



Jubilate

The Magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd,
Poitou-Charentes



Assistant Chaplain: Rev'd Paul Knight revknight@orange.fr

December 2019



He is Christ the Lord

A message from Rev'd Irene Knowles



Christmas is about memories - no it isn't.

Christmas doesn't mean the same any more - well it should.

Christmas is about partying, overeating, drinking too much - not at all

If it is not all those things what is Christmas about?

Christmas, whilst hijacked from a pagan festival, is about celebrating the birth of Jesus. We are not told of the actual date, just that he was born into a very difficult and dangerous world, a world that God wanted to save.

The difficult and dangerous world still exists so what difference has and is Jesus making as we approach 2020?

On an individual level, He should be making a huge difference so that collectively, as Christians, we can tell the world of the reasons for the season.

It's fine to have memories of past Christmases so long as they don't diminish this celebration.

If our children have grown up and left home with children of their own, Christmas will be different but hold the same importance.

If Christmas doesn't mean the same any more then we need to find out why; remember if we feel far away from God, guess who moved!

Yes, it's OK to have a party, eat and have something special to drink but only when we have remembered the very people Jesus was so often concerned about, the poor, the hungry the marginalized. When we've done that, we can go ahead and enjoy this Christmas.

*A happy and blessed Christmas to everyone in the Chaplaincy,
family, friends and all we love.*

irene

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December Services in the Chaplaincy

Sunday 1st Advent Sunday

Courcelles	(17400)	10.30.	Holy Communion
St Leger	(79500)	10.30.	Holy Communion
Villejésus	(16140)	10.30	Holy Communion
Civray	(86400)	18.30	Come & Worship

Sunday 8th

Champagne Mouton	(16350)	11.00	Holy Communion
Jarnac	(16200)	10.30	Holy Communion
Jassay	(79120)	11.00	Morning Worship

Sunday 15th

Barbezieux	(16300)	10.30	Morning Worship <i>with Carols</i>
Champagne Mouton	(16350)	10.30	Morning Worship
Courcelles	(17400)	10.30	Holy Communion
Magné	(86160)	10.30	Holy Communion <i>with Carols</i>

Tuesday 17th

Civray (86400)	St Nicholas Church	18.00h	Bi-Lingual Lessons & Carols
Courcelles (17400)		19.00h	Bi-Lingual Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 22nd

Civray (86400)	10.30	All-Age Worship
Jarnac (16200)	10.30	Bi-Lingual Ecumenical Service of Lessons & Carols
Pompaire (79200)	11.00	Holy Communion <i>with Carols</i>
Villejésus (16140)	10.30	Morning Worship Christmas Celebration
Civray (86400)	<u>16.00</u>	Evening Prayer (BCP)

Please note that there will be no December service at La Rochefoucauld.

December Services *continued*

Tuesday 24th **ALLOUE Church** (16490) 18.00

A service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DAY

Courcelles Church (17400)

10.30

Holy Communion

There are NO Chaplaincy services on Sunday 29th December

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CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The Beetle Drive (along with Tea, Tombola and sale of Jams and Cakes) and [First Christmas Hamper](#) Draw, held recently at Touche Penon, raised **750** euros. The Hamper was won by John Larmuth

Jane Fidler wishes to thank all who helped in any way. And we wish to thank Jane and Colin for their hard work and hospitality.

You can still buy tickets (if you're quick) for the [Second Christmas Hamper](#) being raffled on Saturday 30th November. The draw will be at the Coffee Morning (***St Léger de la Martinière***) at midday. Contact Margaret Mace 05 49 29 97 81

The Tea Dance (Taizie-Aizé, Saturday 30th Nov) has been postponed.

HOWEVER, there is still the [Third Christmas Hamper](#) to be raffled. Tickets are 5 euros each and are available at church services in December. The Draw will be at ***l'Isle Jourdain*** at the Coffee Morning in the LION D'OR on Friday 20th December at 12.00 noon.

AND our attention has recently been drawn to the fact that tickets are being sold for a [fourth Christmas Hamper](#) the Draw for which will take place at ***Jarnac*** after Morning Service there on Sunday 8th December.

NOW, even if you don't approve of raffles, please donate 5 euros to benefit the Chaplaincy.

The Way Ahead for the Chaplaincy

Last month, we published some thoughts which had arisen from discussions with the Area Dean.

Here are some more subjects for discussion and for your prayerful response:

- The question was asked “Should we just throw the whole thing in the air and have a radical re-think?” There was no definitive answer forthcoming from the ensuing discussion, but it is important to keep an open mind.
- If we move into large towns and cities we will attract worshippers from Africa, the Middle East and Far East but they will bring with them a number of social problems and needs that we will find it hard, if not impossible, to meet.
- Consideration was given to ecumenical relationships. These were regarded as important and useful links to both the churches native to France and to ourselves. Nothing conclusive was decided but we should be encouraged to develop links and co-operation.
- With the Area Dean and Archdeacon we will need to work out exactly what kind of shape we expect the Chaplaincy to have in the future. There was a general expectation that we would be looking to employ someone in due course, but the exact nature of the employment package was difficult to define. Part time posts are not overly attractive, nor are House for Duty posts and “there is dearth of good candidates out there”.
- The Standing Committee will be involved all the way through the selection process should we decide to go down that route.
- Tony spoke of the support he got from a paid administrator working from home and we noted the invaluable service that Valérie provides for us.

- **Consultation is already under way.** (See Page 19)
The outcomes will be used to inform decision making.
However, there is no guarantee that even a majority suggestion will be implemented. We remain under the direction of the Diocese and its officers and financial constraints.

You are invited to respond to these and last month's discussion points. You can speak to members of the Clergy, Readers, Worship Leaders or any other member of Council. Or send an email to david.hawken@orange.fr

You should also have received a questionnaire which you are invited to complete.

Please remember not to dwell on past problems but to be positive and constructive.

We look to God for His guidance into the future.

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MEANWHILE, THERE'S ANOTHER **RANDONEE**

Friday 13th December..... Civray.

David and Marilyn Trigger are going to surprise us.

Please meet in the Market Car Park by the river in Civray
at 2.00 for the usual 2.15 start.

The car park is on the left hand side of the Rue Victor Hugo, off the D1.

As an enticement to come walking,
there will be mulled wine and nibbles chez Trigger afterwards!!

“Walk in the light of the Lord”



ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

7th December 2019 at 6:00pm

Nanteuil en Vallée Church

Traditional Christmas Carols and Readings
in English & French

Do come and join us - All are welcome

Refreshments available after the event

Donations welcome for Nanteuil Church Building Fund and our Chaplaincy



CHRISTMAS SERVICES WITH CAROLS

Alloue	Christmas Eve	18.00
Barbezieux	Sunday 15 th	10.30
Civray	Tuesday 17 th	18.00 =
Courcelles	Tuesday 17 th	19.00 =
	Christmas Day	10.30 +
Jarnac	Sunday 22 nd	10.30 =
Jassay	Sunday 8 th	11.00
Magné	Sunday 15 th	10.30 +
Pompaire	Sunday 22 nd	11.00
Villejésus	Sunday 22 nd	10.30

= Bi-lingual service

+ including Holy Communion

GIVING

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to the harvest foods for the food banks. Please remember that winter approaches and many more of the needy come for help at this time, so.....please, every-time you buy foodstuffs, just buy one small can or one item of groceries, or items of toiletries or household goods. It is having quantity that matters for giving out, enough so that no-one goes away empty handed, as really does happen some distribution days; and that is always heart breaking, seeing the disappointment shown by the tailenders. Thank you in advance for your response.

Here's an idea:



YES – it's a shopping basket. BUT MAYBE WE COULD TURN IT INTO A

Reverse Advent Calendar Basket

Here's what to do:

- Find or buy a shopping basket or bag
- **Each day** of Advent (starting December 1st), buy or take from your cupboard at least **1 item** which could be used by a foodbank
- If your basket/bag, starts overflowing, find another
- On the Sunday nearest to Christmas that you're going to church, take your basket(s)/bag(s) with you. Your local wardens will make sure that everything you have collected will get to those who most need it during the Christmas and New Year period.

You can keep the basket, ready for re-filling. (1st Jan ?)

THANK YOU

Together in Prayer

December 2019.

1st The first day of advent. Lord Jesus, this is the day when your Church begins to think about your first coming: the Christmas story. Help us to reflect on and understand the meaning of this season. Guide and help us to read more deeply from our Bibles, to meaningfully understand your words within and to prepare more fully our hearts for Christmas, and for when you come again in glory.

2nd ***If possible to be said at mid day.*** Lord of the Church and of our Chaplaincy. Hear our prayers; make us one in heart and mind, to serve you, as you will us to do; with enthusiasm and energy, with joy and happiness, now and forever. Amen.

3rd Father in heaven, we bring before you all the leaders of churches throughout your world and especially in Europe. We give thanks for their ministry. We ask that you guide them in their ministries, to communicate effectively, to make wise decisions and act justly, thus furthering your kingdom, merciful Lord.

4th Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus.

5th *Therefore you must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.*
Matthew 24:44 NRSV.

6th Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us this good day: may we use it wisely, may we glorify your name in all we say and do and rejoice in it and your influence in our lives.

7th Today we pray for people who are struggling with addictions and all the pressures that life brings them because of their dependencies. We ask you Lord, to show them, that you are with them always, in their times of desperation and need. Give them an ability to recognise the signs of your love and compassion for them, so that in believing in you there is hope, there will be healing, there is a future for them in your world.

8th Hear our cry for help. Forgive us all, Father of all forgiveness, for those times when our doubt, anger and pride, block oneness with you; we ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

9th ***If possible, To be said at mid day.*** God chose you (us) as the first fruits, to be saved, through sanctification by the spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called us through our gospel, so that you (us) may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers stand firm and hold to the traditions that were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by the letter. 2 Corinthians 2:13-15. ESV

10th We bring before you Lord, all Christian people who are persecuted because of their faith and belief in you, as our Redeemer, Lord and Saviour. Guard over and keep them safe Lord, to continue in their proclamation of you, as our Sovereign Lord.

11th You, Lord, are the Light of our world; we glorify you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, giving thanks and asking forgiveness; as the kingdom of heaven is at hand. As John the Baptist prepared the way for your coming, may we continue to grow in faith and discipleship, in order to further your kingdom here on earth.

12th We pray today, for all those who are in positions of government and leadership in our earthly world and especially in Great Britain. Continue to guide and inspire them Lord; we ask that you instil in them a right heart, to govern wisely and justly, to do all they can to relieve injustice and oppression, to promote peace and harmony.

13th Lord Jesus help us, we pray, to be more loving and kind in our own homes. We bring before you all our families, friends and neighbours. Lord we commit to you those people throughout the world who live on their own, who have no friends or anyone to care for them. Surround them with your loving arms, Lord. You are our giver of life: please enable them to experience a full life.

14th Today and forever, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord", He teaches us, He unconditionally loves us always, He promises us great things, He constantly forgives us." To God be the Glory"

15th Father God, you have given us so much in Jesus. Help us to give others as freely and generously, as we have received from you.

16th ***If possible to say this at mid day.*** Father God we bring before you all members of our Church Family here in the Chaplaincy. We thank you that everyone who loves you, belongs to your family; You are our Father. Open up our minds and hearts, direct and guide us Father, to discern what it is you call us to do and to be.

17th During this season of winter, we pray especially for the many people who are homeless, those who live in abject poverty and need. Move us Father, to act in kindness and generosity in whatever way we can. Help us to never hold back. No offering is ever too small.

18th In anticipation of You O Lord, may we be filled with hope, to put words into actions, to call and act for equality and justice throughout your world.

19th **An Advent blessing** (reproduced by permission: wildgoose.scot)

The God of Sarah and Hagar, the God of Mary who bore the Christ and of Simon who carried His cross, the God in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile, bless us this Advent season with an extravagance of patience, insight, hope and love, as we wait the birth of our Saviour in whom all things are held together and, in whom all shall be made new. Amen.

20th Loving and caring Creator God, we pray with hope for all in the world who feel afraid, for all who are struggling in poverty, for all suffering discrimination. We pray with hope, that the causes of their oppression and injustice, that the misuse of power, be brought to an end, in Jesus name. Amen.

21st We pray for healing, in body, mind or spirit, for all who are suffering.

22nd *"Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death; victory is ours through him who loves us."*
Bishop Desmond Tutu.

23rd God of advent, we wait for a message to the world. As we wait for you to come, guard and protect those who are in danger; heal and make whole those who are broken. May peace reign throughout Your world.

24th Today we remember Mary and Joseph, living under Roman rule, having to leave their home to register their existence. It was the time for Jesus to be born. We pray especially today Lord, for all new parents; may they treasure their new born. We ask you to pour Your blessings on all families, throughout their lives.

The prayers following have been written for our daily use by The Church of England.

25th Lord Jesus Christ, Your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

26th Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn, give courage to all who are homeless; in your mercy, hear our prayer.

27th Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all, who are lonely, with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. Amen.

28th Jesus, as you healed the sick, bring healing to those who are suffering, in our families, to those whom we know, to those who have asked us, to pray for them. Jesus Lord of love, in your mercy, hear us.

29th May God, who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, bless us and fill us with peace. Amen.

*30th **If possible to be said at mid day.** Jesus, Saviour, Son of Mary, you know us and love us; You share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to You forever. Amen.*

31st O God who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace: let the design of Thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wrath and sorrows: and give peace to Thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts: through Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Where do we worship? LA ROCHEFOUCAULD

The service that now takes place on the 4th Sunday of each month (but not this month!) in La Rochefoucauld has its origins in what may have been a children's or family service held in the Temple in Chasseneuil. Certainly, children were involved, and their presence did nothing to help the state of a rather dilapidated building. And, apparently, Mike Clark put his foot through the floor while beating time! This venue became regarded as unsafe, despite roof work being done by Barry Clarke, and when the opportunity came to move to La Rochefoucauld, we seized it, not to go into the big church but into the rooms opposite (see photo below) – a sensible size, safe and with heating and toilets.



Linda Shepherd took a particular interest in the worship here, along with Richard & Rhiannon Beech. Richard Ware has faithfully played the keyboard over the years and continues to do so.

The service now is a service of the Word, with an occasional eucharist. The service is intended to have the essentials of an Anglican service of the Word but presented in a slightly informal way. These may be through straight Morning Prayer (rare), a so called Celtic form or one based on the Iona tradition. Sometimes it has no book form but includes the essentials built round a theme, again although appearing informal, it always has a structure.

Thanks to the Beeches and to Ann White for information provided.

With daylight at a minimum for this month there is little to tempt us out into the garden. But if you have a sunny day, do wrap up warm and get into the garden even if it to check as to whether there are any bulbs showing their noses or to complete that final collection of leaves.

Things to do: Fruit: there is still time to carry on pruning and planting. Think about protecting fruit bushes to prevent the birds from eating the new shoots.

Trees and shrubs: gather your holly and ivy ready for the festivities. Seeing holly earlier in the year, when I was a child this would have forecast a cold winter, but all that seems to have changed.

Vegetables Broad beans/Fève

One of the few crops that can be sown in December.

Sow straight into the spot where they are to grow, 4-5cm apart in rows 30cm apart. It is useful to plant a few extra at the end of the row to fill in if some fail. Do not use seed with holes in and protect the crop over winter with cloches or fleece.

Harvest your sprouts for Christmas from the bottom of the stem upwards

Compost Trench: In preparation for your spring planting of Runner and French Beans, now is the time to dig a compost trench. Not only does it provide food by enriching the soil but it will also help to retain water, as the beans are thirsty plants. Select your site for next season's beans and dig out a deep trench. Add a generous layer of kitchen waste for example tea bags, peelings and egg shells at the bottom then cover with 15cm of soil and leave to rot down until you are ready to plant

Dig over plots, forking in plenty of manure.

Flowers: check that no plants have been lifted by the frosts and firm back into place. Keep deadheading your winter pansies. Remember to water the pots especially if they are sheltered by the eaves.

Lawns: nothing specific for this month.

Ponds: in my books it suggests placing a large black flowerpot, on its side, in the deepest part of the pond. This gives the fish somewhere to hide from predators.

Don't forget to check your crops *in storage* for any signs of deterioration.

Rev'd Paul Knight's **"BOOK OF THE MONTH"**

'Beard Theology' by Church Mouse

published by Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 9 781529
318630 On line price:£9.35

Who would have known that clean shaven monks are actually sporting an inner beard?

Why did St Augustine deem it necessary to assert that God gave men nipples for aesthetic reasons?

What are the top ten early Christian heresies?

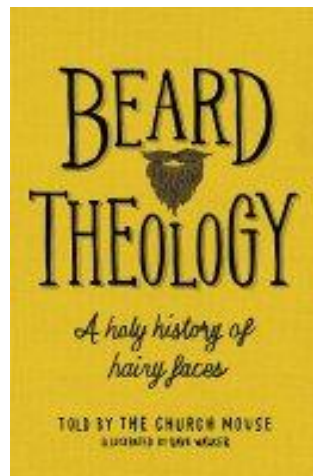
Should you require answers to any or all of these questions then this month's book recommendation is for you.

The author, hiding behind the pseudonym The Church Mouse takes us through the religious history of men's facial hair and a lot more. In order to be even handed he or she includes famous women like the Pharaoh who donned a false beard to fulfill her sacramental duties.

As well as learning about beards you will also absorb a lot of church history and quite a lot of theology while having fun. The text is also made even more accessible by Dave Walker's cartoons.

This book provides an unusual historical narrative and might well cause you to think about the things we get very wound up about in the church in our own time but which might well be regarded as ridiculously trivial in a couple of centuries time.

As an on line reviewer suggested 'This book will entertain and inform in equal measure'. It will also make an excellent Christmas present for the person you usually buy socks and handkerchiefs for!.



Sandy's Church Alphabet

The Letter I

I is for Intercessions.

Intercessions (Praying for others) can be either private or public and both forms are clearly demanded of Christians in the New Testament.

Luke 6:28, 22:32, 23:34 and John 17:9-26. The Lord's Prayer is, in fact, a great model of intercession. St. Paul in the Epistle to the Romans (8:34) stresses the fact that, after His death and resurrection, Jesus is with the Father making intercession for us.

Public intercession has, since the early church, been an integral part of the Eucharist where we bring before God the needs of the world and also the needs of individual members of the congregation, either explicitly by name, or implicitly by various categories and placing names on the altar.

One of the dangers of intercession is that we are human beings who are incapable of knowing the exact will of God. We have a general knowledge that God's will is for our salvation, but how that is to be accomplished in daily life is often beyond our understanding. We may find that either we pray contrary to the will of God or end up telling God what to do. There is also the danger that we may feel prayer has been unanswered when things don't go as we expect. The Master has given us the solution. When we pray we pray with humility and an acceptance of the will of God by praying "*Thy will be done*". Our prayers are always answered but not necessarily in the way we expect. For example, we may pray for healing without recognizing that death is in fact the ultimate healing.

There are a number of ways that the Christian can offer intercession, I have identified three but you may know and use other forms. We may intercede by words of petition, by mentioning specific people, events or occasions aloud in church or by saying them quietly to ourselves. Be careful! If you know of someone who needs our prayers make sure you have their permission to bring it to the congregation. People who are ill, for example, may not want the matter to be public knowledge. We may offer intercession in mental prayer, by directing thought to the object of intercession and holding it up in prayer. We may offer a service that entails physical action. A pilgrimage is an example, Walsingham, Compostela, Lourdes and Iona are well known pilgrimage centres. One can light a candle, walk a labyrinth, or dig the garden, or run a marathon: all ways of making intercession.

[illegible]



The Way Forward - What do YOU think?

The Chaplaincy is now in a period of interregnum and it is important that we have a time of reflection and contemplation as we prepare for our future. The Chaplaincy Council is keen to give our congregations the opportunity to contribute and we would like to receive your input into this process. We invite you to submit your thoughts in the following questionnaire and we look forward to getting all your ideas. We expect to share the outcome of this consultation at the Chaplaincy AGM in April next year, if not sooner. Before responding we recommend that you read the articles from Paul Knight in this and the November issue of Jubilate.

Do please recognise that it may be impossible to go forward with every suggestion!

If you would like to contribute to this dialogue, please complete the questionnaire below and return your responses by 30 December 2019 to the Chaplaincy Office, either by e mail to: office.goodshepherd@orange.fr, or by post to: Chaplaincy of Poitou-Charentes, 2 Place Gambetta, 86400 CIVRAY.

You can print this page or write your answers on a separate sheet or email. We welcome your input.

Q1. What sort of Chaplain would you like?

Q2 What pattern of worship services would you like to have in your Worship Centre(s)?

Q3 How should Worship Centres (the clergy and the congregation) relate to the wider Chaplaincy and other churches (protestant/catholic) around us?

Q4 How are we to find the money to make this sustainable ?

Q5 Any other thoughts?

(eg other activities, Home Groups, Fund Raising, study themes?)

Thank you for your contribution

The Chaplaincy Council

November 2019

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Our AIM:

- To love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength.
- To love our neighbours as ourselves
- To go and make disciples

There will be NO January issue of *Jubilate*. We WILL send you a list of services for the month. For other meetings and events, please check with the usual organisers. We'll be back at the end of January with your *February* edition. *Wishing you God's blessing for Christmas and 2020.*