



CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

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

Newsletter December 2008

Church Office : La Source, 14 rue Général Dubreton, 56800 Ploërmel

Tel: 02 97 74 24 82 E-mail: christchurchbrittany@yahoo.co.uk
Website: christchurchbrittany.org.uk

Prayer Focus December 2008

- ❖ That the gospel the “good news” of the birth of Christ may be heard by many.
- ❖ For all those travelling to spend Christmas-tide with loved ones, and for those who are alone.
- ❖ That places where there is conflict may hear “the still small voice of calm” amid the commemoration of our Saviour’s birth.

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Hazel Door
79 rue Glatinier, 56120 Josselin
Tel: 02 97 22 31 38
e-mail: rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr.

Churchwardens: Chris Wilson (Tel: 02 97 72 19 29)
e-mail: wilson.christopher@orange.fr

Barbara Dunford (Tel: 02 97 27 19 37)
e-mail : mdunford@orange.fr.

Local Contacts:

Huelgoat: Keith Beswetherick (Tel: 02 98 78 21 28)
e-mail: beswetherick.keith@wanadoo.fr

Rostrenen: Robin and Laura Hillman (Tel: 02 97 51 74 26)
e-mail: kermoran@wanadoo.fr

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

Services for November/ December 2008.

Ploërmel

NOVEMBER

30th 1st Sunday of Advent 11-00 H C order 1

DECEMBER

7th 2nd Sunday of Advent 11-00 H C order 1

14th 3rd Sunday of Advent 11-00 Prayer & Praise followed by shared lunch

21st 4th Sunday of Advent 11-00 H C order 1

25th CHRISTMAS DAY 11-00 H C order 1

28th **NO SERVICES**

Rostrenen - Chapelle de Manoir du Campostal.

NOVEMBER

30th 1st Sunday of Advent 10-30 H C order 1

DECEMBER

14th 3rd Sunday of Advent 10-30 HC order 1
Please note this new service at Rostrenen.

25th CHRISTMAS DAY 10-30 HC order 1

Huelgoat - Parish Church in the town centre

14th 3rd Sunday of Advent 16-30 HC Order 1

For further information about any of these services please get in touch with The Rev'd Hazel Door, Churchwardens or the local contacts.

Other dates for your diary

Carol Services

Details of our Carol Services this year are as follows:

13th December in the Parish Church, 22340 LOCARN at 15.00
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in English, French and Breton -
for further details contact Margaret Ray, Tel: 02 96 24 72 10

18th December at la Chapelle, Lycée St Sauveur 35600 REDON - 18.30
information from Joy Morin, Tel: 02 99 71 12 30

18th December at 22200 GUINGAMP -
information from Gwen Hamblett, Tel: 02 96 45 77 69 or Paul-Henri &
Thérèse, Tel: 02 96 44 16 45

20th December in the Parish Church, 29690 HUELGOAT at 14.30
for further details contact Keith Beswetherick , Tel: 02 98 78 21 28

21st December in the Chapel at 14 rue Général Dubreton, 56800 PLOËRMEL
at 14.00
for further details contact Chris Wilson, Tel: 02 97 72 19 29

24th December in the Abbey Church, 56730 ST GILDAS DE RHUYS at 16.30
Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols -
Tel: Alison Parkes, Tel: 06 19 36 26 28

Fellowship Meetings – December 2008

St Vran

Fellowship meeting dates for December are the 4th and 18th starting with a
shared lunch. All are welcome. For further information please contact Joyce
and Alex Fraser on 02 96 56 13 22 or e-mail alex.fraser@wanadoo.fr.

Redon Area

Home Group meetings take place at Joy Morin's home in Redon. If you
would like further information about the Group and the date of the next
meeting please contact Joy Morin on 02 99 71 12 30 or Chris Wilson on 02
97 72 19 29 or e-mail wilson.christopher@orange.fr.

Rostrenen Area

The next meeting of the Home Group in the Rostrenen area will take place on Wednesday January 21st at 10.30 at Julia Evans' home in Glomel. All are welcome and for further information please telephone Robin or Laura Hillman - 02 97 51 74 26 or e-mail to kermoran@wanadoo.fr.

Bannalec

Meetings usually take place at the Chapel at David and Rebecca Pugh's on Tuesday evenings at 6.00pm. For further information and to check on dates beforehand please contact Rebecca or David on 02 98 35 46 59.

Other Matters

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED.

For those of you unable to share in our celebration of Christ the King, which is our Patronal Festival, here is the news!

It was announced at the service that the Bishop, as authorised by the Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod, has changed our name from 'congregations of', to Chaplaincy. So henceforward we shall be known as the Chaplaincy of Christ Church, Brittany; part of the Diocese in Europe.

This is the culmination of months of persistence, triggered by a question put to Bishop Geoffrey at the council meeting he attended during his visit in January this year. My congratulations and thanks, go to all those who have made this possible.

What does the change of name really mean? In practical terms not a lot, we won't get any money, but it is recognition of all the work that has been done since Roger and Beri began the work here. It's recognition of the hard work everyone put in during the interregnum, and lastly recognition of all that you have achieved since. We will be able to have a solid sense of identity, of being whole, and feel empowered to continue in "knowing Jesus Christ and making Him known".

We were also pleased to be able to unveil the new logo which was approved by the council at its last meeting. This will gradually appear more and more, and has great flexibility in that we can alter the font and size readily.



From the Registers:

Baptism: 14th September at Ploermel - Alys Rowlands

Blessing of Marriage: 13th September at Rieux -
Royce Williams and Julie Phillips



Funerals: 18th October - Jack Thompson of Josselin

Please remember in your prayers the families of those whose anniversary of death fall at this time:

12 th October 2007	Ian Buxton
3 rd November 2007	Jeffrey Watts
13 th November 2007	Maryvonne Guimard

Other News Items

Poppy Appeal

You will be pleased to know that the Poppy Appeal this year raised 97,50 Euros and Don's shrapnel tin was once again utilised to make the amount up to 100 Euros. Another great effort so thank you to all who contributed.

Christmas Coffee Morning.

On Saturday 8th December a Christmas coffee morning was held at La Source. A great many people braved the awful weather and were able to sample tea, coffee, mince pies and mulled wine. We also had Christmas Cards and wrapping paper on sale in addition to books, crafts, bric a brac etc. and there was even an opportunity to buy Christmas puddings!! There was a great atmosphere on a very wet morning and thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers who helped, the contributors and those who turned up to make a purchase a total of **315,00 Euros** was raised.

Shoebox Appeal –

Alan and Bronwen would like to thank all those who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal. A total of **30 boxes** were collected and Alan and Bronwen have now delivered these in England ready for onward distribution.

Restos du Coeur

Thank you very much to all those in the Ploërmel and Rostrenen congregations who responded so generously to the Appeal for dried goods for the Restos du Coeur. These have now been handed over to the representatives in Ploërmel who are grateful for our help in providing for the needs of local families during the winter months.

News from the Rostrenen congregation

It is now a year since we moved into the Chapel of the Collège de Campostal in Rostrenen, which is a good deal warmer than Bonen Church. A service of Holy Communion is normally held on the fourth Sunday in the month but this will be increasing to two services a month from December. Congregations number around 35 on average, and most people stay for coffee and a chat in the Manoir next door after the service. Several children attend regularly and it is hoped to start up a Sunday School soon. We have a team of sidespeople who welcome the congregation and others who read lessons, lead Intercessions and provide and serve refreshments.

The Home group, which usually meets monthly at Glomel, has been studying Ephesians. At the November meeting we had a Communion service taken by the Revd David Clark and a discussion about future plans.

For the first time in this area, an Ecumenical get-together between Anglicans and Roman Catholics was held on November 12th at the Community of the Augustinian Sisters in Gouarec. We met there at the suggestion of Abbé Jean Campion, the Parish priest at Rostrenen, who now also looks after Gouarec, along with Maël-Carhaix and all the surrounding parishes. The Sisters made us most welcome and we were joined by an unexpectedly large turn-out from both denominations. A short bilingual service of Evensong in the Chapel was led by Hazel, whose idea it was for us to meet in this way, and Abbé Campion. Then followed an informal session of getting to know each other as different people spoke of their background and role in their respective churches. As we left we said to each other: 'See you at Locarn for the carol service on December 13th'.

We hope to see you there too!

Prayer Chain

Rose Lakeman is now administering the Prayer Chain. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain or you are in need of prayers then Rose can be contacted on 02 97 74 47 68 or e-mail roselakeman@msn.com.

INTERESTING STUFF

1. In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'

2. Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.
3. The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
4. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.
5. Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.
6. Coca-Cola was originally green.
7. It is impossible to lick your elbow.
8. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
9. The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.
10. The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
11. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David, Hearts - Charlemagne, Clubs -Alexander, the Great Diamonds - Julius Caesar

and finally.....

Why, I wonder, do the British media get so worked up about so many things? In recent months there has been crisis after crisis, scandal after scandal. The press and TV stations have been in a feeding frenzy. I have no problem in agreeing that in some cases there is a genuine need to bring the situation to wider attention; the recent case of Baby P for example. But why is it always the bad news? The good news gets dumped in a single line buried at the end of a broadcast or way down in the small print on page 27. 'People' have a right to know, we are told. What right have I to delve into the depths of someone else's life? *Why do I need to know?*

The immediacy of the "news" in this day and age contributes to the problem; why else would we be told that 'next of kin have been informed' when yet another soldier is killed in a war zone. The greed culture of society is another factor; TV stations must outdo each other to achieve the largest audience, so the advertisers will pay more for prime time slots. Burying the good news is

another way, so is controlling what and when information is made public. Remember the brief ripple caused when it was suggested that the day of a tragedy was a good time to release information putting the government in a bad light?

How healthy is a society which not only tolerates but even tacitly encourages such a situation through its own apathy?

Many people make New Year resolutions, most people break them! Consider this one..... every day I will tell someone the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. One voice may not be heard very widely, many voices can. Remember, to quote Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

"RISK" Author unknown.

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out to others is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas, your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to do nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, and is nothing.

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.

Chained by their attitudes, they are a slave, they forfeited their freedom.

Only the person who risks can be free"

Let's take the risk, let's proclaim not only on Christmas Day, but every day; that Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world is born!

May all His love and blessings be poured out upon and all you love this Christmas-tide.

Hazel.

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the January 2009 issue, please email your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 22nd December. Many thanks.