



CHRIST CHURCH, BRITTANY

To know Jesus Christ and make him known



CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY
Ploërmel + Nantes + Huelgoat + Bonen
'To know Jesus Christ and make Him Known'

La Source, 16 place de Lamennais, Ploërmel, Tel: 02 97 74 24 82

December 2006 - Prayer focus:

- Pray that the carol services taking place this month at Locarn, Huelgoat and Ploërmel may be a time of sharing and outreach.
- Pray for our friends and families as we meet together to celebrate the birthday of our Lord.
- Pray for the continuing development of Christ Church as we await the arrival of our new priest-in-charge.

CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY – PART OF THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND) AND SUPPORTED BY ICS (THE
INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY)

Website: christchurchbrittany.org.uk

Priest-in-Charge:
Reader:

Currently vacant
Robin Hillman
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Clergy with permission
to officiate:

The Revd Michael Grainger,
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The Revd Dr John Marvell,
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Churchwardens: Greg West (Tel: 02 97 93 57 87
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Huelgoat: Wendy Bishop (Tel: 02 98 67 66 58)
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Bonen: Robin or Laura Hillman (details as before)

*The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily
those held by Christ Church Brittany.*

Revd Hazel Door

Details of Hazel's official Institution and Licensing are being finalised with the Acting Archdeacon of France, the Revd Ken Letts, but we are now able to announce that this will be held on Saturday 27th January 2007 commencing at 12 noon. The service will be held at our new premises, 14 Rue Général Dubreton, Ploërmel and will be followed by a shared lunch, which due to the numbers expected may be in buffet style. Further details will follow in due course. As previously announced it is planned that Hazel's first service as our Priest in Charge will be held in Ploërmel on Sunday 21st January 2007, followed by Hazel leading the service at Bonen the following Sunday, 28th January 2007. The first service at Huelgoat where Hazel will be leader will take place on Tuesday 13th February 2007. Please remember Hazel and Martin in your prayers as they continue their preparations for their move to Brittany.

LIBRARY

We have now received sufficient further books to add to our library but would still welcome more children's books. We are also now looking to expand on our section of music and films to borrow so if you have any cassettes, CDs, tapes or DVDs you no longer require then please consider donating them for use in our library.

Newsletter Contributions

If you have contributions to the Christ Church newsletter please email them to Vicki and Andrew Lewer, Argoat Communications, andrew.lewer@libertysurf.fr. The deadline for contributions for the January issue is 22 December. Many thanks.

NEWS FROM ICS The coming of the King

Our society often seeks to define us by what we consume, which is, I presume, why we now wear the labels on the outside of our clothing. Our increasingly post-Christian British Christmases are characterised by consumption, and if we are not spiritually alert, we can fall into line with such values so easily. Standing against the tide is not easy, but it is our calling to follow Christ and be like him. Of course it is not wrong to give. God is himself supremely generous: he gave us a world to enjoy and steward wisely; left the comfort of heaven to live amongst us and show us himself; and came to die for us. All types of men and women can know and live in his love, be they Luke's Jewish shepherds or Matthew's gentile wise men from the east.

In contrast to consumption, Christmas is really about revelation and, whether we read this pre- or post-Christmas, we do might well to ask ourselves 'What is God showing me about himself through Christ's coming?' Our next question might then be 'How might what I have learned change me during 2007?'

It is our prayer in ICS that the many who attend Christmas services for tourists in Zermatt or Wengen, and those who have attended the many events and services that you and churches like yours have held during Advent and Christmas, will see Christ revealed and follow him. Do pray with us that he will reveal himself daily to you, to me and to all those around us who do not know the one of whose kingdom there will be no end.

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Please pray for

- Recruitment of new chaplains for Lille, the Falklands and Tervuren
- The success of the Amsterdam chaplaincy's congregation.

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am)

DECEMBER

3rd The First Sunday of Advent - (Jeremiah 33: 14-16)

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end; Luke 21: 25-36

Eucharist - The Revd Michael Grainger

(followed by shared lunch)

10th The Second Sunday of Advent - (Malachi 3: 1 - 4)

Philippians 1: 3 – 11; Luke 3: 1 - 6

Service of the Word – The Revd Dr John Marvell

17th The Third Sunday of Advent - (Zephaniah 3: 14 - end) Philippians 4: 4 – 7; Luke 3: 7 - 18

All-Age Worship

24th The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve –

(2 Samuel 7: 1 - 5; 8 - 11; 16)

Acts 13: 16 – 26; Luke 1: 67 - 79

The Revd Dr John Marvell

Eucharist (followed by lunch and carol service)*

25th Christmas Day (Isaiah 52: 7 - 10)

Titus 3: 4 – 7; John 1: 1 – 14

31st First Sunday of Christmas - (1 Samuel 2: 18 - 20; 26)

Colossians 3: 12 – 17; Luke 2: 41 - end

Morning Prayer

CAROL SERVICE DETAILS – December 2006 – other areas

LOCARN

9th December, 15.00 – Tri-lingual carol service

BONEN (in the Parish Church)

17th December – Christmas Eucharist with carols –

The Revd Michael Grainger

NANTES (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)

HUELGOAT

12th December, 16.30 Eucharist and carol service

16th December, 14.30 Anglo/French carol service in the Roman Catholic

church in the main street in Huelgoat (this service replaces normal communion service on 2nd Tuesday of the month)

St Vran

St Vran fellowship dates for December are the 7th and 21st at midday for a shared lunch. All welcome.

Contact Joyce and Alex Fraser 02 96 56 13 22

*** Ploërmel Carol Service**

There will be a carol service in Ploërmel on the afternoon of Sunday 24th December. There will be a normal Communion Service in the morning commencing at 11.00 with Dr John Marvell presiding. This will be followed by shared lunch at 12.45 and a carol service at 14.00. Please come along to either or both of the services and/or shared lunch.

For further information about any of the services please get in touch with a Churchwarden, Reader, or contact as shown in this letter.

Marché de Noel

On the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd, Ploërmel will be holding its Marché de Noel and, as last year, it is planned to have an Open Day at La Source on the Saturday. This will also be extended into a Christmas Fayre when we will be able to offer mulled wine and mince pies as refreshments and we will also be selling Christmas Cards etc. The doors will be open from 10.00am until 4.00pm and all are welcome. Any donations of mince pies or goods to be sold would be very welcome.

ANGLICAN LITURGY

While Christ Church Brittany is delighted to welcome English-speaking Christians and seekers drawn from a wide range of backgrounds it is part of the world-wide Anglican communion and in particular of the Diocese in Europe, an integral part of the Church of England. The main services of Anglican worship are, of course, liturgical, that is, they have a set form. Some may find this aspect limiting but I believe it is of considerable significance that they are so. And they certainly do not exclude other occasions when a freer format is both desirable and welcome.

Liturgical worship has a long tradition as a means of approaching God. The Psalter served as a 'prayer book' for the people of Israel. Jesus set the pattern of liturgical worship in the Lord's Prayer. From these bases the early church developed more

extensive forms of liturgy. In the middle of the second century Justin Martyr describes a Communion service essentially of the form that is used today.

A brief summary of the main reasons for following a liturgical form is given below.

1. Liturgy is Biblical

God's people have always taken seriously the 'holiness' of God in their worship. While, of course, God is directly approachable through Jesus Christ, God is still God and should be approached with reverence and respect.

Old Testament worship was liturgical and included ritual in beautiful surroundings. This tradition of taking seriously the 'holiness of God' continued in the New Testament. Jesus never spoke against such worship, only against the legalism and hypocrisy of certain religious leaders.

2. Liturgy provides balanced worship

The substance of Christian worship must include a number of important elements, in particular, thanksgiving, praise, prayer, confession and hearing God's word. A liturgical format ensures that all these aspects are included.

3. Liturgy is incarnational

Our liturgical worship is focused on a person, Jesus Christ. God is able to speak to us through the rhythm of careful and ordered worship, for example, through receiving the bread and wine in the Eucharist or the water of Baptism.

4. Liturgy is able to focus on meaning

A sense of order and regularity in worship can enable one to focus on the meaning of the words used and not just on the words themselves.

5. Liturgy is active, participatory and 'holistic'

Liturgy invites participation of the whole congregation involving body, mind and spirit. It can include movement and should engage the senses through the visual and symbolic.

6. Liturgy connects us to Christians through the ages

We do not worship God in a historical vacuum but are connected to God's people through time. The major components of liturgy are rooted in Jewish, Biblical and early Christian origins.

Liturgical worship, properly carried out, ensures a high standard of worship that is not subject to excesses of one sort or another, of experiment for experiment's sake and should avoid poor taste. This means that the leader of the service should take time to prepare the liturgy just as the preacher does when preparing the address. Liturgy is sometimes criticized as involving 'vain repetition'. But familiarity with good liturgy enables one to personalize it in unison with others. Some modern worship can too easily focus on the individual instead of on God; some aspects can focus too much on one's feelings and emotions and too little on the central act of worship. For this reason I am glad that Anglican services are normally led by a robed officiant as this focuses on the office rather than on the individual.

Liturgy should not, however, become dated. For that reason I am glad that we have

moved beyond the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, beautiful and familiar though much of it may be. Common Worship offers a wider choice of forms for each section of the liturgy than has existed previously. It continues to provide a framework and structure for services but with a variety of resources available that can make the liturgy used more relevant to a particular need and occasion and presented in a language and form accessible to worshippers in the twenty-first century.

Robin Hillman