



CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

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

Newsletter March 2009

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Prayer Focus March 2009

- ❖ That this time of Lent will be an opportunity for spiritual growth.
- ❖ That we may be worthy of the forgiveness bought on the cross.
- ❖ For all those who care for the sick, the elderly and those disabled in body mind or spirit.

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 MARCH 2009

PLOERMEL

March

1 st	Lent 1	11-00	H C Order 1
8 th	Lent 2	11-00	Prayer & Praise Followed by shared lunch
15 th	Lent 3	11-00	H C Order 1
22 nd	Lent 4	11-00	FAMILY SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
29 th	Lent 5	11-00	H C Order 1, followed by the AGM.

ROSTRENEN (Chapelle de Manoir du Campstal.)

8 th	Lent 2	10-30	H C Order 1
22 nd	Lent 4	10-30	H C Order 1

HUELGOAT Parish Church in the town centre

8 th	Lent 2	16-30	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

Christ Church Brittany - Annual General Meeting 2009

As announced in the last Newsletter the 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 29th March 2009, immediately following the service. Elections will take place immediately before the AGM for the appointment of two Churchwardens. During the AGM itself elections will take place for up to 11 Council members and an Independent Examiner and a number of

Sidespersons will also be appointed. If you are interested and would like to take on one of these roles please see one of the Churchwardens or Hazel. Please remember that to vote at the AGM or to serve as an elected member of Council you must be on the Electoral Roll. If you wish to check if you are on the Roll or you wish to join please contact Don Dykes (02 97 27 10 41) or speak to one of the Churchwardens.

The Council will revise the current Electoral Roll with a closing date on 10th March 2009, so if you need to apply you must do so before this date if you wish to vote at the AGM.

Spring Concert

Don't forget a charity concert is being organised and will take place on Friday 17th April 2009 commencing at 8.00/8.30pm (actual time to be confirmed later), in the Amphithéâtre of the Lycée La Mennais, Ploermel. The concert is to raise funds for Water Aid. If anyone would like to take part either on stage or in helping with the event on the night or for further information please contact John or Helen Edge on 02 97 74 97 96.

Fellowship Meetings – March 2009

St Vran

Fellowship meeting dates for March are the 12th and 26th 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

The Home Group will be holding a Lent course which will be starting at Joy Morin's home in Redon. For further information please contact Joy 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 Rostrenen Home Group will be holding a Lent course at Julia Evans' home at Glomel on the following Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18 & 25 and April 1st, starting at 10.30 and followed by a shared lunch. We shall be following the book Lentwise by Paula Gooder. Further details from Julia on 02 96 24 22 53 or Robin & 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.

Women's World Day of Prayer

We have been invited to an ecumenical meeting for the Journée Mondiale de la Prière (Women's World Day of Prayer) on Friday March 6th from 18.00 - 20.00 at the Communauté des Filles du Saint-Esprit, 7 Place de la République, Plérin near St Briec. If you would like to attend and for further information please contact Laura Hillman - 02 97 51 74 26.

Prayers

Please remember that at 10-30am on the morning of the 30th of each month (Feb 28th) we can in our separation join in an hour of prayer, perhaps using the prayer focus from the Newsletter as guidance. If you would like a particular topic for prayer please contact Hazel and we can include your suggestions in future issues.

OTHER MATTERS

From Father Ken Letts – Archdeacon of France

Act of God or Wickedness of Man ?

Kinglake, Marysville, St Andrews, Narbethong, Yarra Glen – these were names that conjured up beauty for all Melburnians. Set in the lovely Dandenong Ranges just north east of the city, they were small townships set amidst tall gums and majestic tree ferns. I spent my teenage years hiking through the hills and bush of that area. Now, after ten years of drought, and in the midst of a *canicule*, with strong winds from the north-west, the land is desolate.

From the Melbourne newspaper *The Age*:

WHEN policeman Roger Wood drove past the Pheasant Creek supermarket on Saturday he found about 50 people huddling there, hoping to escape the ferocity of the fire that was due to sweep over them.

He told an off-duty colleague who was with them that he would check the road ahead and call back. It was clear — he phoned and told them to pile into cars and race to the CFA station at Kinglake West.

They did. Just minutes after they arrived, the flames roared over them. They all survived. The supermarket was not so lucky; it burned to the ground.

Kinglake is now full of stories about the fateful hand of chance during Saturday's wild fire: the lucky escapes and the ghastly accidents. The one for whom everyone feels is the man who took his children to his parent's home for safety. He ended up losing them all.

More than 200 lives lost, thousands of homes burnt, businesses destroyed, presbyteries, churches, schools razed – what can one say? Very little. What can one do? Quite a lot: first, support these brothers & sisters in Christ by prayer, for however impotent we may feel *more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of* - they are held before God at the Eucharist every day at Nice; secondly, if you care to make a donation, that can be organized by myself either through the Archbishop of Melbourne or the Red Cross – just speak to me about it; thirdly, we can reflect that if the fires were deliberately lit, how do we deal personally with such wickedness, and then, how do we respond to the changing weather patterns - at the time of writing, 2 ml of rain over the past six weeks rather than the expected 70 ml - that allowed such a disaster? How do we live in harmony, rather than at enmity, with the earth herself?

Lord, God of all Creation, we are entrusted with caring for this Earth. Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged, to care for what You have made good and holy, Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds, our hearts and our ways for our sake now and for every generation which is to come.

Father Ken

A Cautionary Tale

Recently Trevor and two other friends, all retired schoolboys, set off on a journey to the UK to pick up a new kitchen for our home in La Gacilly. All went well the B & B was good the food, booze and jokes even better and like clockwork the kitchen arrived on time. After a few more items, namely a double oven, a roll top bath, washing machine, large TV and the food shopping lists from the three wives, had been bought and placed in the Luton Van which had been hired from Super U, the van was still only half full.

At this point the boys headed for the night ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo. The crossing was a little bumpy but nothing to worry about. Once across the boys set off for home. Nothing untoward happened until nearing the Aire de Paimpont just north of the Guer turnoff, suddenly several gendarmes were pulling every lorry and van off the road, so off into the Aire de Paimpont they went.

The Gendarmes were having a purge and they had brought a mobile weighbridge with them. Sure, that there was nothing to worry about, because the van was only half full, up on the weighbridge the van went. As you know, in the UK these vans are regularly used to move house. Usually they are full to the brim and you struggle to close the doors, at least that has been our experience on more than one occasion. To the boys surprise the half full van was carrying double the weight it should. With three passengers a ton weight is allowed, the van weighed 2.1 ton and Trevor was ordered by the Gendarmes to remove half the weight and get the van reweighed before moving off.

Trevor was then informed that as the van was hired in his name, even though he wasn't driving, he was responsible for the overload and he would receive a fine and would have to appear in court in Vannes. The Gendarmes told Trevor he was lucky to be residing in France as he would receive a 750 Euros fine, payable on the spot if he resided anywhere other than France. For once his age helped, being a pensioner that also meant he had a reduction on his fine which he was told would probably be reduced to 70 Euros or less. Trevor is unsure whether he will have points removed from his licence. We will let you know the outcome of his visit to court at a later date.

After frantic phone calls two friends with trailers arrived and as much as possible was quickly transferred, from the van, to the trailers. Meanwhile the Gendarmes decided to go off to lunch, along with the man and his weighbridge, they did not return so Trevor took the van on to La Gacilly to be unloaded at home. He left without permission from the Gendarmes, and so he is hoping he won't get into further trouble for this.

So beware if you are travelling through France, in a van or lorry, check the weight before you set off.

Julie and Trevor Voller

7 reasons not to mess with children.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?' Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.' The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?'

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. 'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher, she's dead.'

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face.' 'Yes,' the class said. 'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?' A little fellow shouted, 'Cause your feet aren't empty.'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE. God is watching.' Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

AND FINALLY

The Christ Church AGM takes place on the 29th March this year and it is also a time when we need to review our commitment to giving to the Lord's work through Christ Church. I am only too well aware of the disastrous effect on our incomes that the low value of the pound against the Euro has had during recent months. It is at times like these that we consider how we can curtail our expenses and sadly, it is often our giving to God that is seen as being the first and easiest expense to be cut.

The challenge to us all is to always ensure that we keep our priorities in the right order. The Bishop of Cambridge once taught a class. He said, "We have all learned to say in school: 'First Person--I; Second Person--You; Third Person--He.' But that is wrong in Christian grammar, so wrong that, to put it right, one has to turn it upside down. The Christian grammar is: 'First Person--He; Second Person--You; Third Person--I,' and 'He' means God, the First Person in the first place. Then 'You' means other people, and 'I' myself comes last." That's the challenge that we must all face in our Christian lives, and the most difficult challenge comes when the issue is to do with money!

More than 20 years ago, Bronwen and I were challenged about our giving to the Lord. We have discovered the truth of the maxim that you can never 'outgive' God. A farmer was known for his generous giving, but his friends could not understand how he could give so much away and yet remain so prosperous. One day one of his friends said, "We can't understand you. You give far more than the rest of us and yet you always seem to have more to give." "Oh, that is easy to explain," the farmer said. "I keep shovelling into God's bin and God keeps shovelling into mine, but God has the bigger shovel!" Here was a man whose giving was controlled by his trust in a faithful God who had bought his salvation at a price greater than we can ever understand.

Can I ask all of us who worship at Christ Church, Brittany, to prayerfully consider our giving to the Lord during the next few weeks? We should **never** give to the Lord because we expect something in return. Trust the Lord and let him prompt you for ways in which you can meet all your financial commitments – including His!

Finally, can I remind everyone that giving regularly through a bank standing order or the envelope scheme is an easy method for giving to the Lord. The new envelopes are ready and begin on 5th April. If you would like information about either scheme, please fill in one of the forms available at Church, or speak to me or one of the Wardens.

Thank you for your fellowship in the Lord.
May God bless you during these difficult months.

Alan Mason

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the April 2009 issue, please e-mail (or post) your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 16th March 2009.