



Jubilate

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



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

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February 2020

A Message from Rev'd Steven Abram

As we get into the year 2020 with the 'humorous comments' that have been around about being able to have better vision this year, some may be wondering why we see no apparent progress regarding the appointment of a chaplain. Adam and his family left over 6 months ago and although we were well aware that there would be some delay, perhaps it seems to be getting longer than expected.

First, I would encourage ongoing *patience*. This chaplaincy is large and we are reminded regularly that it is larger than Wales with worship centres in moderately rural places. This is a massive area which cannot function as a UK parish or even Team where there are a number of churches under one or two clergy.

Second, I encourage ongoing *prayer*. Those involved in the process of reflection and discussion as to the way forward, those who put in time and effort to maintain the provision of worship for English speaking people, those who support the chaplaincy services and other events – we all need ongoing prayer!

Third, I encourage *persistence*. The early verses of Hebrews 12 seem apt in all respects as we look, work and wait for '2020 vision' regarding the future of the chaplaincy. The whole passage is important but I have put two phrases in bold as of particular encouragement.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**"

Every blessing

Steven

Services in February

DATE	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE
02/02/2020	St Leger	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Courcelles	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Villejésus	10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship
	Civray	6.30 p.m	Come & Worship
09/02/2020	Champagne Mouton	11.00 a.m	Holy Communion
	Jassay	11.00 a.m	Morning Worship
	Jarnac	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
16/02/2020	Magné	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Courcelles	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Barbezieux	10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship
	Champagne Mouton	10:30 a.m	Morning Worship
23/02/2020	Jarnac	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday Before Lent	La Rochefoucauld	10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship
	St Ignatious	3.00 p.m.	Afternoon Worship
	Civray	10.30 a.m.	All-Age Worship
	Civray	4.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (BCP)

Local Wardens Urgently needed

There are several vacancies at our worship centres for **LOCAL WARDENS**. These are the people who are responsible for opening the church/ Salle and making ready for the service. If there are three or four people prepared to take this on at each centre then the job becomes that much easier - in the majority of cases it is only once a month anyway.

If you feel that you could offer a little of your time in this way please contact me - Margaret Mace at margaretmace@icloud.com for a " job description" or a chat before making up your mind.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 14th February - Randonnée Club - L'ISLE JOURDAIN

Jackie and Mike Bigwood will lead us on a circular walk on the outskirts of the town. We will meet on the College "Rene Cassin" parking area, which is on the D11. If you are coming from the Confolens direction, as you enter the town go past Maisonnier D.I.Y store, over the speed bump and the College Parking Area is the 2nd turning on the left just after the bend. From Civray Direction - head into the town centre of L'Isle Jourdain, follow signs to Millac, Absac, Confolens(D11) driving up a narrow one way street(rue des Fontenelles) and keep right at the fork. The College parking Area is the first turning on the right about 50 metres as you drive up the hill. The walk will be mostly level, partly on tracks and partly on quiet tarmacked lanes and will take about 1.5 hours. Jackie's mobile number is 0044 7810 461 901 in case you have a specific enquiry.

As usual meet at 2.00.pm for a 2.15 start.

Monday 17th February *Prayer Meeting*

2.30.pm at the home of David & Marilyn Trigger:

3 rue des Pensées, Vergné 86400 (Savigné)

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

1st Father God, we thank you for the signs that the winter is coming to an end and that life continues beneath the ground. May we be grateful not only for the coming of the spring but the lessons that all our winters bring us.

2nd Lord, we ask you humbly to heal all that is broken in our lives, in our towns and villages, and in our world.

3rd 'O God, to those who have hunger, give bread, and to those who have bread, give the hunger for justice.' (Christian Aid, Latin America)

4th Father we ask that you grant us the words, through your Holy Spirit, that bring life to the broken, the suffering, the addicted, the lonely, and those who long for the fulfilment of your kingdom.

5th Lord, we pray that you will equip us to be your hands and feet in the world.

6th Mother Teresa once said, "Our vocation is to belong to Jesus so completely that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. What you and I must do is nothing less than putting our love for Christ into practice. The important thing is not how much we accomplish, but how much love we put into our deeds every day. That is the measure of our love for God."

7th Father, grant that we may bring good news to all we meet this day, with our words and with our lives.

8th Father God, we thank you that you are King of all creation. You created order out of chaos, help us to hold this truth in our hearts and not to feel despondent by the disorder we see in many parts of our world.

9th Lord today teach us to drop the weapons we carry in our hands, in our hearts, and on our tongues.

10th Lord God, grant us grace to be faithful witnesses to those we encounter today. May we share your love in a way that sparks others to catch your fire.

11th Father God, we know we are bound to you by grace, grafted into your kingdom by love. Help us to recognise your grace in all aspects of our lives and not just when we are happy and comfortable.

12th Lord, today may we share generously with those living in poverty from the abundance that you have given us.

13th Father God, some of us still ask for signs to know what you would have us do and where you call us to go. We ask that you be merciful and reveal yourself to us in manageable ways.

14th "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." *Galatians 5:22-23a*

15th Father God, we ask that you make us bold enough to question injustice, humble enough to submit ourselves to good teaching, and discerning enough to know when it is our turn to lead.

16th Lord, so often we claim to see but by our actions seem to prefer our blindness. Help us to seek and find the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

17th Lord, throughout history you have used the apparently weak to nurture justice, fight poverty, and bravely challenge the norms of the time. Help us to recognise our human weakness and know that when we are weak you still use us to bring your kingdom here on earth.

18th Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability — and that it may take a very long time. Above all, trust in the slow work of God, our loving vine-dresser."

19th Lord, raise us up as servants who are willing to bear one another's burdens. Surround us with others who will help make the burdens lighter. And help us rest in the assurance that you will not put more on our shoulders than we are able to carry.

20th Lord, when you invited Adam to name the animals, you invited us all to participate in your creative work. Teach us to rejoice in your creation and assist in its care, that we, your humble creatures, may in all things give you praise

21st Father God, we know that you never fail us. Even in our suffering and loneliness, help us to hear the whisper of your love. Be our refuge and shelter, and remind us over and over that we are your beloved children.

22nd Teach us to listen, Lord. Quiet the noise of our lives so we can hear your voice.

23rd Father God, today we ask that your Spirit would help us see beauty in everything we touch and see and especially in all the people with whom we come in contact.

24th Lord, each morning we rise is a reminder that our lives are fleeting gifts. But as your children, we are also always moving toward life. May this morning remind us that we are one day closer to the life that lasts forever.

25th Father God, we ask that you stir our hearts and give us visions greater than those we create for ourselves.

26th Father God our provider, all good gifts come from you. Make us so thankful for your gifts that we cannot help but share them with others. Own us as your family as we abandon the stuff of this world for the treasures of your kingdom.

27th Lord, we know that you never fail us. Even in our suffering and loneliness, help us to hear the whisper of your love. Be our refuge and shelter, and remind us over and over that we are your beloved children.

28th Lord, you have shown us what love looks like. Help us through acts of forgiveness and reconciliation to so love one another that our neighbours know we are your disciples and know that to be good news.

29th Merciful God, Make us voices in the wilderness that cry out for your kingdom to come on earth.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Good Friday Passion on the 10th April.

We are going to hold a Good Friday service using words and music taken from of Stainer's "Crucifixion"

Accompanist: Richard Ware

Conductor: David Hawken

The venue will be Alloue Church and the time 3 pm.

This church is between Champagne Mouton and the main road to Confolens.

If you would like to join us in singing this music, please contact Carolyn Carter on 05 45 84 19 03 or carolyncarter462@gmail.com .

CROQUET AFTERNOON

MANSLE

THURSDAY 14TH MAY

More information later, but it doesn't hurt to practise!



The word Jubilate comes from the first word, in Latin, of the 100th Psalm.

'O be Joyful in the Lord all ye lands'

In Advent when we have the themes of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell, it's good to have a subject to write about that is *Joyfull*. Psalm 100 is one of what are known as the pilgrim psalms; hymns that were sung by the Jewish people as they made the required pilgrimage to Jerusalem and it has always been popular in the Christian community. Every priest promises, at ordination, to recite Morning and Evening Prayer daily. After the first lesson at Morning Prayer the Benedictus (Luke 1:68) is to be read but Psalm 100 is offered as an alternative, the Scottish reformers introduced metrical psalms into their worship and Psalm 100 became 'All people that on Earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.' In World War 1 Beer was commonly called 'O be joyful' and Duttons of Blackburn produced a beer named OBJ. and even our parish magazine is called 'Jubilate' ie 'O be joyful'.

Psalm 100 is a great hymn of praise and used by Christians of all persuasions; indeed the whole Psalter is well worth using as a regular source of inspiration and prayer, an insight into the words and phrases so well known to Jesus when he attended the synagogues and the temple during His life.

'O be joyful in the Lord all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God, it is he that has made us and we are His,
we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise,
give thanks to Him and bless His name.'

You can also read 'Jubilate' as well?



(I should think so, too - Ed.)

INTO THE GARDEN

with Jane Thomas

We have had peculiar weather but at the time of writing it is 'normal': sunny but cold! With the warmer weather on some days, plants are growing very early. ***So here are some suggestions of things to do*** -

Fruit: if the ground is not frozen you can dig up and divide large clumps of rhubarb.

Trees and shrubs: now is a very good time to cut back Virginia creeper and ivy from around windows and from the guttering. Wisteria can now be pruned. I heard someone say this if you cut ivy at the very base it would die and not re-grow, an idea I am going to try. Should it snow, knock heavy snow from branches to avoid damage to trees or shrubs.

Vegetables: plant onion sets - I noticed the garden centres have plenty. Now is the time to plant Jerusalem artichokes and asparagus. If you have the time it is very rewarding to grow your asparagus from seed.

Flowers: it is suggested that borders containing bulbs should be cleared of leaves before they start shooting to avoid damaging the 'noses'. Cut back your ornamental grasses down to ground level this will make space for new growth; if you leave it too long it will be difficult to avoid cutting the new shoots. Sow sweet peas seeds indoors ready for spring planting.

Lawns: avoid walking on frosted, or at the moment, waterlogged lawns as this can damage the grass.

Pots: my usual comment - your winter flowers, be they pansies or polyanthus, will still need a small amount of water.

Ponds: just in case you have forgotten, a ball or some other item will keep your pond from freezing completely and allow oxygen to enter.

Pests: at present, with this mild weather, weeds are certainly growing and no doubt the slugs and snails will soon appear, so turning over the earth will aid the birds in finding their eggs and eating them for you.

If your **shed or fence** is in need of a face lift then do it now, before all the plants start growing, using either a stain or wood preservative.

A WEEK OF STRANGE NAMES

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 24th, 25th & 26th February 2020

Clean Monday

Never heard of it? It marks the beginning of "Great Lent" in the Eastern Orthodox churches. Also thought of as the first day of Spring, it is a day of fasting especially from meat, eggs and dairy products. In some countries it is also known as *Green Monday* or *Pure Monday*. The idea is that of spiritual cleansing of heart and mind, ready for the days that follow.

Fat Tuesday

OK – it's *mardi gras*, or in English *Shrove Tuesday*. It's the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent in Western churches. 'Shrove' means being forgiven for wrong-doings.

Mardi Gras, which is French for "Fat Tuesday," is the last day of a season called "Carnival." The Carnival season is characterized by merrymaking, feasting, and dancing. Mardi Gras is the culmination of festivities and features parades, masquerades, and, unfortunately, often drunkenness and shameless debauchery. Carnival is typically celebrated in countries of southern Europe and Latin America. In the UK, Shrove Tuesday is the day for using up all the fatty foods which will not be consumed during Lent, and turning them into pancakes.

A couple of years ago, members of the Catholic community in Couhé held a fundraising "*Crêpes Sans Frontières*".

Ash Wednesday

Throughout Christendom, Ash Wednesday is a day of prayer and fasting. In special church services, ashes – made from last year's palm crosses – are used to mark the sign of the Cross on the believer's forehead.

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy"

Chaplaincy of Christ, the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes, France

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ADVANCE INFORMATION

The Chaplaincy's Annual Meeting will be held in

Charmé (Salle des Fêtes) on Thursday 7th May

This is the meeting at which reports are presented and officers and members are elected to our Council. At least 3 new Council members are needed this year. To be elected, you must be on the Electoral Roll – forms are available on www.church-in-france.com

Please start to **pray now** for this meeting, that God may guide us – and that we will listen to Him – in all matters concerning our future as a Chaplaincy.

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