



# 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, 16 place de Lamennais, Ploërmel, Tel: 02 97 74 24 82

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## **October 2006 - Prayer focus:**

- That God will bless the future development of Christ Church and that all will respond positively to the opportunities presented by the new building and its facilities.
- For our new priest-in-charge and that suitable housing may be found.
- The work of the Restos du Coeur and other agencies providing help for the needy in winter time.

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

Website: [christchurchbrittany.org.uk](http://christchurchbrittany.org.uk)

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Priest-in-Charge: Currently vacant  
Reader: Robin Hillman  
Tel: 02 97 51 74 26  
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Clergy with permission  
to officiate: The Revd Michael Grainger,  
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The Revd Dr John Marvell,  
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Churchwardens: Greg West (Tel: 02 97 93 57 87

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Wendy Sourceau-Bishop

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Bonen:

Robin or Laura Hillman (details as before)

## **SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel (all services at 11am)**

### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> (HARVEST FESTIVAL)

Holy Communion - The Revd Michael Grainger

NB This is our first service in the new building, 14 rue Général

Dubreton, Ploërmel (the former Centre Jean de Lamennais).

8<sup>th</sup> (17<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY)

Holy Communion - The Revd Michael Grainger

15<sup>th</sup> (19<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY)

Morning Prayer

22<sup>nd</sup> (THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY)

All-age Worship

29<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> BEFORE ADVENT)

Holy Communion – The Revd Dr John Marvell

Next Fellowship Meetings at St Vran - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
and every subsequent fortnight. 12 noon for shared lunch. All welcome.

Contact Alex & Joyce Fraser 02 96 56 13 22

## **SERVICE DETAILS – other areas**

### ***BONEN (in the Parish Church)***

OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> - HARVEST FESTIVAL

To be followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch at the Salle Paroissiale beside the Presbytère, 4 rue Joseph Pennec, Rostrenen

**NANTES** (Communion service every 2nd Sunday at 18.30)

**HUELGOAT** (Each Sunday - 11.00 - Fellowship meeting)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 18.30

HOLY COMMUNION - The Revd Michael Grainger

NB There will be NO Fellowship meeting on October 1st to allow people to attend the Harvest Festival at Ploërmel.

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

## **HARVEST FESTIVALS PLOËRMEL (Oct 1 st)**

The service will be followed by a shared lunch and as this is the first service to be held in our new building, it is hoped that as many as possible will stay for this. Please bring gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables to decorate the chapel. These will be auctioned after the lunch for a good cause. We shall also start the annual collection of tinned and packaged goods for the Restos du Coeur. This will continue until Advent Sunday, December 2nd.

### **BONEN (Oct 22nd)**

We shall be cleaning and decorating the church from 2.30 on Saturday Oct 21st. Please bring decorations of flowers and produce which can be easily removed at the end of the service. We shall

also be receiving goods for the Restos du Coeur. By kind permission of Abbé Jean Champion we have been offered the use of the Parish Rooms beside the Presbytery in Rostrenen for a bring-and-share lunch after the service. We do hope that this will be well supported and that it will provide an opportunity for members of the Bonen congregation to get to know each other better.

## **REIKI**

You are probably aware that Reiki has become increasingly popular as an alternative form of healing. We would like to suggest that anyone who has given their life to the Lord Jesus AND is considering Reiki as a form of healing, goes to GOOGLE and searches 'What is a Christian perspective on Reiki?' This is a short

two-page article by Michael Gleghorn.

As Christians we need to be wise and careful about what we get involved in. The world today offers us many enticing alternatives, which often appear very good and have an aura of godliness. The Bible clearly warns us, and in 2 Corinthians 11 v 14 we read: "Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." Our Christian life must be firmly rooted in His (Christ's) way. Jesus declared: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Anything that draws us away from Jesus and His Word (the Bible) is therefore dangerous for us and dishonouring to God.

Please do read the article by Michael Gleghorn.

**Margrith and Andy Jay**

**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](mailto:andrew.lewer@libertysurf.fr). The deadline for contributions for the October issue is 20th October. Many thanks

## **NEWS**

JESSICA FAY PULLER, baby daughter of Carol and David Puller of 7 L'Isle, Callac, was baptised by Revd Michael Grainger at L'Isle Church at 3pm on Sunday 27th August. God-parents are Marie Madeline Coroller, Shaun Hartnett, Linda Puller and Robert Puller. During the Baptism all the children present held lighted candles and the congregation sang 'All things bright and beautiful' and heard a poem by Jessica's sisters. The service concluded with a round of applause for Jessica and was followed by a splendid banquet under a marquee in the Puller's garden which adjoins the church.

## **WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR - PLOËRMEL 15th SEPTEMBER**

The Watoto Children's Choir erupted with joy and energy onto the stage. What a delight was in store for us. Beautifully dressed and expertly trained, their sheer exuberance and radiance in praising God excited us all.

Their harrowing testimonies of sorrow and pain in such young lives were very moving. A salutary jolt for those of us fortunate to live in 'affluent' Europe. They illustrated the joy and hope found when God is at the centre - in despair He brings hope.

Their exuberance managed to get us all out of our seats and join enthusiastically with them praising God.

These little orphan children are the fortunate ones, thanks to the good Christian workers who have provided caring homes, education and above all love for them. We must not forget the millions of orphans in Africa, the majority orphaned because of Aids, who are not as fortunate. Each child is precious to God - He wants every one to sing with joy like the Watoto choir.

Many thanks to Eric Elsdon for organising the whole event. Grateful thanks, too, to Frere Auguste and the Brothers for their generosity in making the chapel available and their support.

**Joyce and Alex Fraser**

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Harvest Festival, which we are celebrating this month, is an ancient tradition which pre-dates Christianity. In Exodus 23 we read of the Feast of Unleavened Bread at the time of the barley harvest, the Feast of Weeks at the end of the corn harvest and the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering when fruit from vineyards and orchards was the focus of a particularly joyous festival lasting a week. Not one but three Harvest Festivals! Each became the occasion for celebrating an important event in Israel's history: the Passover, the exodus and the renewal of the covenant.

In 1843 The Revd Robert Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, decided to revive the tradition and invited his parishioners to a special service of thanksgiving. The well-known hymns 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'Come, ye thankful people, come' date from that time and are still popular today. Even though we may buy most of our food from the supermarket it is good to remind ourselves of its origins and to say 'thank you' to God for sending the rain and the sun to ripen the crops. We should also spare a thought for those who are finding it difficult to survive, the millions who are starving in underdeveloped countries, and the aid agencies who are helping them. A visit to the Christian Aid website will give you a glimpse of the problems encountered by many around the world today and some suggested solutions. Nearer home in French towns and cities the Restos du Coeur will be helping needy families again this winter: any non-perishable food and toiletries which you can donate will be gratefully received.

You are to be praised O God in Zion.....  
You tend the earth and water it;  
You make it rich and fertile....

You crown the year with your goodness.....  
And the valleys stand so thick with corn  
They shout for joy and sing.  
(from Ps 65, ASB)

**Laura Hillman**

***IN REPLY TO MICHAEL GRAINGER'S 'AND FINALLY' ON THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE...***

Every religion has its own unique rituals and doctrines. Dwelling on them tends to divide people. Nevertheless, there is a universal ethic in all religions, which elevates human relationships and promotes genuine love. The first written revelation of this universal ethic was the Ten Commandments, which God gave to Moses as the basis of the first monotheistic religion.

Today monotheism has spread all over the world among all the children of Abraham, and the precepts revealed to Moses are recognized as truth.

It is interesting to note that many of the peoples of the earth (who were unaware of the rise of Christian Doctrines in the Near East, *before it was brought to their attention by the conquering Europeans*) have their own set of instructions for living a spiritual life (see the 'Native American ten commandments').

Embracing and celebrating our differences is surely the key to harmonious living; after all we are all the children of this planet, and not the masters of it.

1. The Earth is our Mother; care for Her
2. Honor all your relations. (*We are all related*)
3. Open your heart and soul to the Great Spirit.
4. All life is sacred; treat every living thing with respect.
5. Take from the Earth what is needed and nothing more.

6. Do what needs to be done for the good of all.
7. Give constant thanks to the Great Spirit for each day.
8. Speak the truth but only for the good in others.
9. Follow the rythms of Nature.
10. Enjoy life's journey; but leave no tracks.

Pilamaye ye

**Nik WalkingBear**

### **And finally...**

At the All Age service on 27<sup>th</sup> August in Ploërmel, the readings and the talk was about 'hands', in particular, we thought about the Hand of God, an expression that we use in ordinary conversation but which can lead to all sorts of confusion if we try to talk about it in a religious way.

The alternative reading for that Sunday (Trinity 11) was the story of Jesus laying his hands on the woman who had been crippled for eighteen years and healing her (Luke 13: 10-17). Of course, Jesus got into a lot of trouble with the synagogue authorities because He had 'worked' on the Sabbath.

Jesus used his hands in healing and I feel sure that he used his hands extensively in teaching people about God (unfortunately there were no video cameras around to record those events). So how do we think about the Hand of God today?

We said together the prayer written by St Teresa of Avila at the service:

Christ has no body now but ours  
No hands, no feet on earth but ours  
Ours are the eyes through which He looks  
compassion on this world  
Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

I think that it is wonderful that a Spanish nun who lived in the sixteenth century can challenge our thoughts about the 'Hand of God'. We owe so much to Teresa who was born in 1515 (twenty years before Columbus arrived in America) and died in 1582. Teresa not only founded the Carmelite order of nuns but also wrote widely on the Christian spiritual life.

She used her hands! Now, we have to use our hands in His service!

**Michael Grainger**