



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

January 2007 - Prayer focus:

- Pray for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18th to 25th January 2007. Services will be held at Ploërmel and Huelgoat.
- Pray for Hazel and Martin Door as they complete their move to Brittany. Pray also that the Lord guides Hazel as she commences work as our new Priest in Charge, may she be blessed with the necessary wisdom and strength to oversee the continued growth of Christ Church, Brittany.
- Pray for those attending the Archdeaconry Synod Retreat, which takes place on the 31st January 2007 and 1st February 2007. Also for those attending the Archdeaconry Synod taking place between the 1st & 3rd of February 2007.
- Pray for Laura Hillman as she prepares to be Admitted and Licensed as Reader at the Archdeaconry Synod.

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

Website: christchurchbrittany.org.uk

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Hazel Door appointed, commencing on 21st
January 2007

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Bonen: Robin or Laura Hillman (details as before)

Dear Reader of the Newsletter

Moving house is recognised by the medical profession as a significant source of stress so moving abroad is even more stressful. However much we have been looking forward to the move, if we are honest we will admit that there

were some disappointments along with the joy. We leave the security of living near family and friends and the safe haven of a close-knit and loving church community.

Once over here we probably have times when we look back in longing (if we dare to admit it) to a Sunday lunch at a local pub after a rousing and inspiring church service and the warm spiritual uplift from our fellow Christians.

So it is only to be expected that, however unwittingly, we try to recreate the “safe” church that we left behind, convinced that ours is most certainly the best model on which to base our church in Brittany.

But the teaching we left behind is only a beginning and certainly not a closed book. We are in the exciting throes of welcoming a new Chaplain to our young church. Let’s be inventive, eager and enthusiastic listeners to what God has in store for us.

Let us leave behind the comforting certainties of the church we knew and open our minds to a more all-embracing, tolerant and loving Anglican church, which is warm, joyful and welcoming to all who come through its doors.

With love in Christ

Wendy Bishop
Huelgoat

MESSAGE FROM THE REVD HAZEL DOOR

Robin Hillman was kind enough to suggest that I might write some kind of Biographical note to introduce myself to you all.

As many of you met both of us in July, you may remember that Martin is my husband. We have been married 38 years and have four adult children who have provided us with 8 grandchildren, 6 boys and, therefore, 2 girls. Their ages range from 17years to 18months.

I am a North Yorkshire woman, born and bred in Scarborough, on the coast, leaving to join the WRNS and not returning for several years. Martin and I met

during our time in the Navy; though I met a sailor, I married a police officer! We lived in a small market town by the name of Pickering, best known for being one end of the North Yorkshire Moors Steam Railway. It was only when Martin retired, that we moved to France and have been here for the last 10+ years.

When we arrived, the nearest place to our home for Anglican worship was in the town of Cognac, about 220 kms. round trip, where there was a communion service once a month! To condense, in best Reader's Digest tradition, in order to be able to worship more frequently, several of us were encouraged, by the then Chaplain of Aquitaine, to train as pastoral assistants. In 1999, following an identified call to ordained ministry, I began the process of selection for ordination; which is a deeply humbling process. The result was a recommendation for training, which I undertook in my spare time. By that stage I was in full time work and continuing with my pastoral role in P-C + V. I studied theology for three years with the East Anglian Ministerial Course, based in Cambridge, involving a residential weekend twice a term and a summer school. Following graduation I returned to France and was deaconed and then ordained priest in my home base of Civray. My ministry in Poitou has continued to grow and develop as the worship in that area has grown.

Now God has called again, and Martin and I are to come to journey alongside you, the folk of Christ Church, Brittany; seeking to serve God with you and to share the Gospel with those who have yet to hear it. We are looking forward to being with you and to getting settled in. Though we are not newcomers to France, we do not know your region at all well and expect that we shall be asking lots of trivial but relevant questions. For starters: does anyone know of a good vet in Josselin? (Not trivial with a diabetic dog!!!)

You are all very much in our prayers; as we prepare to move, please pray for us and for yourselves, that together we can spread the Gospel of our Saviour to English speaking people throughout Brittany.

With God's Blessings

Hazel & Martin

Prayers of Thanks

Please say a prayer of thanks to our Lord for the two generous and anonymous donations to Christ Church, Brittany received during 2006.

For the 50 Euros raised from the sale of poppies, helping towards a grand total of over 1000 Euros raised by the British Legion.

For all the volunteers who helped on the Open Day/Christmas Fayre at La Source to coincide with the Marché de Noel in Ploërmel on December 2nd. The morning was particularly busy with a steady flow of both English speakers and French residents coming through the doors. The afternoon was quieter but all in all it was considered to be a great success helping spread the word that Christ Church and La Source are here in Ploërmel. The day also raised over 200 Euros towards our funds so it is a great big thank you to all those who prepared the event beforehand and helped man stalls and provide mince pies etc. on the day.

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am)

JANUARY

- 7th Epiphany - (Isaiah 60: 1-6)
Ephesians 3: 1-12; Matthew 2: 1-12
Communion by Extension - Robin Hillman
(followed by shared lunch)
- 14th The Second Sunday of Epiphany - (Isaiah 62: 1-5)
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11
(followed by shared lunch)
Holy Communion- The Revd Hazel Door
- 21st The Third Sunday of Epiphany - (Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10)
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31; Luke 4:14-21
Holy Communion – The Revd Hazel Door
(followed by shared lunch)
- 27th Institution of the Revd Hazel Door
Institution and Holy Communion – The Acting Archdeacon of France, The Revd Kenneth Letts
(followed by shared lunch)
- 28th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany - (Ezekial 43: 27-44.4)
1 Corinthians 13; Luke 2: 22-40
Morning Prayer – To be advised
(followed by shared lunch)

St Vran fellowship dates for January are the 4th and 18th at midday for a shared lunch. All are welcome.

Contact Joyce and Alex Fraser 02 96 56 13 22

Revd Hazel Door

We confirm that the Institution of the Revd Hazel Door will be held on Saturday 27th January 2007 commencing at 12noon. The service will be held at our new premises, 14 Rue Général Dubreton, Ploërmel and will be followed by a shared lunch. The Institution will be presided over by the Revd Kenneth Letts, the Acting Archdeacon for France. It is now planned that Hazel's first service will be held in Ploërmel on Sunday 14th January 2007. Please remember Hazel and Martin in your prayers as they move to Brittany.

OTHER SERVICE DETAILS – January 2007

PLOERMEL

Friday 19th January

Service for Week of Christian Unity to be held at Eglise St Armel, Ploërmel

BONEN (in the Parish Church)

28th January

Holy Communion - The Revd Hazel Door.

Huelgoat

Tuesday 9th January

Evening Service – Bob Armitage.

Wednesday 24th January at 18.30.

Service for Christian Unity.

NANTES (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)

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

NEWS AND FUTURE EVENTS

We are pleased to say that we have now secured the lease on the rental of a house for Hazel Door and we thank the Lord for helping us to find this house. It is situated in Josselin, approximately 15 minutes from Ploërmel, and Hazel and husband Martin will commence their move from Poitou Charente during week commencing 8th January 2007.

Fellowship Meeting - Wednesday 10th January at La Source commencing at 11.30am followed by shared lunch.

Following the successful appearance of the Watoto Children's Choir in Ploërmel, Andrew and Helen Turnbull arranged a similar performance at their own church in England. This was a great success with over 500 people attending. Congratulations to Helen and Andrew for their efforts.

4th February – Vide Grenier at Plumeliau, contact Don Dykes for information.

AND FINALLY.....

Throughout the history of the human race, men and women have used hill tops and mountains in their quest for the Creator God. The Bible contains a number of accounts of high places. Abraham took his son, Isaac, up into a mountain to make sacrifice to God. The prophet Elijah, sought refuge in a mountain cave and saw the strong wind, the earthquake and the fire pass by but God was not in these but in the still small voice which followed the storm.”

Jesus fasting in the desert was taken up into an exceeding high mountain by the devil and shown the kingdoms of the world. These kingdoms are offered if only Jesus will worship him. Later, Jesus is transfigured on a high mountain in the presence of the disciples Peter, James and John.

During the last two thousand years, some Christian men and women have sought God in the silence and beauty of hills and mountains. Some see the life journey as the ascent of a mountain rather than a journey across open country. Ascending the mountain, the pilgrim meets others on the same quest but is aware that many are on the same mountain although temporarily out of sight.

One of the great Christian spiritual writers, St John of the Cross, likened the life of a Christian to the ascent of a mountain towards God.

St John wrote that the Christian seeking to climb the mountain of perfection must seek nothing, nothing, nothing because on the summit there is nothing but the honour and glory of God.

MICHAEL GRAINGER.

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 February issue is 19th January. Many thanks.

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