



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, 14 rue Général Dubreton, Ploërmel, Tel: 02 97 74 24 82

February 2007 - Prayer focus:

- Pray for Hazel Door, following her official Installation as the Priest in Charge of Christ Church, Brittany at a service held on Saturday 27th January. Pray also for our Congregations here in Brittany and that God's work in this place will continue to grow.
- Pray for those attending the Archdeaconry Synod Retreat, which begins on the 31st January 2007. Pray also for all those attending the Archdeaconry Synod in Arras which commences on the 1st February 2007.
- Pray for Laura Hillman as she prepares to be Admitted and Licensed as Reader at the Archdeaconry Synod.
- Pray for all those who will attend the Lent Course being planned for the Fellowship Group in Ploermel, commencing on 21st February.

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

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Bonen: Robin or Laura Hillman (details as before)

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

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: Please email your contributions to Vicki and Andrew Lewer, Argoat Communications, andrew.lewer@libertysurf.fr. Deadline for the March 2007 issue: 19 February 2007. Thank you.

Prayers of Thanks

A prayer of thanks to Derek Richards for his gift to Christ Church of a ceremonial cross.

NEWS FROM ICS To fly to serve...or to serve the flyers?

Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, has a chaplaincy with an Anglican chaplain, funded by ICS, its supporters, the Diocese and others: the first Anglican participation in the chaplaincy.

Schiphol is Europe's fourth busiest international passenger airport, after Heathrow, Paris and Frankfurt, with more than 45 million passengers per annum. Add to that number the many meeters and greeters, the passengers of the subterranean train station, and the 60,000 airport-based employees and one can appreciate that the chaplaincy was eager to have a third full-time chaplain, and a native English-speaker at that.

Chaplain Howie Adan told me: 'The work of an airport chaplain is a never ending stream of intense personal encounters followed by silence, the void being filled with hopeful prayer that each individual will continue to find the help and support they need once they have moved on from here. In all my time at Schiphol only twice have those whom I have helped written or returned to let me know how they are doing. The airport authority involves the chaplaincy in any first-line response to crises and it surprised me how much death and bereavement are part of my work. There is a brighter side too, of course. Sunday worship services are always an enjoyable mix of nations and denominations, the Body of Christ drawn together from the four corners of the earth, only to be scattered again within hours. People who would otherwise never dare enter each other's churches share the peace, and mean it.' So next time you pass through or over an airport, pray for the chaplains' ministry.

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Full text of this article will available in March's *ICS News & Prayer Diary*

Please pray also for : The recruitment of new chaplains for Voorschoten, Tervuren, the Falkland Islands and Casablanca.

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am)

FEBRUARY

- 4th 3rd Sunday before Lent – Isaiah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Holy Communion – The Revd Hazel Door
(followed by shared lunch)
- 11th The Second Sunday before Lent – Genesis 2:4-9, 15-end.
Revelation 4 ; Luke 8:22-25
Holy Communion – The Revd Hazel Door
(followed by shared lunch)
- 18th Sunday next before lent – Exodus 34:29-end
2 Corinthians 3:12-4.2 ; Luke 9:28-36
Holy Communion – The Revd Hazel Door
(followed by shared lunch)
- 25th 1st Sunday of Lent – Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
Morning Prayer – Churchwardens
(followed by shared lunch)

SERVICE DETAILS – OTHER AREAS

BONEN (in the Parish Church)

25th February

Holy Communion – The Revd Michael Grainger (Revd Hazel Door in the UK).

HUELGOAT

Tuesday 13th February

Holy Communion – The Revd Hazel Door.

Commencing at 4.30pm.

NANTES (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)

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

Fellowship Meetings

Ploërmel - Wednesday 10th January at La Source, 14 rue General Dubreton, 56800 Ploërmel commencing at 11.30am followed by shared lunch. Further info from Val or Dave Smith - 02 97 75 25 32.

St Vran - dates for February are 1st and 15th at midday for a shared lunch. All welcome. For further information contact Joyce and Alex Fraser - 02 96 56 13 22

Vide Grenier

Two tables have been booked at a Vide Grenier to be held at Plumeliau on Sunday 4th February 2007 in aid of Church Funds. Donated items for sale should be given to the organiser Don Dykes, who can be contacted on 02 97 27 10 41.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVIEW 2007

The Electoral Roll is a list of the names and addresses of every person who can vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 15th April 2007. To comply with the Rules of the Diocese in Europe a completely new Roll is to be completed in 2007 before the Meeting, and this will involve all those intending to have their names on the new Roll submitting a new Application Form. This Application Form will be available from Sunday 18th February 2007 and must be completed and returned to the Electoral Roll Officer by no later than Sunday 25th March 2007.

A list of all names on the current Electoral Roll will be displayed on the Church Notice Board from Sunday 18th February 2007. It should be noted that full addresses and telephone numbers will not be shown on the list.

Your Electoral Roll Officer is Don Dykes. He can be contacted either in Church or at 9 Residence des Quatre Vents, 56150 St Barthelemy, or by telephone on 02 97 27 10 41.

DON'T LOSE THIS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP YOUR VOTE FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS BEFORE THE NEXT REVIEW.

1 Anglican Liturgy

I have hesitated before responding to the article 'Anglican Liturgy' by Robin Hillman in December's newsletter but now feel very much prompted to do so. The truth is, on my first reading I found the article very sad indeed; subsequent readings and prayerful consideration have only increased the dejection I feel.

You see, as a child and as a young man I was brought up in the Anglican communion and was a member of the choir of Magdalen College, Oxford for many years. The activities of the choir brought me into contact with Anglican Liturgy at its very best. I have sung in most of the finest Anglican cathedrals both in the UK and elsewhere and really enjoyed myself. It was during these times I realised there must exist a greater power beyond my experience - a supreme being, if you like, who inspired the wonderful music and liturgy I was privileged to take part in and who, through this music and liturgy, inspired the hearts and minds of those who listened and took part.

And so I set about trying to find this supreme being. Many years passed during which my choir membership ceased. I attended church sporadically, even playing the organ occasionally and conducting Christian choirs in sacred oratorios and cantatas; all to no avail. I could not find this supreme being. The wonderful music and liturgy had, in my opinion, let me down, so I walked up other avenues of potential discovery. Here I found nothing but disappointment and misery.

Then God found me! He actually ran to meet me with his arms wide open; convinced me he loved me for who I was, warts and all! He gave me my salvation - it was absolutely free and for nothing. How was this accomplished?

He stood by and watched his only Son suffer the cruellest death that man could possibly contrive. He allowed it to happen - for me! Not only did he run to meet me that night but he also threw a wonderful party to welcome me into his family. I was home! Blesséd Assurance, Jesus is mine! Wow!!

This is what I call excessive love. My God loves me to excess and I believe he calls me to love him to excess as well. Loving him to excess must, of necessity, lead to worshiping him to excess.

Worship confined by man-made structures (liturgy) is, in my view, less than full-hearted and unquenchable. My God desires that I draw near to him, tell him how much I love him in no uncertain terms, and express my joy and vibrant hope in our relationship. This is intimacy, that I sacrifice myself on the altar of his excessive love. My freedom to worship him in this sacrificial manner is not just precious to me, it is vital. This is the air I breathe.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, says 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened

again by a yoke of slavery.' (Gal 5:1) This indicates to me that Jesus died to set us free from sin and from a long list of laws and regulations. Further, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, '...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.' (1 Cor 14:40). I fully agree with this but unfortunately it has often been quoted to condemn 'free worship' in a corporate situation, on the assumption that such 'goings on' are neither fitting nor orderly. This is very sad and has led to the common practice of 'doing it by the book' so that nobody is made to feel uncomfortable or outside their comfort zone. The Gospel, in all its glorious fullness and excessiveness, is an uncomfortable gospel. Rather the emphasis should be on 'everything should be done'.

I am not condemning the use of liturgy; it set me on my voyage of discovery. But I am sad about the emphasis placed upon its use in many churches today. Free worship, uncluttered and unconfined, is what is required of Christians. Anything less rarely comes fully from the heart and rarely attains that wonderful and very personal intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. My urgent prayer is that Christ Church Brittany will let God out of the box and experience the abundant joy of personal, intimate, Spirit filled and truthful worship, through Jesus. You will be amazed at the result!

*Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of the poor wealth you would count as your own;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness -
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.*

Colin Bessant, Pickering, UK

And finally

My very grateful thanks to everyone for the wonderfully warm welcome to Martin and I as we begin a new phase of our life here in Brittany.

There has been much in the media recently about culture and cultural differences. We repeatedly have been told that we now live in a multi-cultural society. Of course this is all news and interesting to those of us who live in France!? We acknowledge that 'their' systems are different and 'they' do things differently; this of course does not prevent us from wishing and hoping that we might effect some degree of change. For the better of course!

As a woman priest in the Poitou-Charentes I met little overt opposition from brother Christian priests. Indeed, I was always

warmly welcomed to services during the week of prayer for Christian Unity. There were one or two Catholic priests who really could not accept my priesthood, but then, they were unable to accept my colleague, Michael Hepper, either. No blame on them as they were following the official line of the Catholic church. That line has also been taken by the Bishop of St Brieuc, as he is fully entitled to do. In terms of our worship, it means that in order for me to be able to celebrate Holy Communion for the congregation at Bonen, we must seek another venue, another church if that building is outside the Bishop's area, or maybe a salle de fetes, or another place. In the meantime, my brother Anglican priests will fill the gap.

Change is a part of our growth, and I hope that any changes which may come about during my time here will be a part of that growth. Some suggestions have already been made and I welcome any others that may come forward. Your views are important, otherwise nothing can change. Already we are hoping to have a Lent course, and are looking to begin an informal Praise and Worship service. But where, and when? Do let me know.

Until we meet again, may you go well and safely,

Hazel