



CHRIST CHURCH, BRITTANY

To know Jesus Christ and make him known



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

Newsletter June 2008

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Prayer focus

- _For all those suffering as a result of the cyclone in Burma and the earthquake in China
- For all who do not yet know the Lord, that He may open hearts and minds.
- _For our families, especially those who have yet to find faith in Jesus.
- For the sick and dying that they may find peace.

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Hazel Door
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Churchwardens: Chris Wilson (Tel: 02 97 72 19 29)
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Barbara Dunford (Tel: 02 97 27 19 37)
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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 June

Ploërmel

May

1 st	Proper 4:	11-00	HC Order 1
8 th	Proper 5	09-30	HC Order 2
		11-00	Prayer and Praise
15 th	Proper 6	11-00	HC Order 1
22 nd	Proper 7	11-00	HC Order 1
29 th	Proper 8	11-00	Something different

Rostrenen - Chapelle du Manoir de Campostal.

June

22nd	Proper 7	10-30	HC - Order One
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We shall be baptizing Reiss Guillaume Goldfinch at this service

Huelgoat Parish Church in the town centre

June

8 th	Proper 5	18-30	HC Order 1
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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

Alpha Course

We are intending to announce a revised commencement date for the Alpha Course soon. If you would like to be involved in the course or require further information in respect please contact Hazel Door, the Wardens or Val Smith.

Coffee Morning

A Coffee Bring and Buy morning is being organised by Barbara Dunford and will be held at her home in St Barthelemy on Saturday 21st June, commencing at 10.30am, all are welcome. Funds raised during the morning are for Christ Church, Brittany and Hope and Homes for Children. More information can be obtained from Barbara on 02 97 27 19 37.



Get Fit Class

The next Get Fit session at La Source run by Kath Elsdon will be held on Friday 13th June starting at 10.30am. There will be further get togethers on 20th and 27th June followed by a short break with the classes then re-commencing on Friday 18th July. Remember, you don't need to be fit to join in, the excercises are as gentle as you want them and are adapted for all levels of fitness.

Autumn Fair

Following last years successful Autumn Fair plans are already under way to hold this years on 6th September. If you would like to help in any way please add your name to the list in the coffee room at Ploërmel or contact Barbara Dunford on 02 97 27 19 37 or Chris Wilson on 02 97 72 19 29

Coffee Mornings at La Source

From the first Friday in July there will be a regular coffee morning held at La Source from 10 o'clock onwards. So why not call in for a coffee and a chat and a piece of cake. Further information can be obtained from Penny Murray on 02 97 22 71 85. Penny will also be organising a craft session on Friday mornings.

Fellowship Meetings – June 2008

St Vran

Next Fellowship meeting date is 19th June 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

There will be a Home Group meeting taking place at Joy Morin's home in Redon on Friday 30th May and thereafter fortnightly. If you would like further information 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 this Home Group will be on June 26th at 11.00 am at the house of Julia Evans in Glomel. Further details from Robin or Laura Hillman - 02 97 51 74 26 or 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 Pugh on 02 98 35 46 59.

Other Matters

Organ Concert

An organ concert was arranged for the evening of 10th May 2008 held in the large chapel at Maison Mere. The organist, David Markby visited us from England, where he is one of the regular organists at High Cross Church in Camberley, Surrey. He played a number of pieces on the chapel's organ all of which were received to great applause by the 50 plus people who attended. In addition we also had Jim Rowland, a member of our congregation, who sang traditional Welsh songs for us with a truly wonderful voice. Jim was accompanied by Hywel John who played the harp with great flair. The evening was rounded off nicely with a drinks reception, which took place just outside the chapel. Grateful thanks were expressed to the Frères for the use of their facilities and we are also extremely grateful to Joy Morin who kindly volunteered to act as MC for the evening and translated all David Markby's introductions for the benefit of the French people who attended. A total of 320 Euros was raised during the evening.

Kittens

A number of kittens are looking for a good home to go to. If you are interested and would like to offer one a home please contact Gloria Chilcott on 02 97 38 80 34.

Prayer Chain

Pat Taylor, who originally ran the Prayer Chain, has now returned to the UK and Rose Lakeman has kindly agreed to carry on in Pat's place. 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 46 18 or e-mail david.lakeman@cegetel.net.

Christ Church Structures.

I've been asked a number of times recently, why do we have to do this or that? So hoping that this information might be helpful, the following is a brief outline of the way we are organised and why.

We are, as you know, a part of the Diocese in Europe which in turn is the 44th Diocese of the Church of England. Though it would seem that not all of the C of E on the off shore island remember that! To conform with the law relating to the C of E, they cannot send any money out of England, which in itself leads to another problem of which more later. As a priest in the C of E, at my ordination I made vows of canonical obedience to my Bishop, promising to abide by the rules (canons) of the church. These rules cover all aspects of

Church life, and as we here in Brittany are considered to be the same as any parish in England, though somewhat larger! So we have the same structures as parishes. There are usually 2 churchwardens, a Church Council, sides persons etc etc. Churchwardens duly elected, serve for one year and are the Bishop's officers in the parish and as such are responsible for ensuring the orderly conduct of worship. To this end they oversee the work of the sides persons. They share jointly with the priest responsibility in making sure that services take place in accordance with the regulations even to taking the service themselves if there is no Priest or Reader able to be there.

The Chaplaincy is administered by the Priest, the Wardens, and the Council including the elected Archdeaconry Synod reps by right of office (ex-officio). As you know, council members are elected annually and it is possible to co-opt additional members in order to ensure that every worship centre is represented. At its first meeting each year, the council elects from among its number: the Secretary, Treasurer and a Lay Vice-Chair, as in England the priest is always Chair. Last year the council met on a monthly basis usually for a full day, this year mindful of how precious time is, and hopeful of reducing our carbon footprint, it has been decided to meet every other month. Should anything urgent arise in the interval, then a Standing committee, comprising the priest, Treasurer, Secretary, Wardens and Lay vice-chair, are empowered to conduct any business. For example, recently the Treasurer has experienced difficulties in paying in the cash from collections; at any other branch than the one where our account is held, and at short notice the standing committee was able to authorise the opening of a new account at a different bank. This decision will then be reported back to council and be minuted in the proceedings of that meeting. The council as a whole is responsible for the running of Christ Church's "business" activities, overseeing expenditure and raising income. We receive no financial support from the central church funds as mentioned earlier, though as both our bishops are based in England, *they* can be paid for and housed by the Church. Historically the stipend (pay for clergy), was paid in order that clergy could concentrate on their ministry and maintain the spiritual life of the parish. Here in Europe, parishes must fund the housing, expenses and stipend of their clergy themselves.

The Priest shares the leading of worship with others, though the final responsibility for all matters relating to worship rests with the Priest alone. Those of you, who were present at my institution service, will perhaps remember the declaration and oath of canonical obedience which I made then and which were a repeat of the vows I made at my ordination. Significantly one of those promises was to use only authorised forms of service, so the liturgy, (the set order or pattern of worship that we use) needs to be that of the Church of England, even though we number many other

denominations in our membership. We are therefore fortunate, that we can use Common Worship which allows us a great deal of flexibility.

This very briefly is an overview of the way CC is structured and operated in conjunction with the Church of England. The requirements of French Law, however, are another matter and will be the subject of a future article.

Time for Prayer!!

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all the keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

And finally.....

On May the 10th we welcomed Liberty, Kisha and Louis-Phillipe into our church family. During the service we sang the song "Who put the colours in the rainbow?" Some time ago I was asked why the colours of the clergy stoles changed and how did we know what colour to wear?

As many of us are not of a Church of England background, I hope this explanation might help. These colours have been in use since the Middle Ages and are both a teaching device and a way of marking days and seasons. The liturgical year is marked with various seasons: - Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time I, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time II. The First Sunday of Advent (four Sundays before Christmas) marks the beginning of a liturgical year, the various seasons follow. The liturgical year ends with the Feast of Christ the King, (our Patronal festival). Each liturgical season has a special theme and meaning for worship which are marked by the liturgical colours.

White is used for Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter and their seasons and symbolizes joy and celebration and gladness and light and purity and innocence and is associated with festivals of Christ and of those saints who presumably died a natural death. It is also worn at Weddings and Baptisms.

Green is the colour of growth and foliage and fruit and leaves, therefore green is used for the season after Pentecost called Ordinary Time which means days that fall outside of any special season.

Red symbolises fire and blood and is used for Pentecost and for days commemorating martyrs and is also appropriate for festivals of renewal in the Spirit like church dedications and ordinations, red is also used for the Passion of Our Lord from Palm Sunday to the Wednesday of Holy Week suggesting deeper intensity and triumph and victory, we may sometimes additionally wear it from All Saints to Advent Sunday.

Purple has been the royal colour throughout history as it was the most expensive to produce with primitive dye, it is the colour used for the seasons of Advent and Lent when we are exhorted to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Kingdom through acts of penitence and we also use it for funerals.

These are the four main colours, and variations are also possible, for example Rose **Pink** can be used as an alternative for the 4th Sunday in Lent which in the Church of England is Mothering Sunday and for the 3rd Sunday in Advent.

Fortunately there are no restrictions as far as designs are concerned; otherwise the sunflowers and butterflies on my green stole would not be the fun they are! We shall be trying to introduce a little more colour into our worship, and I would welcome any suggestions from you all, as to how this could happen.

So, remember who put the colours in the rainbow and let's give Him the glory!!!

Blessings Hazel.

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the July 2008 issue, please email your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 16th July 2008. Many thanks.