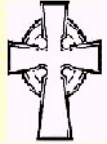




CHRIST CHURCH, BRITTANY

To know Jesus Christ and make him known



CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

Ploërmel + Nantes + Huelgoat + Rostrenen
'To know Jesus Christ and make Him Known'

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Newsletter January 2008

Prayer focus

That we may be true disciples, remembering our mission statement:
"To know Jesus and to make Him known".

For those planning the visit of Bishop Geoffrey.

For all the ecumenical services being planned for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: that through them we may continue to grow with our fellow Christians.

CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY – PART OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)

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Extracts from CCB Council Meeting held on 25th October 2007

- Fire extinguishers have been purchased and located as per guidelines.
- An inventory of articles owned by Christ Church is to be finalised.
- The possible purchase of audio equipment for the chapel were discussed and are ongoing.
- Interest in a Mother and Toddlers group has been expressed after the baptisms earlier this year. The Council agreed to purchase rugs and a cupboard should this go ahead.

- Revision of the Electoral Roll will close two weeks before the AGM on 16th March 2008.
- Hazel circulated a graph indicating attendance figures/offerings received during 2006, will be helpful in preparing next years budget.
- Details of itinerary for Bishop Geoffrey's visit were discussed and were subject to final confirmation from the Diocese as to the mode and timing of travel by the Bishop.
- The goals for Christ Church were discussed and amended as appropriate.
- A note of thanks is to be sent to Barbara and Terry Woodford following all their hard work for the Guy Fawkes party.

'The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those held by the Minister or Council of Christ Church Brittany'

Services for January/February

December

30th 11-00 A Service of the Word.

January

6th 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One

13th 09.30 Holy Communion - Order Two

 11.00 Prayer and Praise

20th 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One (Note: Bishop Geoffrey will preside at this service and it will be followed by a special shared lunch.)

27th 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One

February

3rd 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One

Rostrenen (formerly Bonen) - Chapelle de Manoir de Campastal.

January

27th 10-30 Holy Communion - Order One

Huelgoat NB SERVICE MOVES TO SUNDAY time remains at 16-30

January

13th 16.30 Holy Communion - Order One

For further information about any of the services please get in touch with The Revd Hazel Door, Churchwarden or Reader.

Other dates for your diary

Fellowship Meeting – January 2008

St Vran

Fellowship meeting dates for January are 3rd and 17th starting with a shared lunch. All welcome. For further information please contact Joyce and Alex Fraser on 02 96 56 13 22.

Alpha Course

Val Smith has to return to the UK for family reasons for the early part of the planned Alpha Course and it has been decided therefore to postpone the commencement of the course until April. There was concern that continuity of leadership of the course could not be maintained and postponement will also help with a possible conflict with the leadership of Lent Courses that will be running prior to Easter. A revised commencement date for the course will be announced as soon as possible. If you require further information in respect of the Alpha Course please contact Hazel, Door, the Wardens or Val Smith.

Visit of Bishop Geoffrey - 19/21st January 2008

A reminder that we will be receiving a visit from Bishop Geoffrey, our Diocesan Bishop, early in the New Year. The Bishop will be presiding at Holy Communion on Sunday 20th January 2008, which will commence at the normal time of 11.00am. The service will be followed by a special shared

lunch when the Bishop will have the opportunity to meet as many of the congregation as possible. Later that day there will be a Christ Church Council meeting when he will meet with your Council Members.

Other Matters

RESTOS DU COEUR

On Advent Sunday Madame Bernadette Cieslak came to fetch the items collected at Ploërmel and Bonen. On behalf of the Restos du Coeur at Ploërmel she thanks everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Your gifts will help needy families and individuals survive during the worst of the winter months.

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Do you need help with reading and understanding the Bible? If so, the Bible Reading Fellowship publishes three times a year sets of helpful notes which are available through Christ Church. As long as we have a minimum order of five sets we receive them post free which represents a considerable saving. There are three different series:

New Daylight offers each day a short Bible passage with printed text, a thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection.

Guidelines are arranged in weekly sections and offers in-depth study and comment on biblical books and themes, plus an introduction and points for thought and prayer.

Day by Day with God provides a short printed daily Bible passage, explained and commented on by women writers with other women in mind.

Both **New Daylight** and **Guidelines** also contain the BRF magazine with articles and book extracts.

The BRF year starts in May but it is also possible to start subscribing in January. Sample notes may be seen at Ploërmel or Rostrenen. **Annual** subscriptions are as follows:

New Daylight & Guidelines £13.35

Day by Day with God £13.80

If you wish to subscribe please contact Laura Hillman by e-mail at kermoran@wanadoo.fr, telephone 02 97 51 74 26 or pick up a form at church and send it to Kermoran, 56310 Bubry.

Annual General Meeting 2008 and Electoral Roll Revision.

As announced in the last Newsletter the 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 16th March 2008, immediately following the service.

Elections will take place at the AGM for the following:

1. Two Churchwardens – A Churchwarden's term of office is for 1 year only. The election of the Churchwardens takes place before the commencement of the AGM and only if there are more than two Churchwardens nominated will a vote be necessary. The nominee, proposer and seconder, must all be members of the electoral roll and nominations must be received no later than the day before the meeting.
2. Elected Council members - Last year it was agreed at the AGM that all Elected Members terms of office would be for 1 year only and each must therefore apply for re-election. The number of members to be elected depends on the size of the Electoral Roll and on present numbers 9 members can be elected. Nominations can be accepted up to the start of the meeting. The nominee, proposer and seconder, must all be members of the electoral roll, and nominations must be received before the meeting. If nine or less are nominated no voting will take place. If more then a vote will take place.
3. Archdeaconry Synod Representatives – We wish to elect two Representatives and their term of office is for three years. Those elected will take office in June 2008. The two Representatives become ex-officio members of the Council.
4. Independent Examiner – We will wish to elect an independent examiner, whose term of office lasts for one year and who audits the accounts and financial statements. The Independent Examiner is not a member of Council.
5. Sidesmen – This year the Council would like to appoint a number of Sidesmen (male or female) to be elected at the AGM. Sidesmen will not be members of the Church Council.

The Electoral Roll is mentioned in a number of places above and it is emphasised again that only those whose names are on the Roll will be entitled to vote. A new Electoral Roll was produced for the 2007 AGM and you need do nothing more if your name is on there; you will be entitled to

vote at the AGM. If you are uncertain if you are on the Roll please check with Don Dykes (Electoral Roll Officer).

If you are not on the Roll and you would like to be so; then please ask Don Dykes for the appropriate form. The criteria for applying to be on the Roll are as follows:

1. You are aged over 16 years and have been baptized.
2. You have signed an application form (obtainable from Don Dykes).
3. You are a member of the Church of England or of any church in communion with the Church of England and you have attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to application for enrolment.

The Council will revise the current Electoral Roll with a closing date on 25th February 2008, so if you need to apply you must do so before this date if you wish to vote at the next AGM.

La Source

The following is an extract from a Newsletter being sent to all La Source members:

We are pleased to inform you that La Source is progressing well. The revised Statutes have now been registered with the Préfecture and our outreach is growing with other organisations now using the premises. There is also a plan being discussed for the meeting room to be used by a Mother and Toddler group, which would be good news indeed.

It is also time to remind you that the 2008 Yearly Subscription for La Source/Library is now due. Please call in at your earliest convenience to renew same and to receive your new Membership Card. (If payment is not made by 31st January 2008 membership will lapse)

Membership fees are now as follows:-

Full membership of La Source
(which includes voting rights) 12 Euros yearly.

Library membership only (no voting rights) 10 Euros yearly.

Due to the fall-off in numbers using La Source during the winter period please note our official opening times have been altered to:-

Mondays 2 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays 10 am to 12 mid-day
Fridays 10 am to 12 mid-day

Whilst writing all the team at La Source would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you and yours a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

and finally.....

Once the dust has settled from Christmas, what do we take into the New Year?? Sighs of relief, larger than usual refuse sacks? New resolutions to lose weight following some over indulging? What about those resolutions? Only once have I managed to keep a resolution throughout a whole year! That was not to buy any clothes that were blue in colour. By the end of the year my wardrobe was a rainbow of colours. Colour is important in our lives, variety is important too, otherwise we become stale and settle into a rut where we are comfortable, and when that comfort is challenged we feel insecure and become defensive. So, then, how can we face challenges ourselves? God through Jesus challenges us everyday. His commandment to love one another should be a daily challenge, one we must confront; in order that we can be seen as visible witnesses to the One who died to redeem our sins. This is a challenge we cannot shy away from, we cannot shrug our shoulders and say wryly too bad. If we do, we are not only failing ourselves but failing our Saviour, who gave his life for us.

This month I shall have been serving Christ through you and with you in this place called Brittany. There have been times of great joy, times of sorrow, moments of frustration, moments of triumph, and all the ups and downs that we call human living. Every moment has been savoured and valued. The good and the bad, as well as the brightly coloured and the dull grey. They are all a part of living in the knowledge and love of God. The following is attributed to Benjamin Malachi Franklin:

<p>My life is but a weaving, between my God and me, I do not choose the colours, He worketh steadily.</p> <p>Of times he weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.</p>	<p>Not till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly, Will God unroll the canvas, and explain the reasons why</p> <p>The dark threads are as needful in the skilful weaver's hand As threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.</p>
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I wonder if those lines go a little way to explaining the importance of variety in our lives, it doesn't hurt to be in a rut, in fact it's probably the safest, though dullest place to be. Christ didn't chose safety, Jesus challenges us all to live our lives to the fullest, to put our heads over the parapet and to confront our fears, Matthew 28 19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." So even though we may be comfortable in that rut we know we have His constant love and presence; helping us to face those challenges and our selves. Remember that rainbow; it's not in shades of grey!

Blessings: Hazel

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the February 2008 issue, please email your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 21st January 2008. Many thanks.