



Jubilate

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



MARCH 2020

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

CHAPLAINCY WEBSITE: www.church-in-france.com

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Pastoral Letter – from our Assistant Chaplain

Well, here we are at the start of March and the start of Lent. I hope it is not really necessary for me to remind our readers that these weeks are a time of preparation. We prepare ourselves at this time to remember the sacrifice made for us by Jesus on the Cross and we look towards the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

The new Bishop of York invites us to ‘Go for broke’ at this time of year and to enter fully into as much of the action as we can. Either in the Chaplaincy itself or in the churches and *temples* of our French neighbours there should be plenty of opportunity to bring into the here and now the events that happened two millennia ago. If we can we should wave our branches of box hedging, hold high our palm crosses, face the embarrassment of foot washing and mark Good Friday with a sense of sorrow and contrition.

By being present at as much as we can with other Christians and interested onlookers we do truly enter into the events of the past. We, like those first century Jews and onlookers, get caught up in the volatile emotions of the crowd. We find ourselves confronted by our own very mixed motives as we seriously examine ourselves. We find ourselves in moments of stillness aware of our weaknesses and our failures. This is especially true on Good Friday.

I have often found it a little uncomfortable after an Anglican Good Friday service when the traditional hot cross buns are set out on plates and a nice cup of tea is brewed. It just seems to be a clumsy change of gear after such profound liturgy. But I am probably wrong to be so primly pious. Isn't that exactly how it was 2,000 years ago? Another criminal strung up. We thought he was going to be a someone. He turned out be a no-one. Better get home and put the tea on.

Only, God goes for broke and surprises us.

PAUL

SERVICES IN MARCH

Sunday 1st:

Courcelles	10.30	Holy Communion
St.Léger	10.30	Holy Communion
Villejésus	10.30	Holy Communion
Civray	18.30	Come & Worship

Sunday 8th

Champagne Mouton	11.00	Holy Communion
Jarnac	10.30	Holy Communion
Jassay	11.00	Morning Worship

Sunday 15th

Barbezieux	10.30	Holy Communion
Champagne Mouton	10.30	Morning Worship
Courcelles	10.30	Holy Communion
Magné	10.30	Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd

Civray	10.30	All-Age Worship for Mothering Sunday - Followed by <i>apéros</i>
Jarnac	10.30	Holy Communion
La Rochefoucauld	10.30	Morning Worship
		- In the Presbytery next to the Parish Room
Civray	16.00	Evening Prayer (BCP 1662)

Sunday 29th

St Ignatious	15.00	Holy Communion
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You can find the specific addresses of all our church venues of the Chaplaincy website: www.church-in-france.com

THE WAY FORWARD

- A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

Dear Friends

Things are now moving on apace in terms of our deliberations over the future plans for the Chaplaincy following the current interregnum. During the autumn, we invited you to take time to reflect and pray; conversations were held and thoughts developed. We then invited written suggestions on the way forward and circulated a questionnaire with some broad questions to stimulate ideas. Whilst this was happening, your Assistant Chaplain, Wardens and Standing Committee met at various times with the Archdeacon, the Area Dean and the retired clergy who provide the spiritual and pastoral leadership for our Worship Centres.

A number of written inputs and 31 Questionnaire responses were received and reviewed during January by the Assistant Chaplain. His analysis revealed that opinions were diverse, with few clear common threads. Perhaps the two strongest common themes were:

- ‘There was a strong sense of the Chaplaincy being what happens in my area and that the bigger picture did not really have relevance for many worshippers.’
- ‘The Chaplaincy website was seen as currently having an important role in our need to communicate with the whole Chaplaincy and those outside it. There was a strong movement towards making it even better than it is.’

On 14 February, the Archdeacon chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee and retired clergy in order to define a way forward in the light of all the information and input received to date. Of note at that stage was the decision of our Assistant Chaplain to step down from the role at Easter. After the discussion, the Archdeacon wrote formally to the Chaplaincy outlining his proposals that Council should meet very soon in order to decide how it wished to proceed in terms of a possible future Chaplain, with a view to initiating the recruitment procedure straight away should that be the desired outcome.

As you read this, Council will be meeting on 28 February to hold that very discussion.

As things move forward, we will make sure that you, the members of the Chaplaincy, are kept up to date with progress. Developments may occur quickly over the next couple of months, so a further 'Word from the Wardens' will appear as and when needed.

Charlie Wilcock and Margaret Mace

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Introducing the Prayer Labyrinth

Monday 30th March 10.30 am coffee finishing with lunch – FREE

Les Jardins des Arts, 7 Rue des Anciennes Ecoles, 79110 Hanc.

A labyrinth is a prayer pathway we follow from the outside to the centre and back out again. It is a sort of mini pilgrimage. Through walking the pathway, with its twists and turns, we can reflect on our life and what God might be saying to us.

Soup and bread will be provided for lunch. Bring something to share if you wish.

Email bobwhorton@icloud.com with any questions and to book a place

At Les Jardins des Arts we are also offering the following workshops in 2020:

Make a Joyful Noise, Centering Prayer, Your Kingdom Come and Poems Alive.

See our website for full details: <https://lesjardinsdesarts.com>

Bob and Sue Whorton.

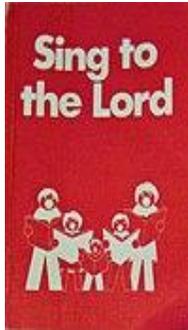
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Coming soonat St Léger

Sunday 5th April

10.30.am

Palm Sunday



St Léger de la Martinière

in the

Espace Maurice Martin

Choose your favourite hymn (from 'Mission Praise') that we can sing together and maybe be prepared to say a few words as to why it is a favourite.

An opportunity to share our experiences and to praise God.

EASTER DAY

The usual 2nd Sunday of the month service at Jassay is replaced by

Holy Communion

10.30.am in the **Church** at St Léger de la Martinière

Followed by a

Bring & Share lunch

at La Malbranchère (near Chey)

by invitation of Don & Margaret Mace

Please contact Margaret to say you're joining in

World Day of Prayer *Journée Mondiale de Prière*

6th March 2020

This year the celebration has been written by the women of Zimbabwe.

“*Lève-toi, prends ton grabat et marche*” John 5, 2-9a.

Women, men and children of all ages are called to '*Rise, take your mat and walk*' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to '*Rise, take your mat and walk*' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

Celebrations in the Poitou-Charentes

16000. Angoulême 06/03/2020 19h L'Eglise St Paul-Ma Campagne, 2 Bd Jean Moulin.

17100 Saintes 06/03/2020 - 18h15 Chapelle de la Providence, entrée par rue Bernard, near the old hospital.

17320 Marennes 06/03/2020 - 18h30 Salle Saint Pierre

79000 Niort - 06/03/2020 20h 30 Carmel de Bessines - Niort

79120 Lezay 06/03/2020 - Eglise Catholique

79300 Bressuire. 06/03/2020 - 17h30. Salle Paroissiale Place Pouzineau

86100. Chatellerault. 06/03/2020 - 18h30. Temple rue Adrienne Duchemin

In October 2020 the France association will be holding its Annual Meeting just north of Poitiers and in 2022 it is the women of England Wales and Northern Ireland who will prepare the celebration

Further information from Elisabeth Barnett (regional correspondent JMP France)

05 46 94 99 25. elisabeth.barnett@wanadoo.fr

This is a chance to meet with and PRAY with Christian women and men of different denominations and nationalities.



Our chaplaincy has the only Mothers Union group in the whole of France and to this end we are hoping not only to maintain numbers but also for it to grow. Although in the past we have had members from all areas of the chaplaincy currently all our members are from the south. Meetings are organised to be as close to members as possible which does mean our venues are constantly changing. We would very much like to see members from all areas of the chaplaincy and will have more information available at the chaplaincy AGM. As a group we are currently fundraising to provide a holiday for a family in need of any nationality as well as supporting refugee families.

Dates for your diaries.

March 3rd: Our AGM at 11.00 am in the home of Sue Wilcock, **2 rue des Acacias, Fiole**, 17120 Floriac. This is followed by a bring and share lunch. All are welcome and we would love to see you there.

May 19th: a visit to the Chateau de la Mercerie with an English speaking guide. Opportunities for a picnic in the extensive grounds prior to the tour.

If anyone would like further information about Mothers Union then please contact either Chris Hands or Sue Wilcock

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Mothing Sunday IS ON March 22nd

It was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. During the Lent fast, people did not eat sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

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Lord Jesus, take from us now everything that would hinder the closest communion with God. Any wish or desire that might hamper us in prayer remove, we pray you. Any memory of either sorrow or care that might hinder the fixing of our affection wholly on our God, take it away now. What have we to do with idols anymore? You have seen and observed us. You know where the difficulty lies. Help us against it, and may we now come boldly, not in the holy place alone, but in the holiest of all, where we should not dare to come if our great Lord had not torn the veil, sprinkled the mercy seat with his own blood, and asked us to enter.

Charles Spurgeon

1st Lord Jesus, thank you that you clothe us in your righteousness, so we may enter the throne room of Father God, as His beloved children.

2nd Holy Spirit, we thank you for your divine revelation of the completed work of the cross. Help us to live as 'Easter People' confident in the knowledge that Jesus is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords.'

3rd Father God, we thank you for your abundant provision of food and clean water. Help us to be willing to be share our wealth with those less fortunate than ourselves.

4th Father God, we thank you for the beauty of Your 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, and heal their bodies, minds and emotions. May they be spiritually aware of your presence and may they know your comfort and strength. Help us to be aware of the needs of those we encounter, and be there to listen and help.

6th Father God, we pray for all who find themselves lost in a dark place. We ask that they may encounter Jesus and His healing work.

7th 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.

9th Father God, we lift before You our concerns over nuclear and chemical weapons.

10th Father God, we pray for all those in positions of leadership.

11th Lord Jesus, thank you that You laid down your life, so we may experience forgiveness and a meaningful relationship with Father God.

12th Holy Spirit, we thank you for your presence in our lives.

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 uncertain future.

14th Father God, help us to demonstrate 'Jesus' to others by our words and actions. (Slow to anger and judge, and quick to forgive and restore broken relationships.)

15th Father God, when we encounter distress and hurt in others, may we be willing to listen to their anguish and pray for their situations.

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 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 takes 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 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.

26th Lord Jesus, help us always to have compassion and empathy towards those who come across our path.

27th Lord Jesus, teach us how to be good stewards of all that you have given us.

28th Father God, we pray for all Christians who are facing difficult challenges in their lives.

29th Father, we thank you for your word, *'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'* - Jeremiah 29:11.

30th Father God, we thank you that You are a 'Strong Tower' for the righteous. Whenever we experience fear or anxiety, you are there for us.

31st Father God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit, we praise and bless You for the revelation of Your Kingdom and Eternity.

A MEETING FOR PRAYER WILL BE HELD ON

Monday 16th March at 2.30.pm

At 3 rue des Pensées, VERGNE, 86400 (Savigné)



I have given up talking about the weather as every day it seems to be different!

Things to do:

Fruit : feed all established fruit trees, bushes and soft fruits including strawberries with a fertiliser rich in potash; this nutrient promotes flowering and fruiting.

Trees and shrubs : this is the time to prune your winter flowering jasmine and to train new shoots onto a support.

Vegetables : sow French beans in large pots - this will enable you to harvest several weeks before those planted out in the garden. If you plant your cucumber seeds now in pots in the greenhouse you should be able to pick the fruit by early June.

If you started the process of growing aubergines, here is the second stage: The seeds should have germinated within 2-3 weeks; once the leaves have fully expanded prick out individual seedlings and pot them into 7 cm pot. Only handle by the seed leaf to avoid crushing the stem.

Flowers If you forced your dahlias last month they should be ready for you to take cuttings the cutting should take about three weeks to root and can then be grown on in individual pots. The pansies and primulas, if deadheaded, will continue to provide flowers, assuming they have survived the arctic temperatures.

Lawns : if at last you can access you lawn, it is a good time to redefine your edges and borders in preparation for Spring.

Pots .:Any shrubs that you have in pots could do with a 'lift'! Scrape off the surface soil and replenish with fresh compost.

Pests : now is a good time to think about the slugs and snails that will be appearing ready to eat your young shoots! Think about copper rings or organic pellets. I have seen copper rings in my local garden centre but as yet no organic pellets. Keep a look out for mice infestation in your greenhouse or shed; they are very partial to any seeds you have left there. Lastly treat paths and drives with a long lasting residual weed killer to keep these areas weed free for the coming year.

BOOK REVIEW by Rev'd Paul Knight

“The Lost Message of Paul” by Steve Chalke
published by SPCK ISBN 9 7802810794007 Available on line for £8.19

If you want a suggestion for what to do with the dark gloomy evenings of late winter how about making your favourite drink, finding a not too comfy chair and slowly making your way through this book.



It is not an easy read. It contains some dense theology; hence the suggestion of taking it at a moderate pace. Nor is it an easy read if you would rather not have your post reformation understanding of the Christian faith shaken up a bit. It is not an easy read if you like simple solutions to complex problems. But everything is carefully explained so that arcane theological terms become user friendly.

Steve Chalke, a Baptist minister, starts from the premise that God is love and that the best understanding of the love of God is to be found in the birth, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus. The outworking of those fundamentals is found and explored in the writings of St Paul and Steve Chalke's purpose in writing this book is to take us back to what Paul actually wrote and not what we think he wrote.

You may find this book challenging if you have never really questioned why you believe as you do. If you have questions about the nature of God and salvation for which you haven't yet had good answers, you may find this book comforting. On both counts the book is worth the investment of a few pounds and several hours of prayerful thought.

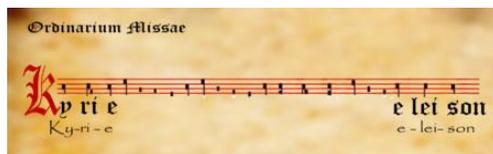
Sandy Borthwick's Church Alphabet

K is for Kyrie Eleison (Keereey Elayeeson)

Greek for 'Lord have Mercy'

In the early Church of the 2nd Century it was the custom for the deacon to say a litany with the congregation. This was particularly true in the East but less common in Rome and the West. Part of the congregational response to the litany was the chant Kyrie Eleison a phrase which became part of the Eastern Eucharist. By the 4th Century the Kyries were common in the Eastern Church but the custom of singing the words in Greek didn't reach France until the fourth century.

The Latin Mass continued the custom and at the reformation the Kyries were included in the Prayer Book of 1549 albeit in an English translation. Also the English translation was ordered to be said during Morning and Evening Prayer, after the Creed and also during the Litany as well as the Eucharist. By the time of the Prayer Book of 1552 Archbishop Cranmer was anxious to appease the Protestants and so substituted the Ten Commandments in the place where the Kyries were said however he contrived to keep them alive by having a response to each commandment that included the phrase '**Lord have mercy upon us**'. The later revisions of the Prayer Book provided a '*Summary of the Law*' with a response **Amen Lord have Mercy** and the Common Worship revision restores the Kyries in a sixfold form **Lord have mercy (2) Christ have mercy (2) Lord have mercy (2)**.



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

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Charente East *Vacant*

West Charente
and Charente Maritime *Vacant*

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ADVANCE NOTICES

Thursday 7th May

10.30.am Salle des Fêtes CHARME (16140)

(on the D 736 between Aigre & Ruffec)

Chaplaincy Annual Meeting

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Thursday 14th May - CROQUET AFTERNOON in Mansle

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More details in next month's issue of *JUBILATE*