



Jubilate

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



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

October 2019

Chaplaincy Office: 2, Place Gambetta, 86400 Civray.

Tel: 05 49 97 04 21 **Email:** office.goodshepherd@orange.fr

Admin. Assistant: Valérie Pétry

The office is usually open Monday, Tuesday & Friday mornings.

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**

Pastoral Letter

A message from Rev'd Sandy Borthwick



Dear Friends

When I was a wee lad in Edinburgh in the 1940s there was a custom, about late October, for children to dress up, blacken their faces with burnt cork and to go out *Guizing*. We would go round to the houses of our neighbours, knock on the door and say "Please to help the Guizers, we'll sing ye a bonnie wee song". We would then do a party piece and leave with a pocketful of sweets.

I was told later that the East coast of Scotland was influenced by the Vikings and that it was a Viking custom for children, at the start of winter, to go round the houses at the start of winter to chase out the demons who had come into the house in the past year. The idea was for the children to dress up and frighten the demons away.

Well, times have changed: television, the cinema, new technology, a shrinking world, have all contributed to destroying old customs and introducing new ones. Halloween has overtaken the Guizers and Trick or Treat has replaced a bonnie wee song. At least we never threatened to trick anyone. As with the Guizers, so in most of our lives times have changed; indeed times have always been changing and it is the custom for the older generation to regret change. How often do we hear "I wouldn't like to be bringing children up today". But that was said by my mother and her mother before her *ad infinitum*. Change is a part of life and we have to learn how to manage change.

The Hymn 'Abide with me' has the lines *Change and decay in all around I see; O Though who changest not, Abide with me.* God never changes and the imperative for Christians to 'Know, Love and Serve God' never changes. But the World changes and although our message to the World never changes, yet it is important that the way we present our message changes to meet the needs and aspirations of those who would hear our message. Or we may find ourselves with a message to proclaim which people fail to listen to. *'Like deaf adders who stop their ears and will not listen to the voice of the charmer charm he never so wisely'* Psalm 58:4.

What exciting times we live in! I am writing this before anything is clear regarding Brexit, the prorogation of Parliament, the possibility of a General Election: certainly things are going to change. But there are greater changes: refugees, climate change, the rise of extreme right wing policies, financial global uncertainty. As Christians we must be prepared to meet such changes and be prepared to be involved whenever we have to opportunity.

"He was in the world and the world knew him not; He came to his own and his own received him not. But to all who received him to them he gave the right to be children of God" John 1:13

Yours aye

Sandy

You can read the letter "G" in *Sandy's Church Alphabet* on Page 13

.....

Here's a little offering from Rev'd Martin Sawle:

Did you hear the one about the insomniac, dyslexic agnostic who lay awake all night, wondering if there was a Dog ? No complaints to the Editor, please!

Church Services during October

Sunday 6th:

Courcelles Church	10.30.am	Holy Communion *
St.Léger de la Martinière Church	10.30.am	Holy Communion
Villejésus Church	10.30.am	Holy Communion *
Civray (Mairie Salle Annex)	6.30.pm	Come & Worship

Sunday 13th:

Champagne Mouuton Church	11.00.am	Holy Communion
Jarnac (7, rue Chabot)	10.30.am	Holy Communion *
Jassay (1, rue de l'ancien école)	11.00.am	Morning Worship

Sunday 20th:

Barbezieux (Temple)	10.30.am	Holy Communion
Champagne Mouton (Church Hall)	10.30.am	Morning Worship
Courcelles Church	10.30.am	Holy Communion
Magné Church	10.30.am	Holy Communion

Sunday 27th:

Civray (Mairie Salle Annex)	10.30.am	All Age Worship
Jarnac	10.30.am	Holy Communion
La Rochefoucauld (Church Rooms)	10.30.am	Holy Communion
Pompaire Church	11.00.am	Holy Communion
Civray (Tower Chapel)	6.30.pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Services marked * will be HARVEST celebrations

You are invited to bring your gifts of produce and also gifts of money which will go to our Harvest charities:

CoolAuto16, Mission Lèpre and TEARfund

For details of these charities, see last month's *Jubilate*, available on the Chaplaincy website www.church-in-france

Additional opportunities for fellowship in October

Service of Wholeness and Healing

Saturday 19th October

3.00.pm

at the Convent Chapel in Aigre

"Praying for the Dawn"

Contact Carolyn Carter for details and directions

carolyn.carter462@gmail.com 0545 84 19 03

Encounter

"Discovering the Good Samaritan"

Sunday 27th October

3pm to 4.15pm at the Barn of Dave & Sue Foster

La Maison Blanche, 3 Rue du Cimetiere
16700 St Gourson

Further information from :

catherine.chambers@outlook.com

0549 870756 07775 503389

What else is happening in October ?

Chaplaincy Randonnée Club

Friday 11 October - LICHERES

Kay and John Ward are going to repeat a gentle walk, first done in 2013, which will take us along the banks of the Charente River from Lichere, through Moutonneau to cross the river via the ford and return to Lichere church for refreshments.

Lichere is signposted off the D56 Verteuil- Chenon- Bayers-
Puychenin-Mansle Road. We Meet at the Lichere Church

.....

Quiz & Ploughman's Lunch (with Soup)

Wednesday, October 16th 10.30am for 11.00am start.

Salle des fêtes, 79190 Clussais la Pommeraie



?

???

12€ per person (includes first drink)

Bring your own couverts (don't forget the soup spoon and bowl)

To book your place, contact M. Mace Tel: 05 49 29 97 81

INTO THE GARDEN

with Jane Thomas

It has been very dry the soil is still very dry and very difficult to dig. But rain will come!

Things to do:

Fruit: Finish pruning any of the fruits that grow on canes. Ensure that raspberry and blackberry canes are securely tied to keep them safe during the winter.

Trees and shrubs: Weed shrub borders and take cuttings of older plants. Root any hardwood cuttings of deciduous shrubs in a slit trench

Vegetables put cloches or some form of protection over tender herbs such as basil and coriander. If you have access to them now is the time to sow manure crops such as field beans and grazing rye. Start to plant garlic and autumn sets. Cut down your asparagus tops and cover with a layer of compost or manure. If you grew chives in the garden it is a good idea to dig up a clump, cut off the straggly leaves and replant into a medium pot, water well and ensure the compost does not dry out. Keep the pot in a warm sheltered spot i.e. greenhouse or windowsill. The new leaves will develop within a few weeks and you will have fresh chives for the winter. If you grow cabbages, when you cut the head do not pull up the plant but leave in the soil. Make a cross cut at the top of the stem and in a few months you will find tender green leaves growing from the old stem. Harvest these and cook as spring greens

Flowers: Try saving your half-hardy bedding plants such as fuchsias and geraniums until next year. Remove the dead foliage and flower heads and cut stems back by two-thirds, leave in a cool sheltered spot. Safe from frost and water moderately until next spring. Collect seeds from summer flowers; some are easier to collect than others!

Lawns: If you wish now is a good time to plant grass seed, all the gardening books will give you instructions.

Pots: Think about winter planting something, perhaps pansies, which will lift your spirits in the cold damp months to come.

Ponds: If your pond is small and well established it is suggested that you dredge out some of the sludge from the bottom. Don't worry about siphoning off the water use a plant pot to bale out a few bucketfuls, the contents can then be put on the compost heap. The pond may need topping up with water if you have been too energetic.

Compost: Now is a good time to invest in additional compost heaps as with old bedding plants to be removed and perennials to be cut back you will have a wealth of compostable materials.

Vendange at Chez Rioux

I had lived at Chez Rioux until 2015 when my French neighbours moved into Chez Rioux. In 2016 he planted vines and over the past two years I have watched them grow and tasted the small grapes.

Friday. This year was the first picking, or cutting, and I was allowed to assist. The grapes were cut into bucket and when full were taken to a machine, driven by hand, which squashed the grapes and started the juice running. When the bucket was full the squashed grapes were then placed in a press, again drive by man. The grapes were of three colours red, white and rose. When they were all in the press I was allowed to taste, it was good.

Saturday. The press had been taken down and all that was left was a "gateaux" of grapes skin etc., when I touched it could have been a massive rubber.

All the grape juice is now in small casks and is starting to work! This is the beginning I hope to add further as the wine progresses



TOGETHER IN PRAYER October, 2019

1st *'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.'*

Father, we thank you that you are Almighty God, yet you desire an intimate walk with your children. Help us to come to your throne of grace with awesome fear and respect for you and for all that you have done for us in Jesus.

2nd *'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.'*

Father God, we acknowledge your sovereign power over all you have created. We place our planet into your hands for restoration and healing.

3rd Father God, we thank you for the abundant provision of food.

Help us to be willing to share with others who are in need.

4th Father God, we thank you for the beauty of creation, and the gift of each new day. Help us to walk in joy and thankfulness.

5th Father God, we lift before you all who have asked for our prayers. We ask that you would meet their needs, heal their bodies, minds and emotions. May they be spiritually aware of your presence and may they know your comfort and strength.

6th Father God, we pray for all who find themselves lost in a dark place. We ask that they may have an encounter with Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and be led into a place of joy and light.

7th *(If possible please pray at 12.00hrs.)*

Father, we pray for all who are 'alone', without family and friends. We ask that your Holy Spirit will comfort them, and guide them into a place where they will experience your love and care.

8th Father God, we lift before you our broken world. We have failed to be good stewards, Your animal kingdom is abused, young people are exploited; others are hungry and neglected. Help us to be part of the solution, not part of the problem by our indifference.

9th Father God, we lift before you our concerns over nuclear weapons and chemical weapons of destruction. We ask that your sovereignty will prevail over your creation.

10th Father God, we pray for all those in positions of leadership. We ask that they will serve with humility and integrity.

11th Lord Jesus, thank you that you laid down your life, so we may experience forgiveness and a meaningful relationship with Father God. Help us to be channels of grace and love to others.

12th Holy Spirit, we thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us to be sensitive to your leading and promptings.

13th Father God, we pray for all children. We pray specifically for those that have been traumatised by the conflicts of war, and have been left alone to face an unknown future. We pray for the agencies, who are 'charged' to care for them.

14th (If possible please pray at 12.00hrs.)

Father God, we thank you that whilst we were estranged from you, you so loved your world that you sent Jesus so we may enter into a relationship with you as adopted sons and daughters. Help us to grasp this love-gift of salvation, and relationship restoration.

15th Father God, we thank you that we may stand before your presence in the righteousness of Jesus. The divine exchange of the Cross of Christ enables us to appear before you completely without sin, only by trusting in the righteousness of Jesus.

16th Father God, help us always to be quick to forgive others, and not to take offence. May we use every situation to grow in grace and pursue peace.

17th Father God, we pray for all in positions of leadership within the Church. We pray that the Chaplaincy will be given clear guidance and a vision for the future. We thank you for all who serve in the Chaplaincy, and ask that you will continue to inspire and bless them.

18th Father God, Help us to recognise your hand in all our circumstances. Help us to turn to you and enquire how is this situation going to help me/us grow in grace and trust in you

19th Lord Jesus, we thank you that even when our circumstances take us through the deepest darkness, we are never alone. You are always with us, and nothing can separate us from your loving care and protection.

20th Father God, thank you for our family, friends and fellowship with one another. Help us always to be gracious and loving to others.

21st (If possible please pray at 12.00hrs.)

Father God, we pray for all who are charged with delivering care to the less fortunate within our society. Help us to be generous in our giving, and sensitive to the needs of others.

22nd Father God, you desire us to know you. Help us to be willing to spend time alone with you, so we may hear your voice.

23rd Lord Jesus, we thank you for the assurance of our salvation, and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to seek your presence and be mindful of your agenda in our daily walk.

24th Lord Jesus, help us to be willing channels of your love and goodness.

25th Lord Jesus, Help us to be grounded where you have placed us, growing in confidence and trusting in your plans for us each day.

Sandy Borthwick's Church Alphabet

G is for GRADUAL The Gradual was originally an *Antiphon* based on a passage from the Psalms, or other scriptural passage, which was used to highlight the theme for the *Eucharist* on any particular occasion. (An *Antiphon* is a passage from the scriptures designed to be sung alternately by different parts of a choir). When there was no choir, the Gradual was said by the congregation at the point between the reading of the *Lessons* and the *Gospel* during the Eucharist. The theme of the Eucharist was emphasised by the saying of the Gradual passage. At the same time, it gave the congregation something to do whilst the reader of the Gospel made his or her way to the place where the Gospel was to be read.

Similar to the Gospel is the *Introit*: a passage of Scripture to be said or sung during the entrance of the choir and clergy to the sanctuary at the beginning of the Eucharist. Thus, the themes of the Christian Year - Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity - were all covered by special Introits and Graduals.

In many churches, especially those with a choir, Introits and Graduals are still in vogue, but in many others have been replaced by hymns. With hymns, as with the Introits and Graduals, it is appropriate that they emphasise the theme of the day. So, for example, at Christmas and Easter, we have hymns of *joy*. But don't expect joy in Lent or Advent, as at those times we are suitably penitential.

The Introit and Gradual remind us of the continuity within our public worship. I sometimes hear it said that we are not spontaneous enough and that may well be the case. On the other hand, we are not victims of the whims and predilections of a particular member of the clergy. The *sermon* can be the time for teaching and dogmatics, whereas the congregation can be part of the cycle of worship in the Eucharist by speaking or singing appropriate hymns or scriptural passages.

As in the Early Church: "*Speak to one another in Psalms and hymns and songs; sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:19). In this way we join with fellow Christians around the world, as it spins on its axis.

The sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren 'neath the western sky;
and hour by hour fresh lips are making Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

Where we worship:

The Church that meets in Jassay

(with thanks to Ann White)

In 2005 Michael Hepper, the Chaplain at the time, wrote to Home Group leaders asking them to consider holding a service in their homes one Sunday a month when there was no service in the vicinity and no clergy available to take a service. I remember saying to my husband, Owen, 'Well, that's not something we can do'. But God, and Owen, must have had other ideas and a few months later we found ourselves holding the first service, though I am still not sure how it came about.

In those days it was very informal. We met for fellowship and to worship God, with Bible readings, prayers and songs. We had no instrument to accompany singing and attempts to use recorded music were not very successful, but Owen valiantly led us in making a joyful noise. It usually fell to me to organise readings and prayers. Neither of us felt equipped to preach so we had no sermon. Members of our Home Group, plus some of those who attended the Home Group that met in Rosemary Coleman's home, formed the congregation and we sat in a circle around our living room.

But things evolved. We had started by meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month, but when a worship centre opened in Parthenay, also in Deux Sevres, we changed to the second Sunday. Then Keith and Rita Horsfall, who had joined Rosemary's home group, started to attend regularly, whereupon Keith volunteered to preach. Shortly after this David Hawken turned up, along with his keyboard and things started to develop into the form the service now takes.

Over the years both members of the congregation and the leadership team have changed; several have returned to UK, sadly one or two have died, but others have come to take their place. We still meet on the second Sunday of the month at 11.00am, and the services are still by and

large informal. Usually they loosely follow the format of Morning Worship using the readings set for the day. But on special Sundays, such as before Christmas, we dare to try something a bit different.

Numbers vary – I think the largest group I ever recorded was 25, when we gathered to say ‘good-bye’ to Keith and Rita, and we have had as few as 8, but our average is probably 12 - 15, unsurprisingly with the larger congregations during the summer months. For a service that started because there were no clergy available over the years quite a few have actively participated, mainly through preaching, with Irene and Richard Knowles being the most regular. David continues faithfully to accompany worship, except on the occasions when he has fallen and broken various bones! There have been times when I have thought we might cease to meet but somehow that hasn’t happened.

And it goes without saying that we are not exclusive, all are welcome to come and take part



PS. I forgot to mention one very regular attender, especially in winter when he can toast his chest by the fire!

.....
The JASSAY congregation meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11.00.am
The address is: 1, rue de l’Ancienne Ecole, JASSAY, 79120 Chenay

MONTHLY MEETING FOR PRAYER

Prayer should be, for all of us, an important and regular feature of our Christian experience;

We CAN pray on our own and we can pray with others.

The monthly meeting for Prayer gives us the opportunity to get together with other members of the Chaplaincy, to share our thoughts and to pray about a variety of people and issues.

The meeting is held at the home of David and Marilyn Trigger on the afternoon of the 3rd Monday of each month.

So this month, it's **MONDAY 21st OCTOBER** at **2.30.pm**

[illegible]

STOP & PRAY

During our interregnum, you are invited to stop what you're doing at MIDDAY every Monday (maybe use the "*Angelus*" bells as a reminder) and to pray.

- Pray for the Chaplaincy and its future
- Pray for our Council, clergy, 'Readers' & leaders
- Pray for unity and understanding
- Pray about the finances of the Chaplaincy
- Pray about the need for people to fulfil roles to help keep the Chaplaincy running efficiently
- Pray for members of the Chaplaincy, especially those who are in particular need, be it through illness, anxiety, bereavement or some other need..
- Pray that God will guide you and show you how you can best serve Him.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A reminder of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. It is a ministry that is very much 'behind the scenes', but for those who receive the shawls, they have been a huge blessing, at what is often a very difficult time in their lives, and that of their families.

We are a small group of Christian ladies who knit shawls in our own homes, but we also meet monthly, in our home here at Poursac (16). However, the operative word is **Prayer** – we underpin the whole process with a commitment to pray for the recipient. Once we send a shawl, we continue to pray specifically for that person, and their situation.

We are very open to whom the shawls are sent. They do not have to be a member of the Chaplaincy, or indeed any other church. However, each shawl is sent with a card expressing our love, and that we are praying for them at this time. The following is an example of the responses we received:

'..... The Shawl arrived today, which was perfect timing I saw mum for the first time in three weeks. We had a craft evening at the church, which I took her to. She has got a lot worse since I last saw her. The shawl really touched her, and she cried tears of joy, she wore it tonight and loves it'

We will need to know that the person is happy to receive a shawl, either by asking directly or via a member of the family or close friend. Please then let me have their details, and we will be happy to organise it. We regularly send shawls to people here in France (we have cards in both English and French), as well as to the UK.

Helen Davis (co-ordinator)

05 45 31 05 06 helen.davis16700@gmail.com



Christmas is coming and the goose is getting NERVOUS

We're not holding **one** major fundraising event this year. Instead of the Fayre in Savigné, there are going to be at least **THREE** events in November. We have 3 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS to raffle. YES! **3 hampers**

Wednesday, November 20th

Beetle Drive & Afternoon Tea to include

Draw for Grand Christmas Hamper

At 4, Touche Penon, 86250 St. Romain.

2.30 Start.

Tickets: 5 euros for the event + 5 euros for Hamper Raffle

From e.janefidler@orange.fr

Saturday November 30th

Christmas Coffee Morning 10.30

Salle Polyvalente St Léger de la Martinière

Entrance 10€ includes coffee & 1 ticket for **Hamper Draw**

(Hamper tickets also for sale at venue for 5 euros)

Contact: M. Mace 05 49 29 97 81.

Saturday, November 30th

Tea Dance from 4.30

to include **Draw for Grand Christmas Hamper**

Salles de Fetes, Taizie Aizé

Entrance 10 euros (incl 5 euros for Raffle of Hamper)

Details from Carolyn Carter 05 45 84 19 03

**MORE ABOUT THESE NEXT MONTH BUT YOU CAN BUY
YOUR EVENT and HAMPER TICKETS [NOW](#)**



If you're feeling blue (like this tree) because there's no Christmas Fayre this year, here's what you can do:

Contact one or more of the organisers of the November "Hamper" events with any ideas you have to enhance what they're doing and thereby help to raise more money for the Chaplaincy.

OR

You could organise a fundraising event yourself – maybe in your home or your local Salle des Fêtes. It can be massive (if you've got enough people to help!) or it can be small and simple.

There's no competition – just opportunities to HAVE FUN and raise funds.

If you're thinking of setting up an event in November or December, please contact David Hawken who's keeping the Calendar and can advise of any potential clashes.

Don't let lack of experience **hamper** you!

Whatever you do, or don't do, try to go to at least one of the events already planned and don't forget to buy you HAMPER tickets and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same.

I'm dreaming of a White Christmas - yeah, right!

oo

STOP PRESS: Our former Chaplain, Rev'd Adam Boulter has sent a ***Newsletter from Madagascar***. Unfortunately there's no space left in this month's *Jubilate* to publish it, but if you would like to receive a copy, please email the editor:

david.hawken@orange.fr

oo