



# Jubilate

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



**Chaplain: Rev'd Adam Boulter**

**July 2019**



This month's featured church is St Nicholas in COURCELLES

## **FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK**



Endings are odd things; they tend to seem so far off when they are set, then suddenly they are upon us. So we find ourselves facing our imminent departure, which is at the same time, exciting and alarming. It feels like we are on a great adventure, with no very clear expectations for the future

Yet I can't help thinking that the Christian path is meant to be like that. We are called to the great adventure of faith, letting go of our desires and preferences, and walking in the way of Christ.

We are called to love one another and that is one of the greatest adventures of all, as we discover that no one is who we thought they are and that we ourselves are a mystery to ourselves.

We are called to walk in the love of God, both being directed by his love and learning to love him.

What could be a greater adventure than that?

We are, in short, called to live the great Christian adventure of faith, hope and love.

So as I leave you, my prayer for you is that you will all live your faith adventurously, showing love for all, and first and foremost for God.

Many blessings                      Adam

## Church Services in July

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>:

Courcelles (17400)	10.30	Holy Communion
St Léger de la Martinière (79500)	10.30	Morning Worship
Villejésus (16140)	10.30	Holy Communion*

- At this service, Roy Carter will be commissioned in his new role as Evangelist in the Chaplaincy

Civray (86400) “Come and Worship” at 18.30

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>:

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

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>:

Barbezieux (16300)	10.30	Morning Worship
Champagne Mouton (16350)	10.30	Morning Worship
Courcelles (17400)	10.30	Holy Communion
Magné (86160)	10.30	Holy Communion

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:

Civray (86400)	10.30	All-Age Worship
Jarnac (16200)	10.30	Holy Communion
La Rochefoucauld (16110)	10.30	Morning Worship
Pompaire (79200)	11.00	Holy Communion
Civray (86400)	<b>18.30</b>	Evening Prayer (BCP)

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Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August: in addition to our regular Sunday services .....

In St Nicholas Church, Civray, at 17.00, there will be a service of **CHORAL EVENSONG**, sung in the Anglican Choral Tradition by the Choir of All Saints Church, Northampton.

While we're on a musical theme (see Page 3), here is this month's

## **HYMN CHOICE**

from Stephanie Sheldon

I've always loved the hymn "*O Jesus I have promised*" The words reaffirm faith when sometimes I need it. When choosing the hymns for my mother's funeral this seemed to be an obvious choice. The words are appropriate and the tune easy to sing, which I think is essential for a funeral. The tune, familiar to me from childhood but I knew nothing about it. Imagine my surprise when the Vicar pointed out that the music had been written by William Ferguson whilst he was working in Oxford and living in the village of Wolvercote. This is the village that my mother moved to around 1945 in order to be near her mother whilst my father was in the R.A.F. and where they, and later I, lived until 1958. A coincidence - or - God giving me a comforting hand?

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

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**If there's a hymn that means something special to you, and you would like to share your thoughts with other *Jubilate* readers, please send your choice and your musing to the Editor: [david.hawken@orange.fr](mailto:david.hawken@orange.fr)**

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At the moment I am writing this it is raining, there is no fear of water shortages and I imagine all your water butts are full.

(Ed: as the magazine is being put together, we have entered a *canicule*!)

### **Things to do:**

**Fruit:** cane fruits can give you an abundant harvest with these simple rules. Water and feed well, use a high potash fertiliser; this aids fruit development and promotes strong canes for next year's fruit. Protect from the birds, else they will enjoy the fruit and not you. Tie in any new canes to give them support, and lastly after fruiting cut down the canes to their base.

**Trees and shrubs:** it is the time to start and prune out all wisteria shoots. These are the whippy shoots that are offspring of the mature branches. Prune the shoots back by 15-20cm; in the winter these are to be shortened further to encourage flowers next year. If your wisteria is not as large as you would like then do not prune. If we have a hot spell in July then do not plant any new trees, shrubs or perennials as they will need vast amounts of water to keep them alive and viable.

**Vegetables:** at this moment in time I do not need to remind you that the vegetable plants will need water, especially as soon as the rain stops and the sun comes out.

**Flowers:** a weekly job is to dead head all your flowers and stop them from forming seed heads; this will ensure flowers throughout the summer - including your pelargoniums and definitely your sweet peas. Whereas with some flowers deadheading means you do not get unwanted seedlings next year.

**Lawns:** with all this rain mine is growing apace but should summer arrive then this is not the time to lay new turf or sow a new lawn until the weather is cooler and showery, normally September, but we will have to wait and see. When you have cut the grass do not add all the cutting onto the compost heap en masse rather mix with plenty of dry materials including newspaper, this will prevent the grass from turning into a wet sludge.

**Pots:** the usual summer mantra, keep watered to encourage flowers.

**Ponds:** To top up the water level of your ponds and bubble fountains, try and use rain water for the pond so prevent the additives that are in tap water affecting your wild life.

**Pests:** try and weed little and often to prevent the weeds setting seeds. In the wet weather deal with slugs and snails!



# PRAYER MEETING

The regular day, time and venue for the monthly prayer meeting:

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month - this month: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2.30.pm

3 rue des Pensées, VERGNE, 86400, Savigné.

If there's any change, we'll tell you.

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## TOGETHER IN PRAYER

**Theme for July: *Keeping Close to God***

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> In the midst of life's problems, we thank you Lord, that you are always there.

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> We trust in You Lord, and know that You will be our strength each day.

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> *'Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'*

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> We thank you Lord, for all of our talents which You have created in us.

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Help me Lord, to be what You want me to be. You are the potter, I am the clay.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> It matters not what life may bring, for Jesus cares for me and comforts me.

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> We thank you Lord, for our spiritual gifts. Help us to use them to work together in our Christian community.

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Before our burdens overcome us, trust God to put His arms around us.

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Dear Lord, help us to love unconditionally, expecting nothing in return.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> When we depend on God to help us through our difficulties, we are empowered to persevere.

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dear God, show us possible doors of service that open for us to obey Your call.

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> When we are overwhelmed and worried only God can still our hearts, so turn to Him.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 'When life's journey gets so difficult, that it feels too much to bear, just remember, we don't walk alone. Almighty God is there.' (Anon)

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Christians stand strong when they stand together, so thank you, Lord, for our Christian friends.

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> *'Be still and know that I am God.'*  
Without rest we cannot be spiritually healthy.

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> When we hear You call us Lord, help us to listen and respond.

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dear God, we pray for those in our families who do not know You yet.

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Help us to care for one another, Lord, and reach out to those who are vulnerable.

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Lord, I want to be committed to You.  
I want to love You with my whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides us and shows us the way.

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Holy Spirit, help us to hear your inner promptings and make the right choices.



Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> We thank you Father, that You know us so well that You choose the perfect time to give us what is best.

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Father, when we pray to You we often want some answers quickly. Help us to accept Your timing.

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Fill us Lord, with Your Holy Spirit so that we may touch the lives of others and point them to You.

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> 'When our hearts grow weary, when our spirits dim, He will go before us. Leave it all to Him.' (Anon)

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> When we confidently entrust everything to God, we can 'rest in the Lord'.

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Father, I know that I cannot hide my sins from You for You know what is in my heart. I confess them now. Forgive me, I pray.

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> With God behind you and His arms beneath you, you can face whatever lies ahead of you.

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Help us to remember that when we step out in faith, You will provide the power to obey.

Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Lord, help us to see how much we need each other in our Christian walk.

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Thank You Lord, for walking with us every day. May we sense Your loving presence and know that You are close by our side.



Count down has begun for the **Chaplaincy Garden party.**

Come to La Serpouillere 16450 Beaulieu-sur-Sonnette.

**on the 6th of July between 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm.**

Full afternoon tea will be available for 5 euros.

Come and celebrate and socialise, play games, listen to the talented buskers and eat cake.

Look forward to seeing you there....



## PAUL KNIGHT'S BOOK REVIEW

### **"The Road to Grantchester"** by James Runcie

Printed by Bloomsbury Press ISBN 978-1-4088-8685-4 Price : under £10 on line

If you've watched the UK television Grantchester you will have enjoyed stories of the priest turned sleuth, Sidney Chambers, and his life in the fictional post war parish of Grantchester. The series originated in a set of novels by James Runcie who has now written a prequel to the books and which I commend to for your summer reading in a hammock, under a cherry tree with a glass of something cool and refreshing.

The story briefly takes us back to Sidney's late teenage life, on to university and then into the horrors of the Second World War, particularly the fighting in Italy and the battle for Monte Cassino. It is in the carnage of war, in the possibility of accidentally killing his best friend and in being wounded himself that Sidney finds a nascent Christian faith. On returning to England he needs to find a purpose for his life and he cannot shake the possibility that God is calling to him ordination. This does not come without cost; cost to himself, his family and his closest friendships.

Those of you know a little about the author will be aware that his father, Robert Runcie, prior to being the Archbishop of Canterbury was, like Sidney Chambers, a decorated war hero. If James Runcie drew on his father's reminiscences of the war and the place of faith in the face appalling slaughter, this book is a fitting tribute to his memory.

The life of post war Britain is cleverly evoked. The story is tenderly told without pulling any punches and holds a mirror to the inner turmoil that faith lived in extreme circumstances can give rise to. It is a work of fiction that speaks to the reality of Christian vocation.

I think you will enjoy it on many levels.

## **Chaplaincy Randonnée Club**

### **Friday 12 July- ANSAC SUR VIENNE**

Jennifer Retief has offered to lead this walk through the surrounding countryside. It will be preceded by a “bring your own” picnic “ensemble” for those who wish to come. Please meet at the picnic area by the Vienne at 1.00pm.

#### **Directions to picnic area at Ansac-sur-Vienne 16500**

From Confolens take the D952 Ansac sur Vienne road (the Reclamation Yard is on this road). Once in Ansac look out for the pharmacy sign on left hand side. Take left turn into Ansac square. Pass in front of the Mairie and follow the Manot road sign. Take the next left hand turn just before the cemetery/blind corner marked Rue de Lavandiere. At T-junction (a new build in front of one) take the next track to your right marked Alle du Gue. There is a bar across to limit high vehicles etc. The Alle du Gue leads to the Ansac public picnic area beside the weir/Vienne river. There are fixed benches/tables available.

PS. There will be toilet facilities available at Jennifer's house.

**The walk** will depart from the picnic area at 2.15 p.m. and will cross over La Vienne via the iron bridge and up a steep rise before turning right for La Brousse on D310. Half-way there we take a right turn through the countryside to La Charpetie, then a short stretch on a tarred road, D59. Off road once more through La Gouline to Villechaise where there is a small bourgeoisie mansion. Cross the D59 and return via La Brousse for tea *Chez-Jennifer*.

**August:** There will not be a walk in August. “Happy Holidays Everyone”: we will recommence our programme in September.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR THE CHAPLAINCY

MAY QUIZ & CREAM TEA

At Jassay

Amount raised for Chaplaincy Funds: **341.40** euros

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Here's a date for your diary



Donations to The Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd

The Diocese is a unit of Church administration which is governed by a Bishop. He is assisted by Assistant Bishop(s), Archdeacons, Deans, sometimes called Rural Deans or Borough Deans, and the Parish Clergy. In the 6th Century of the Early Church the local congregation tended to be urban and the title for the faithful was just called *Church*, which means the 'Gathering'. Each church was under a 'Presbyter', but as the church grew the presbyter gained assistants. Gradually the term parish was used for the area and in the Eastern Orthodox Church this is the word used for an area under a Bishop. Eventually the chief presbyter became known as a Bishop and the inferior clergy known as priests. In the West the Bishop's charge became known as a Diocese. This occurred over many years but had become established by the 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

There is something to be said for the idea that there are only priests, or presbyters, and that the Bishop is the chief priest. The Anglican Church also has Deacons who tend to be trainee priests in their first year in a parish. In the Catholic church, Deacons are seminarians in their latter years at college.

The Book of Common Prayer makes a distinction: Bishops are 'Consecrated': Priests are 'Ordained': Deacons are 'Made'.

Thus here in the Diocese of Europe we have a Diocesan Bishop with an Assistant Bishop, aided by Archdeacons such as the Archdeacon of France. There used to be two Archdeacons in France, one of whom had the wonderful title of Archdeacon of the Riviera. Then there are the Parishes each served by a Chaplain, (see last month).

All of whom, from the Bishop to the Chaplain are priests.

The Diocese in Europe stretches from Turkey to Spain and from Norway to Morocco, quite a large area. The Diocesan officials look after such aspects of church life as, Safeguarding, appointing new clergy, setting the Diocesan Quota ; the amount each parish has to pay into the central funds, and the general day to day running of this European wide organization.

It is easy to forget that we are not just the 'parish' of the Poitou Charentes but are all part of a larger organization which is World-wide, International, and founded on Jesus and the Apostles...One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

*God our Father, do not consider our sins but the faith of your church and grant her that peace and unity which is in accordance with Your will.*

### **WANTED : TREASURE !**

Or at least, **Treasurer**. At the AGM our current Treasurer, William Jones, declared that he was going to stand down after this year. This was on the basis of probity, having been in the post for five years. To prepare ourselves for this, we are looking to find a treasurer in waiting now, who will be able to shadow William for his remaining time in the role, ensuring a seamless transfer next year. We do not need a financial expert or any particular experience, just a conscientious person with an eye for detail. Although it may be easier to use a spreadsheet, even this is not essential; paper, pen and calculator would be perfectly acceptable. The new Treasurer must feel free to do it in a way that is comfortable, and not necessarily in the way it was done before. This is an important role, rewarding to the individual, and essential to the life of the Chaplaincy. If you feel you could give it a go, just put your hand up and contact William, or one of the Chaplaincy Wardens, for a first chat. We will be pleased to discuss and explore your interest without any immediate commitment.

## Where we worship

Our featured church this month is St Nicholas Courcelles (17400)

GPS coordinates: 45°57'13"N 0°28'19"W



We are indebted to **Pat Jenkins** for the following “potted history”

We travelled around St.Jean d'Angely before we were finally granted permission to use the beautiful little church in Courcelles.

When Michael Hepper asked a group of us to look into establishing a church in St. Jean we wrote letters to everyone in the local directory with British sounding names. With around 60 positive responses we established our church in a converted barn of a holiday centre. It proved very successful and encouraged holiday makers to join us. When the owners decided to sell up, we sought shelter in a room at the Abbey in St. Jean town, I'm not sure we were particularly welcome and when they kept putting the rent up we knew we had to seek something more permanent.



By then we had built up a good relationship with all the other churches in St. Jean - the Catholics and the Protestants. We held combined services for Christian Unity and for the Christmas Carol Services. Père Bigot was very sympathetic and offered us the choice of three churches that they rarely used. The best for us with sufficient parking was at Courcelles. The only thing we missed were toilets but the Salle Polyvalente was next door.

Alan and I approached the mayor about using the toilets there and at our first service he was there to open everything for us. He has done this twice a month for our services ever since.

We met with the Courcelles villagers before we started there and Père Bigot produced a letter from the Bishop of La Rochelle welcoming us and saying how happy he was to share the church with fellow Christians.

All the churches in St. Jean now meet with us there for the Carol Service each year and the mayor lets us use one of the rooms in the Salle Polyvalente for Christmas aperitifs afterwards,

The church is not large but pretty. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas and one of the stained glass windows behind the altar depicts St. Nicholas and the three virgins that he helped with money for dowries so that they didn't have to be sold into prostitution. There is a tale that the money was left in the hearth on three different nights and there is a belief that this led to the idea of Father Christmas coming down the chimney.

The church itself dates from the 12th century, though the building has changed through the years. Père Bigot has now retired but the two new priests who have taken over the Aulnay and St. Jean areas have proved to be just as welcoming. As far as Père Le Lievre and Père Sureau are concerned, we are all part of one large Christian Family.

Services on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at 10.30.am

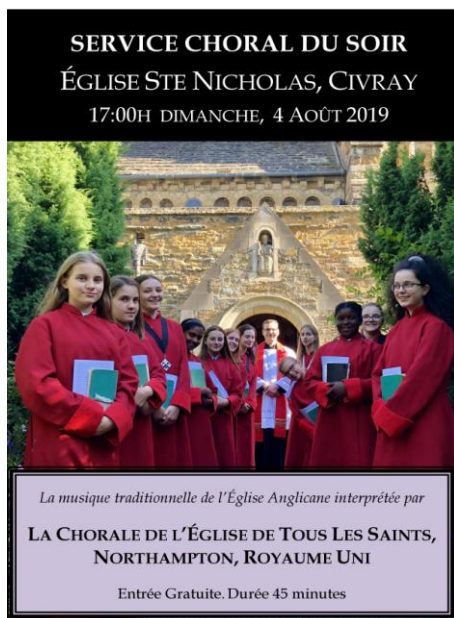
## **A MUSICAL AND SPIRITUAL TREAT, JUST FOR US**

**On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, the boys' and girls' combined choirs of All Saints Church, Northampton (under their Director of Music, Jem Lowther) are coming to CIVRAY to sing Choral Evensong for us.**

This service will conclude their visit to the region where they will give concerts in Ste Radegonde, Poitiers, and St Jean Baptiste, Châtellerault. On Sunday morning they will sing Mass in Poitiers Cathedral and then come on to lead worship in our Chaplaincy.

Please come and support them and let them lead us in traditional Anglican liturgy and music.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 5.00.pm St Nicholas Church**





The CROQUET afternoon in Mansle has had to be postponed but don't stop whacking (or whatever the technical term is) because we hope it can be reinstated sometime in September.

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We are aware that some people might want to organise an event to raise needed funds for the Chaplaincy, but are not quite sure how to go about it, or when might be the right time.

Events do not have to be massive - something in your home or garden might do just as well as a large party.

If you think you would like to get involved in some fundraising, why not contact either John Britten (Tel: 05 49 87 52 75) or David Hawken (05 49 07 53 20)

Either of them will be pleased to advise you (should you require advice), discuss suitable dates, and put you in touch with others of similar mindset, so that you don't have to do it all alone.

You never know - you might even have fun!

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

**Chaplain:** The Rev'd Adam Boulter      [adamboulter@cantab.net](mailto:adamboulter@cantab.net)  
**Assistant Chaplain:** The Rev'd Paul Knight      [revknight@orange.fr](mailto:revknight@orange.fr)

**Office:** 2, Place Gambetta, 86400 Civray.      Tel: **05 49 97 04 21**  
The office is usually open Monday, Tuesday & Friday mornings.

Email: [office.goodshepherd@orange.fr](mailto:office.goodshepherd@orange.fr)

Admin. Assistant: Valérie Pétry

### **Chaplaincy Wardens :**

Margaret Mace	<a href="mailto:margaretmace@icloud.com">margaretmace@icloud.com</a>	05 49 29 97 81
Charlie Wilcock	<a href="mailto:charliedoc22@gmail.com">charliedoc22@gmail.com</a>	05 46 91 07 71

### **Area Wardens**

*Deux-Sèvres:*

Geoff Cornwall	<a href="mailto:gcfrance@live.com">gcfrance@live.com</a>	05 49 63 06 31
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*Vienne:*

Jane Thomas	<a href="mailto:jane.thomas.864@gmail.com">jane.thomas.864@gmail.com</a>	05 49 48 99 48
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*Charente East*

*Vacant*

*West Charente*

*and Charente Maritime*

*Vacant*

CHAPLAINCY WEBSITE: [www.church-in-france.com](http://www.church-in-france.com)

#### **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**