



*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 October 2008**

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### **Prayer Focus October 2008**

- For all those recovering from surgery or ill health and their carers.
- For all those who are hungry of the world that a fair distribution of the harvest may be made throughout the world.
- For those planning the Christmas celebrations for our area.

Priest-in-Charge:            Revd Hazel Door  
79 rue Glatinier, 56120 Josselin  
Tel: 02 97 22 31 38  
e-mail: [rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr](mailto:rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr).

Churchwardens:            Chris Wilson (Tel: 02 97 72 19 29)  
e-mail: [wilson.christopher@orange.fr](mailto:wilson.christopher@orange.fr)

Barbara Dunford (Tel: 02 97 27 19 37)  
e-mail : [mdunford@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mdunford@wanadoo.fr).

Local Contacts:

Huelgoat:                    Keith Beswetherick (Tel: 02 98 78 21 28)

e-mail: [beswetherick.keith@wanadoo.fr](mailto:beswetherick.keith@wanadoo.fr)

Rostrenen:

Robin and Laura Hillman Tel: 02 97 51 74 26  
e-mail: [kermoran@wanadoo.fr](mailto:kermoran@wanadoo.fr)

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

**Services for October**

**Ploërmel**

**September**

28<sup>th</sup> Proper 21 11-00 HC Order 1

**October**

5<sup>th</sup> Proper 22 11-00 HC Order 1 Harvest Festival

12<sup>th</sup> Proper 23 11-00 Prayer and Praise

19<sup>th</sup> Proper 24 11-00 HC & Service of celebration  
and thanksgiving for marriage.

26<sup>th</sup> Proper 24 11-00 HC Order 1 **Clocks go back**

**Rostrenen** - Chapelle de Manoir du Campostal.

**October**

26<sup>th</sup> Proper 24 10-30 HC - Order One **Clocks go back**

**Huelgoat** - Parish Church in the town centre

**October**

12<sup>th</sup> Proper 23 18-30 HC Order 1

**For further information about any of these services please get in touch with The Rev'd Hazel Door, Churchwardens or the local contacts.**

## Services Information

It was with a deep sense of regret that I made the decision to discontinue the 9-30 service on the second Sunday of each month at Ploermel. The number of people attending had fallen over recent months. At the same time there has been an increasingly louder request for another service in the Rostrenen area.

So, at Rostrenen, with effect from the second Sunday in December there will be a Holy Communion service at 10-30 on each second Sunday, and the service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be either a Communion or a Service of the Word. The additional bonus for me is that I shall be able to celebrate Communion, at both Rostrenen and Huelgoat, much more frequently. In addition I shall be able to spend more time in visiting in the area. We shall review the position after a period of time to see if this pattern of services will be acceptable and effective. If we are to sustain them, we shall need to involve more people in the leading of worship and in reading and prayers. So please do contact Hazel or Robin & Laura.

## Family Service/Children's Worship

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been asked if it would be possible to have a "Family friendly" service, having given this some thought, we will have a less formal communion service every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at Ploermel. This service will begin in January and will be reviewed at some point to see if it is meeting the needs of the younger members of our Church family.

Arrangements are already in hand to start a Sunday School at Rostrenen. Watch this space for further details, or contact Hazel for further information. If you would be interested in helping with either of these new ventures, please contact Hazel.

## Other dates for your diary

### HARVEST FESTIVALS

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September we will be celebrating the Harvest at **Rostrenen**, at 10-30. All gifts are welcome and as in previous years, any tins, packets, etc, are given to the Restos du Coeur in Ploërmel. Perishable gifts are auctioned and the money raised is usually given to a charity. There will be a shared lunch after the service at in the Salle Paroissiale behind the Presbytery, 4 rue Joseph Penneec. For further information please contact Janet Eveson (tel: 02 96 28 54 63).

On Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> we shall celebrate the Harvest at **Ploërmel**, with a similar format to the above. Shared lunch will follow the auction.

### **Alpha Course**

Val Smith will be leading an Alpha Course starting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. The course will be held at Val and Dave Smith's house at La Née, which is just a few minutes drive south of Ploermel. If you would like to be involved in the course or require further information please contact Hazel Door, the Wardens or Val Smith.

### **Sunday October 19th 2008 11-00 a.m. - a Service of Thanksgiving For and Celebration of Marriage.**

All are invited to this service at Ploermel. Come and join us as we commemorate marriages short or long!  
Bring a copy of *your* wedding photo to put on display and share your memories of that day.

It is a service for everyone wishing to thank God for marriage, not a remaking of vows, rather renewing and affirming them. The service will be centred on a communion, and will be followed by a vin d'honneur and then a bring and share lunch.

Further information can be obtained from Hazel.

### **Fellowship Meetings – August 2008**

#### **St Vran**

Fellowship meeting dates for October are 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month, 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](mailto:alex.fraser@wanadoo.fr).

#### **Redon Area**

The next Home Group meeting will take place at Joy Morin's home in Redon in October. If you would like further information about the Group 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](mailto:wilson.christopher@orange.fr).

#### **Rostrenen Area**

The next meeting of the Home Group in the Rostrenen area is on Thursday 23 October at 1100 at the home of Julia Evans near Glomel (02 96 24 22 53)

In addition on 12 November at 1630 at Gouarec, there will be an Ecumenical Meeting in association with local Roman Catholics. All welcome. For further details please telephone Robin or Laura Hillman - 02 97 51 74 26 or e-mail to [kermoran@wanadoo.fr](mailto: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.

## **Other Matters**

### **A message from Barbara and Malcolm Dunford**

We have both been overwhelmed by the kind messages, e mails, and cards, all giving us such support. Thank you so much.

Malcolm has now been transferred to the Centre de Re-education at Plemet, near Loudeac. He will be given a fairly intensive course of physiotherapy, to improve his mobility. The Centre is a lovely, positive place, set in gardens overlooking mature trees. The rooms have balconies and a French window with the beautiful view. One can't help feeling uplifted there.

The Dr has told him that there is no time limit, just as long as it takes for him to be fully mobile again. Malcolm is a testimony to the many, many prayers from all around the world that have been said on his behalf, and we are both so grateful.

### **Autumn Fair**

After terrible weather on the Friday, Saturday dawned with clear blue skies and sunshine. Alas it was not to last, and although the weather was kind during setting up for the Fair, it turned wet and breezy during the afternoon. Not to be deterred many stalls were hurriedly re-arranged inside the cafeteria and the Fair opened on time. Many comments were made after the event as to the wonderful atmosphere and feeling of fellowship that enveloped all those participating as the Fair progressed indoors. Numbers attending were down due to the weather and although valiant efforts took place to keep the bric a brac stall open and occasional attempts at selling books, both stalls being left outside, very little was sold, and no outside games could take place. A very big thank you must go to all the volunteers who braved the conditions and attended from early morning to make sure the event actually

happened and particularly to those who went home in a very wet and sodden state. Thanks also to Barbara Dunford for all her work in co-ordinating the Fair. The end result of all the hard work was a sum raised in the region of 1000 Euros, which under the circumstances was a wonderful result.

### **News from Huelgoat.**

Hello from the congregation at Huelgoat! We are a very small but dedicated group and would just like to introduce ourselves to those who may not know much about us. We have been so pleased to welcome friends from other Christ Church Brittany congregations who have supported us in the absence of our regular leaders, or indeed just to participate in our service.

We manage to have hymns to music due to the very adept use of a CD player by Mary who seems to manage superb timing and yes we sing together with gusto, there are of course many roles and duties involved in the delivery of the Holy Communion service and members all participate whether it be in the reading of lessons, preparing the Intercessions or making the tea to name just a few.

Our congregation is quite transient as Brittany of course has its part time residents and we are always pleased to welcome those who can only attend when they are visiting their second homes or indeed on holiday. We would love to welcome you too, Huelgoat is itself a very interesting place to visit so why not combine this, swell our numbers and enjoy our Service, we will make you most welcome.

We are steadily growing, as we have now progressed from just six or eight chairs to needing them two rows deep, how's that for progress!

God Bless from all at Huelgoat

### **Prayer Chain**

Rose Lakeman is now administering the Prayer Chain. 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 47 68 or e-mail [roselakeman@msn.com](mailto:roselakeman@msn.com).

### **ICS Seasonal Chaplaincy at Nevez 2008**

2008 was the 11<sup>th</sup> year in which we have been based in the Chaplaincy of Nevez. There is no greater joy than to be given the opportunity to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The specific target of the Chaplaincy is the

English speaking tourist. While the most obvious English speaking tourist is from the UK, many others speak English too. They come from Ireland, the Netherlands, even France and further away too.

By now we are well known in this part of southern Brittany and everywhere we go. We are recognised and welcomed at the Campsites and Tourist Offices we visit. There is an expectancy and an interest in what we are doing. We are encouraged to provide the Services on Sunday and to wear the badge wherever we go.

This year the Services have been well attended. Numbers range from 56 on the first Sunday to 91 later. The talks were based on the equipment which the motoring tourist is required to carry in his car. The yellow High Visibility jacket (Be visible and Witness); the Triangle (Warn and be Warned); the Spare Light Bulbs (Walk in the Light and be a light for others) and the First Aid Kit (Salvation – tears will be wiped from your eyes). The Childrens'/Youth talks were used to introduce the visual aids, and a simple message was given. Then the themes were teased out in the more adult talks later in the Service.

Personal Bible Reading was emphasised in all the services and a presentation of Bible Reading Notes and Aids was given. Sample Bible Reading Material, SGM/Lifewords pamphlets and booklets and children's books were available free of charge at each Service. Services all finished with a 'cool' drink and refreshments giving time for those present to talk with each other – a time of fellowship.

As in all former Chaplaincies, much of the 'work' is done moving around the campsites visiting pitches and caring for the Camp Couriers. Many of those contacted in this way drop in on our pitch to talk and drink 'coffee' and we listen and share the Good News with them.

Off the campsites we make contact with the English speaking tourist, as we place fliers under car wipers at the Car Parks in town during the many Markets, or along the cars parked by the beaches or at the Supermarkets. This constant visibility and the constant invitation to join others in church is both challenging and stimulating. Those who do not attend church regularly are encouraged to do so. Those who are there every Sunday are encouraged to come, to share and to witness and when needed to help with the service by providing the music. We have only twice in all our chaplaincies been without a musician. The Lord has always provided even at the last minute. However we are very thankful to those who helped in this way this year.

The shared lunches after church on Sunday have been a source of deep fellowship and the Promenades – the Ecumenical Walk (at Trémor this year), have networked a strong local respect and prayer support, for the work we are doing.

Finally the preparation and support given by Trevor Letchford and all those at HQ in Warwick cannot be underestimated. Equally the loving support from

many friends, English, Irish, French and others, has been invaluable in making the Chaplaincy what it is.

Once again many thanks must go to the parishes of Pont Aven and Nevez and their Parish Priest Michèl Péron without whom the Chaplaincy could not take place.

Michael and Rhodanne Heaney.

### **and finally....**

When it gets to this time of the month, I get a reminder from Chris Wilson, the compiler of the Newsletter, that it is time once again to write my piece. Sometimes I ask other people to contribute.

I sit staring at the blank screen wondering what to write, does any one else feel intimidated by a blank screen? Normally it reflects my blank mind!

Then I allow myself to be distracted by my emails, or in extreme moments, the ironing. When I have run out of other things to do, I sit back down and try once more. Why do I make it so difficult for myself? It's not that I dislike writing this piece, it's the getting started that I find difficult.

Once I get going, everything seems to flow. I've noticed that is true of some days as well, have you? It may be something that you don't want to face, or someone? My days always start with a time of prayer, brief or otherwise. They may be very formal using some of the set prayers for the day or informal as the words come to my heart.

Whatever the format, afterwards I always feel that it will not matter what the day brings, that in all I do and say, God is there with me. Indeed there are times when I turn everything over to God, and commit the situation wholly to him. Frustratingly, for me at least, I don't always see the outcome of what I have been involved with; but God does. What I do and say may have no immediate effect, but I know that God has a purpose. The secret seems to be to let God out of the box! Too often we try to limit God to operating within our human experience, but we read in Isaiah 55 vv 8-9 ' "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' How can we puny humans constrain God? We need to trust God, which may well be the hardest thing any of us undertakes. I remember seeing a slogan "Let go and Let God", which sums up what we should be doing. In coming to live here in Brittany, Martin and I took a step into the unknown, trusting God in his call for us to

come. It's not the first time we have done that, in the forty years we have been married there have been times when we have been aware of being guided, and we both know that this is where God wants us to be. So no matter what we all face or what we all fear, large or small, we can trust in God to know his plan for us.

Blessings

Hazel.

***Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the November 2008 issue, please email your contributions to Chris Wilson at wilson.christopher@orange.fr the deadline is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Many thanks.***