St Alcuin's was able to hold up its hand to being one of the chaplaincies to admit young people to Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

All in all a very enjoyable and interesting Synod.



The Synod at work

HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP

IT WAS AT 9.45 ONE EVENING AT THE END OF MAY that a group of nine people – Christians, Jews and Buddhists – were to be seen gathered outside the Bouzignac mosque on the banks of the River Cher in Tours. We had been invited by the Muslim community to share in that day's breaking of the Ramadan fast. The lateness of the hour was due to the fact that Muslims are required to abstain totally from food and drink between sunrise and sunset during this period. No mean feat when the days are long.

The first part of the evening was to be present at *Maghrib*, the last of the five Muslim daily acts of prayer.

As the imam began his chant, many of the sixty or so worshippers went to the place at the back of the prayer room to eat and drink dates and warm milk which had been set out. It is traditionally held that Mohammed broke his fast by eating three dates.

After the prayer-time had been concluded, we were shown to another room for *iftar*, the real breaking of the day's fast.

Over twenty of us, men and women of all ages, sat round a large table completely groaning with food. For just as Ramadan means fasting during daylight



But it was a time of comparing of traditions and learning, too: for example the rabbi comparing the breaking of the fast with milk dates to the biblical notion of the Promised Land being a place flowing with milk and honey.

Another topic of conversation centred on the place of public daily prayer in the life of faith, it turning out that Anglicanism is alone among the Christian Churches to

have such a practice. hours, it is also about generosity to others in sharing food together when the fast has ended.

What a time of conviviality it was: people of faith joining together in harmony, putting aside differences in belief.

An evening of fun and laughter, which can have done nothing other than promote greater understanding between us.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION

composed by John Hume, an eighteenth century Bishop of Oxford and Salisbury

Before the minister begins the service.

I lift up my soul to Thee, O God, humbly imploring Thy blessing upon me, and gracious assistance assistance of me, for Thy holy action I am now about. Forgive my want of due preparation, and accept my sincere desire to perform an acceptable service to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Before receiving of the Bread.

I am not worthy of the crumbs that fall from Thy Table.

After the receiving of it.

Greater love hath no man, that a man lay down his life for this friends.

Before receiving the Cup.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His blessings? I will receive the cup of salvation: I will bless the name of the Lord.

After the receiving of it.

Blessed be God for this unspeakable gift. His dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ; in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

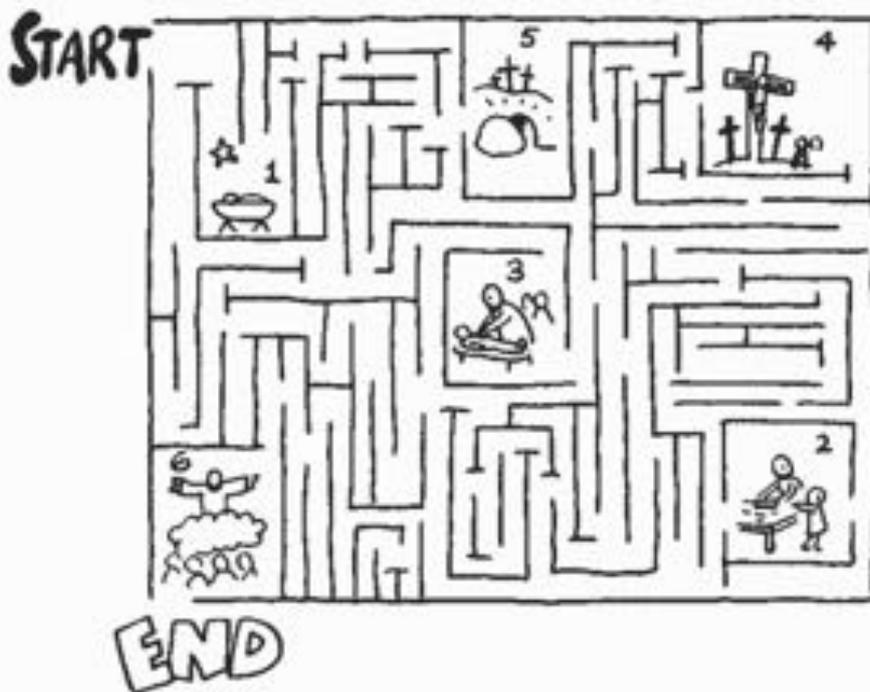
After the conclusion of the whole service.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities and healeth all thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction and crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things. Bless the Lord, O my soul.



FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY?



You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

- 1 Jesus is born at Bethlehem
- 2 Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter
- 3 Jesus heals a little girl
- 4 Jesus is crucified
- 5 Jesus is alive again
- 6 Jesus ascends to heaven

ALCUINEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 13

by Philologos

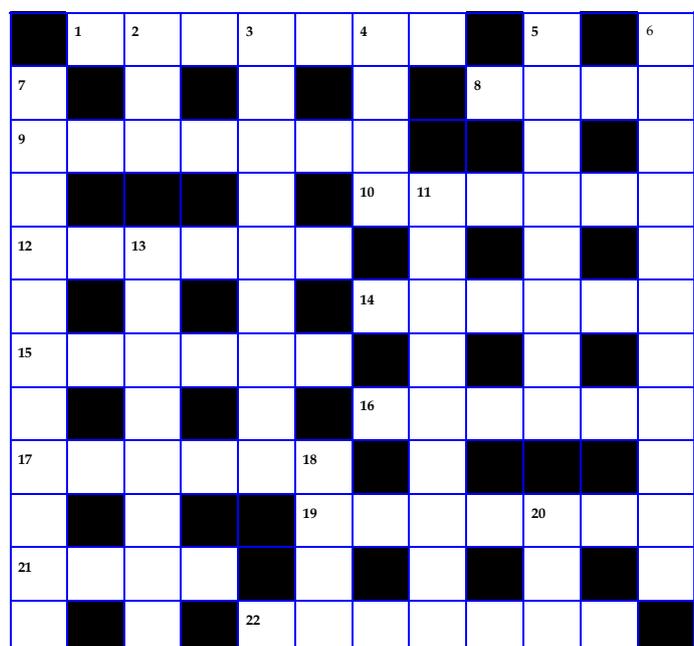
Across

1. Place where the hypocrites give alms (7)
8. Awe (4)
9. Last Supper guest (7)
10. Uttered (6)
12. Encourage (6)
14. Rider of a speaking donkey (6)
15. King's chair (6)
16. Still (6)
17. What a winepress operator does (6)
19. Purge of sins (7)
21. Do as directed (4)
22. Gift (7)

Down

2. Number of angels sent to Sodom (3)

3. Provided with power and authority (9)
4. One of the giants had twelve of these (4)
5. Jewellery (8)
6. Lois' relation to Timothy (11)
7. A cry of sorrow (11)
11. Sect condemned by Jesus (9)
13. This happened to Pharaoh's heart (8)
18. Mark (4)
20. Joshua's father (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE



Some photographs of our wonderful Easter celebration at the church of Sainte Anne in La Riche, including the baptism of Nora Frank. Notice our little 20 cm Paschal Candle beside the impressive local one. You will find a full report on Page 3.