

And finally The Feast of Pentecost, which this year falls on June 4th, is sometimes described as the birthday of the Church. Between the resurrection and his ascension the risen Christ appeared to an inner ring of followers (1 Cor.15:3-8) but avoided exposure to large crowds. As he had promised (Acts 1:8) the Holy Spirit came upon the assembled apostles with tongues of fire accompanied by the sound of a violent wind (Acts 2:2-4). The result was that these Galileans who were generally regarded as country bumpkins, were able to speak intelligibly to a large international crowd gathered in Jerusalem, each one hearing the wonders of God in their own language (Acts 2:5-12).

The Alpha Course booklet calls the present time 'the age of the Spirit'. Of course, the Spirit has been in existence since the beginning of time (see Gen.1:2) but every so often there is a renewed awareness of his power. The apostles were enabled to speak boldly and to perform healing miracles which caused wonder and amazement (Acts 3:10). In our own day the Church has recovered a sense of the Spirit's power to transform congregations and individuals. Jesus promised that the Spirit of truth would remain

with his disciples for ever (John 14:16). We must be open to the Spirit's working within us, to comfort or convict, to 'hasten or control'. With his guidance the ministries of teaching, healing and encouragement will flourish in our community.

'He is unexpected and never ceases to surprise us.' (Bezançon)

TS Eliot has described the contrasting nature of the Spirit which is both gentle and powerful:

'The dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror'. (For Quartets - Little Gidding)

Or, as the French priest, Michel Quoist, wrote:
'At times, O Lord, you steal over me irresistibly, as the ocean slowly covers the shore,
Or suddenly you seize me as the lover clasps his beloved in his arms.' (Prayers of Life)
Laura Hillman

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

June 2006 - Prayer focus:

- Give thanks for the visit of Bishop David and the help and encouragement he gave to the Council.
- Pray for all those involved in the appointments procedure for a new Priest in Charge and that the right person may be found.
- Ask for God's blessing on preparations for the move to the new premises at Ploërmel.

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: Currently vacant
Reader: Robin Hillman
Tel: 02 97 51 74 26
(e-mail: kermoran@wanadoo.fr)

Clergy with permission to officiate:

The Revd Michael Grainger,
1, impasse Edith Piaf, Kerbrégent,
56930 Plumeliau; Tel: 02 97 51 91 28
e-mail: michaelgrainger@wanadoo.fr)

The Revd Dr John Marvell,
3, impasse des Genêts, La Vicomté,
35800 Dinard; Tel: 02 99 16 56 74
e-mail: jmarvell@ctanet.fr)

Churchwardens:

Greg West (Tel: 02 97 93 57 87
e-mail: ghwest@wanadoo.fr)

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

Deputy Wardens:

Malcolm Dunford (Tel: 02 97 27 15 58)
e-mail: mdunford@wanadoo.fr)

Greg Woodhouse (Tel: 02 99 70 29 71)
e-mail: Edna.Woodhouse@bjinsurance.co.uk)

Nantes:

Peter Beninger (Tel: 02 51 12 56 51)
e-mail: peter.beninger@univ-nantes.fr)

Huelgoat:

Wendy Sourceau-Bishop
(Tel: 02 98 67 66 58)
e-mail: wendy.bishop@wanadoo.fr)

Bonen:

Robin or Laura Hillman (details as above)

INFORMATION CONCERNING BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS DURING THE INTERREGNUM

In the first instance, please contact Robin Hillman on 02 97 51 74 26 or by e-mail to: kermoran@wanadoo.fr

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The fellowship groups meet at:

St Barthelemy, contact Barbara Dunford 02 97 27 15 58

Redon area, contact Greg & Edna Woodhouse 02 99 70 56 51

St Vran, contact Margrith Jay 02 96 26 74 02

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

Hello Friend

It's a lovely warm sunny morning with not a cloud in the sky, just finished my early morning cup of tea, so thought that I would drop you a line to let you know about the new Chapel that Christ Church Brittany has been offered. As you already know C.C.B. was founded by two special people who originally opened up their home for worship of the English Speaking Christian Community, they were joined by a small group of Christians, some of whom still take an active part in our worship today. Lots has happened since then and I personally have seen many faces and nationalities worship with us, lots support us in prayer and with financial help. We are a relatively small corps of people resident in Brittany but always needing the support of other fellow Christians. The Brothers at the Maison-Mere Des Freres in Ploërmel have been a source of stability over the years and always have a smile on their faces for us who do things so different from their ways. Frere Auguste (Director of Maison-Mere) has offered a Chapel just around the corner from where we normally worship. It's a grand place, with a proper Chapel, a small kitchen but plenty of loos! There are several large meeting rooms and some small cosy ones, which will make ideal quiet prayer areas; we have room for an office and 'La Source' will also be able to be housed there.

At the moment 'Secour Catholic' who I believe is the 'Help Group' for the Catholic Church are based there, this I hope will stay and may enable us to work alongside them and serve the local community, something I feel as Christians we should be doing. All my writings today hide my one thought as I saw the Chapel for the first time, THANK YOU LORD for the opportunity to be together as a whole Church and serve others.

Well the sun is still shining, there are a few clouds about now but they will not stop me from the task in hand, stone picking. We have just had a fosse septique fitted but that is another story!!

God Bless you and your Family, **Love from Barbara.**

To get a copy of Church Services for Holidaymakers, pick up the latest edition of ICS News from your chaplaincy, call the ICS office on 44 1926 240 247, or go to www.churchesabroad.org.

Following the election of Churchwardens and Council Members at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 9th April 2006 we felt it important to let everyone know that the new make-up of the Christ Church PCC is as follows:

Churchwardens	Greg West Chris Wilson	Contact details earlier in letter
Deputy Churchwardens	Malcolm Dunford Greg Woodhouse	Contact details earlier in letter
Archdeaconry Synod Representatives	Robin Hillman Laura Hillman	Contact details earlier in letter
Treasurer	Don Dykes	Tel: 02 97 27 10 41 dondykes@aliceadsl.fr
Council Members:	Barbara Dunford Barbara Woodford Wendy Sourceau-Bishop Eric Elsdon Nigel Lemon Pat Taylor	contacts as for M Dunford Tel: 02 97 28 33 76 woodford.esq@wanadoo.fr Contact details earlier in letter 06 09 52 80 08 emh@elsdonmobilehomes.com 02 98 99 80 37 nigel.lemon@wanadoo.fr 02 97 23 16 45 petay@tiscali.fr
Co-opted Advisor:	Reverend Michael Grainger	Contact details earlier in letter

Council Secretary	Elaine Wilson	Contacts as for C Wilson
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We would also like to correct the record and remind everyone that the French bank account references for Christ Church are:

Société Générale, 29 rue Nationale, 56300 PONTIVY;
RIB No 30003 / 01161 / 00037261134 / 71

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am) JUNE

4th Pentecost (Whit Sunday) - HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger
Acts 2: 1-21; John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

11th Trinity Sunday - HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Dr John Marvell
Isaiah 6: 1-8; Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17

18th The First Sunday after Trinity - HOLY COMMUNION
Celebrant: The Revd Dr John Marvell
2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17; Mark 4: 26-34

25th The Second Sunday after Trinity - ALL-AGE WORSHIP
2 Corinthians 8: 7-15; Mark 5: 21-43

SERVICE DETAILS – other areas

BONEN

JUNE 25th, 10.30: HOLY COMMUNION;
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger

NANTES (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)
JUNE 11th, 18.30: HOLY COMMUNION

HUELGOAT (Each Sunday - 11.00 - Fellowship meeting)
TUESDAY JUNE 20th, 18.30: Holy Communion;
Celebrant: The Revd Michael Grainger

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

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 July issue is Monday 19th June. Many thanks.

Visit by Bishop David to Ploërmel

Bishop David, together with his diocesan Secretary, Adrian Mumford, visited the Christ Church PCC on 16th May. Arriving somewhat latter than planned, the Bishop was nevertheless in full charge of the agenda, and began by asking all the members of the Council to say a little about themselves, their background and their reasons for being part of Christ Church.

He continued, with Adrian, to go through the steps necessary for the appointment of a new Priest in Charge, and it was encouraging to know that he appreciated the work that had been done by the Council, and felt that we were well on in the procedure. There was discussion of the financial needs, the possibility that an incumbent would need a car as well as a lodging, but, reassuringly, Adrian brought up the subject of possible grants from the Diocese. The Council were fully involved in the discussion, and were frequently asked for their views and opinions. The Bishop asked us to state what we would like to see in a new Priest in Charge, and some of the most important qualities were: that he/she should be someone who could balance both ends of the spiritual spectrum, that he should have an awareness of the needs of a widely flung parish, and that he might be someone who could develop our growth as a spiritual body, taking everyone's skills and interests to heart. The meeting closed after about two hours and the Bishop was taken to see the proposed building that we will be occupying.

The timetable for the appointment of a new Priest in Charge that the PCC is working to is as follows:

Advertising the position: end of June 2006

Interviewing the short listed candidates: mid-September 2006

Commencement of appointment: January 2007.

These dates are of course subject to change depending upon the progress at the various stages of the process.

News from ICS

Finding spiritual refreshment on holiday

ICS has been organising services for holidaymakers using volunteer Anglican clergy (and now Readers) since the 1840s. We own and maintain the historic churches in Wengen and Zermatt, and provide the chaplain for the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg. In the latest edition of ICS News we publish a guide to Church Services for Holidaymakers listing seasonal church services organised by ICS; the guide lists services in fourteen popular European resorts in France, Switzerland and Italy.

Being away from home gives you the opportunity to enjoy a new part of God's creation, and more time to think about God and read the Bible. Why not worship in church too whilst you are there? If you find yourself in a country where English is not the first language you can often find a service in English. ICS's web site www.churchesabroad.org also lists not only these seasonal services but those of the international Anglican churches partnered by ICS in Europe and beyond, as well as giving links to other church listings. So if you are travelling abroad – or know someone who is – check and see if there is an international church that you or they can attend. God is not static – he is never far from us!

Please pray for ICS's outreach to tourists:

- Those who do not normally go to church – that they will attend a service and be receptive to the gospel.

- The influence of the Kandersteg chaplains on the Scouts and Guides they meet.
- The services and the chaplains' ministry to be an encouragement to Christians.
- Chaplains' preparation and leadership of services, their work in publicising the services and mid-week events in resort, and their witness to tourists, local people and tour reps.