



Association Cultuelle de L'Église Anglicane du Pas de Calais BOULOGNE CONGREGATION

January 2016 Newsletter

Fellowship, Hope and Love

Dear All,

Welcome to 2016

There is a one liner that runs: 'A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other'. On the first day back to work, after the New Year's holidays, a colleague regularly used to ask everyone in his sight, probably because he was short of something better to say, if they had made any New Year's Resolutions. The answer was often a flat "No" or "I have, but I am not telling you" or occasionally there was an attempt to produce a serious answer, normally a vague statement dreamt up on the spur of the moment.

Perhaps such ideas are a little passé and how many people would be sincere in making the effort to 'turn over a new leaf' on New Year's Day, for what ever motive, is questionable. In the days when smoking was the norm, it was as good a moment as any to give it up, start to exercise regularly, lose weight or stop taking sugar in tea. Nowadays we join a gym, 'set goals' or 'draw up an action plan' and there is little direct connection with New Year.

However, the commencement of a new calendar year does start us all thinking – we wish each other all the very best, hold parties and send out our greetings by e-mail or post.

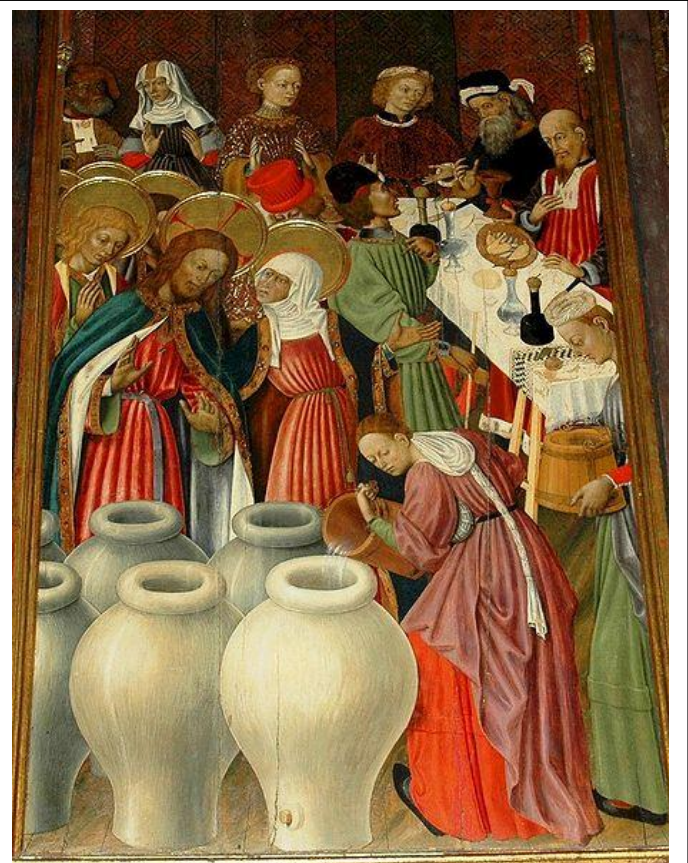
Most of all we hope that the New Year will bring good health and happiness to everyone we know and yearn that the world will be a better place than it was before. Unfortunately when reflecting on the past year, especially on the world stage, attention is drawn to tragic events; but nevertheless we should resolve to remind ourselves of our blessings, and that the bad times most often bring out the best in people; they unite as much as divide. When things go wrong, there is a large window of opportunity to show that good can win out in the end.

In modern times Christians have grown very accustomed to thinking of the New Year and Epiphany as exclusively about the 'wise men' as recorded in Mathew's Gospel, but it has been a long tradition of the Church to celebrate three aspects of the life of Christ at this time – the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the first miracle at Cana. The last of these contains a very powerful and poignant message; as it shows that with faith, when things do go wrong, as they did at the wedding feast, events can be turned around, disappointment into happiness, and failure into success, symbolically water into wine. After Jesus's instructions had been followed the steward remarked to the bridegroom, about the quality of the new wine – "the best had been saved until last" A New Year begins.

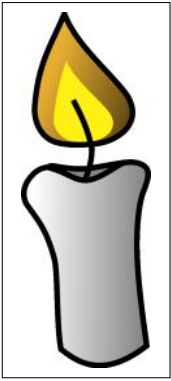
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest.

Happy New Year

*From 'Songs of Thankfulness and Praise'
by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)*



Marriage at Cana by Bernat Martorell (1390-1452) Capella de la Transfiguració, Barcelona Cathedral



Planned services at the chapel of the Monastère du Carmel, rue du Denacre, Saint-Martin-Boulogne

Sunday 3rd January 2016 10h30 / Epiphany, a simple service of Morning Prayer, with carols and readings for Epiphany and the first Sunday of the year. Led by Malcolm Gale.

Sunday 17th January 2016 10h30 / Second Sunday after Epiphany
Our first Eucharist service of the year led by Rev Charles Hill; Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sunday 31st January 2016 11h00 / Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Candlemas)

Joint Eucharist service with other congregations in the Chaplaincy led by Rev Charles Hill; Readings: Malachi: 3. 1-5; Psalm 24: 7-end; Hebrews: 2. 14-end; Luke 2. 22-40

Sunday 7th February 2016 10h30/ Sunday next before Lent, a simple service of Morning Prayer, with hymns and readings.

Sunday 21st February 2016 10h30/ Second Sunday of Lent Eucharist service led by Canon Reg Humphriss; Readings: Genesis 15. 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17 -4.1; Luke 13. 31-end

News and dates for your diary:

Estréelles successful Concert de Noël

For the eighth consecutive year, a Concert de Noël was held in the church of Estréelles. Once again this was done in collaboration with the Catholic Church, and we were delighted to welcome the new district priest, Abbé Christophe, who led the prayers of the congregation. Charles joined in wholeheartedly on the organ, and accompanied us through all the favourite carols. As usual, the service was conducted in French and English and we were able to join in *'Il est né'* and *'Mon beau sapin'*. Eloise, granddaughter of Paul and Lalage, sang several items during the service, finishing with a very popular version of *'White Christmas'* before we left the church. One beautiful touch was the part of the baby Jesus was taken, very successfully, by Lise Lecoutre, who was born on 9th November 2015. This was her first starring role. After the service, mulled wine and mince pies were distributed while Linda and Jean happily and successfully sold Christmas Crackers and Puddings.



Christmas crèches

Once again this year there is a display, by the sisters at the Monastère du Carmel, of Christmas crèches, presenting nativity scenes from many different viewpoints. These will be on show in the cloisters daily until the end of January. Hours: 10h00 to 11h30 and 14h00 to 17h00 (or after one of our January services).

Semaine de l'unité 2016

As in other years, at the end of January, there will be a week of unity with other Christian churches in Boulogne. Although our church will not be participating as such, we are warmly invited to joint the other congregations in the area at any of the services planned. The programme is shown below: *Monday 18th January 19h - Opening celebration - L'Église Protestante Unie, Rue Basse des Tintelleries, Boulogne // 19th January 19h - Celebration in prayer - L'Église Evangélique Baptiste, 15, Rue du Bras d'or, Boulogne // Wed 20th January 19h - Celebration in prayer - L'Église Catholique Ste. Ide, Rue du Mont d'Ostrohove, St. Martin de Boulogne // Thurs 21st January 19h - Celebration in prayer - L'Église Adventiste, Bt 3, Ilôt de l'Alma, Boulogne // Fri 22nd January 19h - Celebration in prayer - L'Église Evangélique, Maison des Gens de Mer, Quai Chanzy, Boulogne. Sunday 24th January 16h - Closing celebration and concert with singer - songwriter Sandra P. Clark - L'Église Immaculée Conception, Rue Carnot, Wimereux.*

This month George Murray throws some light on an ... Anglican Church at Wimereux...

This is a story of two threads, which, after lengthy research, fail to intertwine. In 1892, the Revd. William Robins acquired a villa at Wimereux named *'Le Tourbillon'*, from the Scottish author Robert Michael Ballantyne. The Revd. Robins was at the time a curate in the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene at Gillingham, Kent. Ballantyne produced more than 100 books, mostly of an 'improving' nature, aimed principally at adolescent boys. Probably his best known, and still in print, is; *'The Coral Island: A Tale of the South Pacific'*, published in 1857. This inspired Wm. Goldberg's *'Lord of the flies'* (which inverted the morality of the original) and was a model for parts of Robert Louis Stephenson's *'Treasure Island'*.

In the early 20th century a church was erected, named Christ Church, in the Rue

Saint-Maurice in Wimereux, only 150 metres from *'Le Tourbillon'*. The objective – which would link the two threads of the story – has been to discover whether the Revd. Robins funded the building of this church, or at least played a part in its establishment.

Robins sold his villa in 1901. He went on to become Rural Dean and Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral. He retired in 1916, and died in 1923 at the age of 74. He and his wife Annie Maria Isabelle had four children. Census information from 1911 shows that apart from Rev. Robins and his wife, the household consisted of a secretary, a footman, and five other servants. But extraordinarily as it is, handwritten on the census form is a note that Rev. Robins was blind from the age of 17!



Revd. William Robins

During Robins ownership of *'Le Tourbillon'*, Wimereux was in a rapid phase of development; until the mid-19th century it consisted of little more than dunes and salt-marshes with the only landmark the ruins of the Fort de Croy, Vauban's coastal fort (rebuilt by Napoleon for purposes of his *Grande Armée*), remaining visible at low tide, finally to disappear in the 1940s. The influx of visitors and residents swelled with the advent of the railway in 1867 and Wimereux became a separate *commune* in 1899. It was a popular site for the second homes of wealthy families from the north of France and even Paris. By 1914 it boasted no fewer than 48 hotels and boarding houses, plus a race-course, golf course, tennis club and casino.

During the Great War, Wimereux played a major role for which it was well fitted due both to its proximity to the Port of Boulogne, primary port for embarkation and repatriation of British troops, and also the amount of accommodation offered by its hotels. All were requisitioned and most were turned into hospitals. Barracks and other temporary hospital buildings were constructed nearby. Wimereux was also the Headquarters of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1919, Wimereux became the General Headquarters in France of the British Army. During the war the transient population of this fledgling seaside village swelled to many thousands. Today it is about 7500. But even before WW1, both residents and visitors had need of spiritual comfort beyond the Catholic Church.

This need was addressed by the construction of the new Christ Church. The building was erected in 1905-6. It was funded NOT directly by the Revd. Robins, who had sold his villa several years before, but by the splendidly named: 'Colonial and Continental Church Society' (CCCS). Sadly but not wholly surprisingly, the society no longer exists, its archives held at the London Metropolitan Archives in the City of London.

The first reference in the archives to the Chaplaincy of Wimereux was in 1905, among a list of 'temporary seasonal chaplaincies'. Services were held at *'Le Valentin'*, a villa belonging at the time to Louis Gallet, a hospital manager from Paris who wrote opera libretti in his spare time. The Rev. C.F. Fison, Vicar of South Nutfield, Redhill (where the church is, coincidentally or not, dedicated to Christ), and Rev. F. Flynn, Chaplain to the Royal Marines at Chatham, are listed as the clergy for the winter of 1904-5 and the summer of 1905. Their activities in Wimereux were evidently a success because they were attracting congregations of more than 180 worshippers.

The Annual Report for 1907 states that *'there being no (adequate) room available for services, a cheap but pretty church has been erected'*. Congregations at the new church during the holiday season approached 200. In today's circumstances these attendance figures can only be the substance of dreams.



In 1907 the clergy servicing the chaplaincy are listed as the Rev. P.L.Neagues, CCCS Eastern Midland District, and Rev. W. Woodall, vicar of Feniscliffe, Blackburn.

Unfortunately the two threads of the story do not meet, because the annual reports of the CCCS record that the Rev. Fison undertook the collection of funds, to defray the cost of erecting the church. Of course it is possible that the Rev. Robins was approached for a contribution, but given his pastoral situation in Rochester and his considerable domestic responsibilities, plus the time interval between him selling his villa and construction of the church, it seems improbable that he funded the church outright or substantially.

The remaining 'Belle Epoque' villas are today the pride of Wimereux's *patrimoine*. Among them 'Le Tourbillon' survives. Christ Church sadly does not, having been demolished not long after the end of World War Two for housing development. It was quite possibly damaged during the Liberation. Cheap and pretty, but not durable.

I gladly acknowledge the major contribution made to this article by M. Alain Lenain, resident of Wimereux, official tourist 'greeter', and Hon. Treasurer of the association 'Le Charme de Wimereux' (lecharmedewimereux.fr). M. Lenain has done most of the hard work; I have merely been his accessory and scribe. (GM)

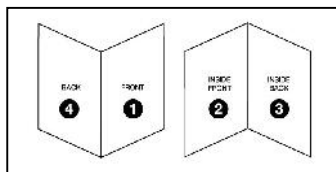
Other services in the Chaplaincy... Calais's regular services: Services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10h30. The normal place of worship is now the Oratoire Notre Dame de la Misericorde, rue Gaillard, Calais – (near St Pierre's church) - Church Warden: Pat Page ☎ 03 21 35 07 65 or e-mail: pat.page@wanadoo.fr

Hesdin's regular services: Services are held as follows: 1st Sunday monthly – Morning Prayer 10h30; 3rd Sunday monthly – 17h00 Eucharist Service. Services are held in Salle de l'Arsenal, Rue de l'Arsenal, Hesdin. - Church Warden: Hazel Crompton, ☎03 21 03 31 27 e-mail: james.crompton@free.fr

If anyone needs any form of help or assistance or if you are aware of someone who is ill, either in hospital or at home and would appreciate a visit, or alternatively if you know of anyone who you feel may benefit from prayer, please contact the church warden: George Murray ☎03 21 36 53 87, e-mail:-georgemurray@sfr.fr or otherwise the secretary.

This newsletter can be found, together with other information about the Chaplaincy, on our website at: <http://www.anglicanspdc.com>

If you have any news, short articles, adverts or any form of announcement for inclusion, please send them to the secretary, Malcolm Gale: malcolm.gale@dbmail.com - ☎03 21 31 83 57 Port: 06 99 09 60 44 or by post to 76, rue de la Paix, 62200 Boulogne sur Mer.



Printing your newsletter: This newsletter is designed to be printed at A5 size - select the 'livret' or 'booklet' printing format on the print management page of Adobe PDF Reader, this turns it into a handy A5 size four-page leaflet – of course remember to pass the paper through your printer twice (i.e. both sides).

=====
And just for the fun of it...

The new incumbent of the parish stood at the church door greeting members of the congregation as they left the Sunday morning service. Most of the people were very generous in their comments complimenting the new minister on how much they liked his sermon, except that is for one man who said, "It was a very dull and boring talk, vicar."

A few minutes later, the same man again appeared and said, "I don't think you did much preparation for your sermon."

Once again, the man appeared, this time muttering, "You really blew it. You didn't have a thing to say."

Finally, the minister could stand it no longer. He went up to the churchwarden and enquired about the man. "Oh, don't let that old fellow bother you," said the warden reassuringly. "He's a little daft. All he does is go around repeating whatever he hears other people saying."

Solution to last month's puzzle: 1. Communicate //2.Fabricate //3.Prevaricate //4.Vindicate //5.Vacate
 6.Domesticate// 7.Sophisticate//8.Advocate// 9. Reciprocate // 10. Certificate // 11.Duplicate //12.Intoxicate