



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'

La Source, 14 rue Général Dubreton, Ploërmel

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December 2007 - Prayer focus:

- ❖ For all who minister in Christ's name that they may have a Christ-filled time.
- ❖ For those planning the visit of the Bishop.
- ❖ For all the ecumenical services being planned for the Christmas period and into the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

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A personal note:

From Hazel and Martin:

We would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas, and pray that you may all experience and share the joy of the Christ child anew this year. Our good wishes to you and to all you love at this special season and always.

La Source

A reminder that due to the reduction in the number of visitors to La Source during the winter months it has been decided to limit the opening times as follows: Monday afternoon 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Wednesday morning and Friday morning 10.00am – 12.00 noon. These revised times will take effect from mid November 2007.

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

Services for December/January

Ploërmel

December

2 nd	11.00	Holy Communion
9th	09.30	Holy Communion - Order Two
	11.00	Prayer and Praise
16th	11.00	Holy Communion - Order One
23rd	11.00	Holy Communion - Order One
	02.30	Service of Lessons and Carols
25th	11.00	Holy Communion - Order One

January

6th	11.00	Holy Communion - Order One
13th	09.30	Holy Communion - Order Two
	11.00	Prayer and Praise

Rostrenen (formerly Bonen)

Chapelle de Manoir de Campastal, Rostrenen

December

23rd 10.30 Holy Communion - Order One

Huelgoat

(FROM JANUARY THE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY'S AT 2-30).

December

Tuesday 9th 16.30 - Holy Communion - Order One

Saturday 15th 2.30 - Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols

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 – November 2007

St Vran

Fellowship meeting dates for December are 6th and 20th starting with a shared lunch. All welcome. For further information contact Joyce and Alex Fraser on 02 96 56 13 22.

Alpha Course

We will be holding an Alpha Course commencing on Thursday 10th January 2008 and will be held at 14 Rue Général Dubreton, Ploermel. It is a 10 week course and is for all people whether Christian or not. If you are interested in joining the group or can help in any way or are interested in knowing more, please see Hazel Door, Val Smith or the Wardens.

Visit of Bishop Geoffrey - 19/21st January 2008

We are delighted that we will be receiving a visit from Bishop Geoffrey, our Diocesan Bishop early in the New Year. Christ Church Council is currently finalising details of his visit and further information will be given in the January Newsletter.

Guy Fawkes Party

The latest Christ Church social event, a Guy Fawkes party, took place at Barbara and Terry Woodfords house near Le Sourn on Sunday 4th November. Over 50 people attended and took part, on an evening which turned out to be beautiful clear and dry. There was a huge bonfire, built by Terry, and at least three barbecues were on the go providing a seemingly endless supply of hot dogs and burgers, which with the smell of cooking onions in the air had everyone's mouths watering. There were cakes and other desserts to follow and mulled wine, cider and soft drinks to quench our thirst. Entertainment was provided by a Breton pipe band and there were games for children to play. All in all it was a very successful night and showed how we as a church can outreach into the community with many non-churchgoers also attending. Many people assisted either by bringing food and/or drink, or by helping with preparations setting up or clearing away or cooking on the evening and they all deserve our thanks. Incidentally it was a small team of men who did the cooking; I wonder what it is about men and

barbecues!! Finally a particular big thank you must go to Terry and Barbara for all the work they put in to make the evening a success and for providing an ideal venue for the event.

Christ Church Brittany – 2008 Annual General Meeting

Christ Church Brittany Council have decided that the 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 16th March 2008, immediately following the service. I know from questions that have been asked that many people do not understand the purpose of the meeting so hopefully this explanation will help clarify the situation.

Firstly we are obliged by the rules and regulations of the Anglican Church to hold such a meeting once a year. There are no restrictions as to who attends but anyone who wishes to vote at the meeting must have their name on the Electoral Roll. As a new Roll was produced in 2007 the only changes for the 2008 AGM will be for any revisions that have taken place during the year. If you wish to check you are on the Roll or wish to apply for inclusion please speak to Don Dykes who is our Electoral Roll Officer.

There are two main purposes to the meeting the first of which is to review the previous year's church business. This is generally covered by the presentation of various reports, which are put to the meeting for acceptance. There may also be a need to present to the meeting for voting on any changes to the rules, procedures etc that are being recommended by the Church Council.

The second purpose of the meeting is for elections to the Church Council. As a pre-cursor to this there will be an election of Tellers to oversee and check the result of any voting that takes place. Elections at the AGM in 2008 will be required for the following:

1. Churchwardens – A Churchwarden's term of office is for 1 year and if he/she wishes to serve a further term then they must seek re-election at the AGM. The election of the Churchwardens takes place before the commencement of the AGM itself. It is only if there are more than two Churchwardens nominated that a vote will take place. In the event that only two nominations are received prior to the start of the meeting, then they are automatically elected. Those offering for election must be nominated and seconded in writing before the meeting. The nominee, proposer and seconder, must all be members of the electoral roll. The Churchwardens become ex-officio members of the Church Council.
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, if they wish to do so, at the following AGM. The number of members to be elected depends on

numbers on the Electoral Roll and it is likely therefore that on the present Roll we will be looking for 9 elected members. Nominations can be accepted up to the start of the meeting; those offering for election must be nominated and seconded in writing before the meeting. The nominee, proposer and seconder, must all be members of the electoral roll. If nine or less are nominated no voting will take place. If more than nine are nominated, those attending the meeting whose names are on the Electoral Roll may vote for their choice of Council Members.

3. Archdeaconry Synod Representatives – There is a requirement for two Representatives and their term of office is for three years. Next year sees the end of the current three year period so there will be a requirement for two members to be elected. Those elected will take office in June 2008. The two Representatives become ex-officio members of the Council.
4. Independent Examiner – There is a requirement 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. Further details will follow in due course but it is important to note that Sidesmen, although elected at the AGM, are not members of the Church Council.

If you have any further queries regarding the AGM and elections to Council etc please see Rev Hazel Door or a Churchwarden.

Extracts from CCB Council Meeting held on 25th October 2007

- Monies raised of 130 Euros at Harvest Festival auction to be donated to Charity.
- La Source - It was agreed that winter opening times will be Monday 2 to 4 pm, and Wednesday and Friday 10 am to 12 noon. The office will open at other times but not on a regular basis.
- Alan Mason has been given permission to officiate as a Reader.

- A Time and Talent questionnaire to be issued over next three months to update information on congregation. All be asked to complete and will be collected by Hazel or the Churchwardens.
- The itinerary for Bishop Geoffrey's visit was discussed and will be confirmed in the coming weeks once the Bishop's travel arrangements from the UK have been finalised.
- Short, medium and long term goals agreed by Council.
- Vicky Lewer to discontinue compilation of Newsletter, Chris Wilson to take on in short term. Vicky to be thanked for all her assistance in the past.
- Photography in church at special services to be limited to family only. The President will make an announcement before a service commences.
- Sides Persons to be sought for election at next AGM in 2008. A list of duties will be compiled to discuss with potential members of the congregation

and finally.....

Have you noticed the effect that the word "Christmas" has on folk? Most blokes raise their eyebrows and smile, wryly reaching for their cheque books and or credit cards. Mothers take a deep breath and calculate just what the latest trend in toys is going to cost. Not to mention the additional cost of supplying all that festive grub, enough to feed a small army of relatives, who visit just once a year in order to keep in touch; thereby reducing their own expenditure???? Now before any of you start screaming Scrooge, or indeed, I start saying Bah! Humbug! I would like to point out that I am wholeheartedly in favour of Christmas. Christ – mas. Celebrating the birth of our Saviour.

In our orgy of gift giving in memory of the gifts given by the Magi, we should not lose sight of the significance of those gifts. The gifts were: gold, frankincense, myrrh, gold: for a king, frankincense: for a god – which was burnt in worship and finally, myrrh: for a man –at the time used in preparing a body for burial. All these come together and in those three gifts are represented the three roles of Jesus the Messiah: His kingly office is represented by gold, His divinity by frankincense, and His manhood by myrrh. "They offered him incense as their God; gold as their

king; and myrrh, as united to a human body, subject to suffering and death." Odd gifts to be giving a newborn?

In trying to keep up with the tradition of gift giving, many families who can least afford it; put themselves into debt, incurring bills which will probably last longer than the gifts that have been bought. What has caused such a lose/lose situation which occurs time and time again in our culture? Much of it is caused by commercial concerns, which have no faith values beyond a wide profit margin for themselves. The TV adverts start in late September, and create pressure whereby 'everyone else' is getting the latest gadget/toy/game. A 'must have' mind set, which leads to an 'I want' and beyond that, the 'I'll have or take yours'.

I'm not advocating the banning of gifts: for the last couple of years I have given gifts from Oxfam Unwrapped or Present Aid, and I do commend that type of gift to you all. (I do wish I had seen my mother's face when she opened the card announcing that I had bought her a goat!)

God has given us the perfect gift, in the person of Jesus, to save us. The gift of a baby, that in itself, maybe nothing more than a nice story to be read on Christmas Eve; But it's in the power of His death and resurrection that the true meaning of the gift becomes clear. (Matthew 20:28) *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* We give gifts to one another to honour God's most precious gift of hope for mankind; what do we give back to Him as a sign of our thanksgiving?? We give our worship, in old English the word was pronounced as worth-ship. What value do you put on that? Do we really give back to God what he is worth to us??????

Blessings Hazel

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the January 2008 issue, please email your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 17th December 2007. Many thanks.