



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, 14 rue Général Dubreton, Ploërmel, Tel: 02 97 74 24 82

September 2007 - Prayer focus:

Please pray for...

- Britain, a country beset by many problems, and in great spiritual need.
- The ICS Chaplains on the coastal campsites.
- Christ Church, Brittany: that we may continue to grow in love and fellowship.

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

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The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those held by the Minister or Council of Christ Church Brittany'

Christ Church Newsletter Contributions: For the October issue, please email your contributions to Vicki Lewer at andrew.lewer@libertysurf.fr The deadline for contributions is Monday 17th September 2007. Many thanks.

Payment by UK Cheques

From time to time the Treasurer receives UK cheques in payment for items which have been obtained in the UK on behalf of the Church. These cheques are then paid into our Account in the UK (held by the Diocese in Europe).

The Diocese in Europe has now advised that all cheques received on behalf of the Church must be made payable to the Diocese in Europe, and not Christ Church Brittany. This is to comply with UK Banking Regulations that the correct payee must be shown on all cheques. The Diocese always acknowledges receipt of any cheques sent to them for payment into the Church account.

Don Dykes, Treasure

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch, holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn!

From the mouths of children...

Grace

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just pray what you have heard Mummy pray," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

SERVICE DETAILS – Ploërmel

AUGUST 2007

26th (12th after Trinity) 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One

SEPTEMBER 2007

2nd 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One

9th 09.30 Holy Communion - Order Two

11.00 Praise and Worship

16th 11.00 Holy Communion - Order One
23rd 11.00 Holy Communion with Baptism
30th 11.00 Holy Communion with Baptism

SERVICE DETAILS – Other areas

BONEN

Sunday September 23rd 10.30 – Holy Communion - Order One

HUELGOAT

Tuesday September 11th 18.30 - Holy Communion - Order One

For further information about any of the services please get in touch with The Revd Hazel Door, Churchwarden or Reader.

Dates for your diary

Fellowship Meetings - St Vran

Fellowship meeting dates for September are 13th and 27th commencing with a shared lunch. All welcome. For further information contact Joyce and Alex Fraser on 02 96 56 13 22.

Autumn Fayre

The Autumn Fayre will be held on 22nd September at Maison Mere, Ploërmel. If you would like to help or donate something to be sold please contact the following stallholders:

Refreshments	Sue & Mike Shotts
Crafts/Gifts	Val Smith
Cards/Giftwrap	Barbara Dunford
Good Clothes	Evie Yarnold
Produce	Robin Hillman
Bric a Brac	Keith Beswetherick
Toiletries	Sunni Hartwell
Cakes	Gloria Chilcott
Books	Martin Door
Bottles	Malcolm Dunford
Golf	Brian Morcan
Raffle	Mary Beswetherick

Guy Fawkes party

We are holding a Guy Fawkes party on 4th November 2007, all will be welcome whether a churchgoer or not. We will shortly be looking for help in preparing the venue at Barbara and Terry Woodford's house so if you are able to help please have a word with Eric Elsdon.

LIFE AFTER DEATH ?

Many of us believe in Life after Death, but this article should really be named Life After a Death.

It is possible to give Life After a Death by the simple method of carrying an All Organ Donor Card. Joan and I have carried an English one for many years, and recently we got to asking would our wishes be carried out if we died in France. Looking on the Internet we discovered www.france-adot.org which answered all our questions. Registration was simple on the net and the form was translated into English. Within three days we received our All Organ Donor Card. It costs nothing to join. We now have the satisfaction of knowing that we could save a life or many lives wherever we died.

Joan & Don Dykes

The Wooden Bowl

I guarantee you will remember the tale of the Wooden Bowl tomorrow, a week from now, a month from now, a year from now.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

'We must do something about father,' said the son. 'I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.'

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl!

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food!

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on

the floor. He asked the child sweetly, 'What are you making?'

Just as sweetly, the boy responded, 'Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up.' The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table.

For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled or the tablecloth soiled.

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they are gone from your life.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a life.

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

La Source Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting for La Source held on Sunday 29th July 2007, at which a total of 17 people attended, a new conseil d'administration (Officers and council) was elected. The new conseil d'administration replaces that of last year and the only members nominated and subsequently accepted unanimously at the meeting are as follows:

President – Revd Hazel Door
Vice President – Chris Wilson
Secretary – Elaine Wilson
Treasurer – Don Dykes
General Member – Martin Door

It should be emphasised that any authority previous members may have had now no longer applies. It will of course be necessary and desirable for other members of La Source to have an input in the running of the Christchurch outreach but there will not be the need to have any formal nominations at the moment. However, if you would like to help please contact one of the above.

It was also agreed at the AGM that it was necessary for the La Source Association statutes to be revised and updated to ensure we are complying with the legal advice received. In respect of this there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting on Monday 27th August 2007 at which a proposal will be put to the members for adoption of the revised statutes.

In the meantime a proposal was tabled to include a new regulation to apply immediately to membership which allows the conseil d'administration to cancel the membership of anyone who is deemed to have acted inappropriately.

This proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Finally, thanks were given wholeheartedly to all those volunteers who have assisted in so many ways and enabled the outreach of Christchurch to touch so many people. Further news will follow in due course.

The Council of Christ Church Brittany met in mid August, and a great deal of time was spent in planning for the future, not only of Christ Church but also the outreach centre La Source. At the time that I write there is to be an EGM for the La Source membership, which will be faced with decisions to be made regarding its form and future. By the time you read this, the way forward will have been decided. The council also recognised that they needed to spend time together in prayer, although each meeting starts and ends with prayer, it was felt that was not enough, and so agreement was made that between our monthly meetings we would meet to pray together as a council. This will strengthen our community in many ways. Would anyone be interested in having, say, a Brittany-wide prayer day once a month? We ought to be able to find a fairly central venue and begin to meet and pray together regularly. Do contact me and let me know. Another thing which was discussed was the need to have some co-ordination of our publicity and so on. If anyone has comments to offer, or would be willing to join a small group to organise this, again please contact either of the wardens or me, sooner rather than later!

Hazel

News from ICS

'Away from it all'

Was your holiday a chance to 'get away from it all'? Mine was – no mobile phone signal unless I climbed a hill. Holidays are important for refreshment, especially in our 'busy' lives. Christopher Jamison, though, writes in Finding Sanctuary that 'The real antidote to busy-ness must be sought outside the consumerist world.' Jesus himself said 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...and you will find rest for your souls.' (Matthew 11: 25 – 30). It would be easy to interpret Jesus' reference to a yoke or burden as referring to things we have to do and the responsibilities we have, the perceived

cause of much 'busy-ness'. However, Jesus means something else: the basic message of the gospel is that our biggest burden is our sin, from which Christ came to set us free. The wise too, Jesus says, also realise that serving Christ is less burdensome than serving the world and seek to order their lives accordingly. There are many around us who need to find rest for their souls. May we Christians serve God first instead of the world in its fallen-ness, and introduce those who have yet to discover him to the one who is 'gentle and lowly in heart'. Only in him will our souls be at rest.

Please pray for

- The ministry of your church, and churches like yours, to those new to your country – may those seeking a church find one, and those as yet unaware of God be invited to church. May all be made welcome and encounter Christ.
- The Utrecht chaplaincy as it develops its outreach to English-speaking students arriving in the city.
- Chaplains, nominated by ICS, beginning their work in the coming weeks: Andrew Ison (Voorschoten), Chris Edwards (Tervuren), Richard Pamplin (Viña del Mar) and Richard Hines (Falkland Islands).

ICS is an Anglican mission agency that partners churches like yours in mission to people who speak English e.g. through recruiting ministers, funding outreach and new churches, and providing resources and conferences. For information see www.churchesabroad.org or pick up a copy of ICS News and Prayer Diary in church.

David Healey, Communications Manager, ICS: +44 1926 – 430 347 www.ics-uk.org

Joint Ecumenical Service at Carnac Plage

More than 70 people gathered together on Thursday 2nd August 2007 for this year's Ecumenical Meeting at the Espace Spirituelle de Locmaria at Carnac-Plage, by kind permission of Pere Lambert and supported by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Eglise Reformée churches. This year it was the turn of Christchurch to organise the occasion which has now been taking place annually for several years.

As 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire, 'Slavery, then and now' was chosen as the theme. For, despite the efforts of many reformers, slavery continues today throughout the world and in many guises, for example, forced labour, bonded labour, child trafficking and domestic work and attention was focused on these continuing evils. Posters and a map were displayed: these and other information were obtained from various sources but in particular, Anti-Slavery International and CMS.

A brief introduction by the Revd Hazel Door was followed by a short background talk by Robin Hillman before the singing of 'Amazing Grace', the words of which were written by former slave-trader John Newton following his acceptance of the Christian faith. Several members of Christchurch took an active part in the service which

included short case histories of three people caught up in modern slavery. The Revd Allan Edwards, the ICS Holiday Chaplain at Carnac, read one of the lessons. The whole of the service was presented in French and English and we are grateful to Fr Francois Corrigan and Laura Hillman for their translations. The service ended with the singing of the South African song 'We are marching' in English, French and Xhosa.

A pot d'amitie was provided after the service by members of Christ Church (many thanks to Chris & Elaine Wilson for arranging this), followed by a picnic for which a sizeable proportion of the congregation stayed and which enabled everyone to get to know each other better. The international nature of the occasion was enhanced by the presence of two priests from Benin and Zaire and it was encouraging to have three young ordinands (two Roman Catholic and one Anglican) also attending.

A collection amounting to 243.47 euros was made for the CCEM (Comite Contre l'Esclavage Moderne).

And finally...

Recently I was taken on a trip down memory lane by our eldest daughter. Do you remember, she said, the LPs you had from when we were little? Not only remembered but still have!!!! Great joy from herself and her sibling. Much embarrassment from their children!! Perhaps it's a good thing simply to rely on memories and not tangible things. Memories can never be taken from you, unlike "stuff", which becomes clutter and clutter which begins to impede our freedom. There is a danger, though, that our memories become distorted and we begin to live in the past. The time must come when we can let those memories go as well; especially those that become distorted and assume enormous proportions and thus distort our present.

Jesus tells us to be prepared for His return, not only through making our physical lives tidy, but by being prepared spiritually as well. If we are not able to lay down our burdens from the past how can we hope to move forward freely and willingly to greet our new lives in Christ? How can we make ourselves right with Christ, if we cannot make ourselves right with our neighbour? As we mature, not only in our physical lives, but also in our Christian lives, we learn to relinquish our hurts, our fears, our anger and our uncertainties. If we cannot do that, if we persist in raking up events that hurt us or worse, then we are destined to become narrow and shallow people, not a joyous, worshipping community.

I have been very much encouraged by the growth that Christ Church, Brittany has made in the couple of months since my return from surgery. I have been especially sustained recently by my belief that the Holy Spirit is working among us. That has been evidenced in the strangest way: many people are being challenged both physically and mentally, as though we are being attacked. The only reason for this is that we are doing things here which are right and that the powers of darkness are trying to upset us. We need to pray as a community for the continued success of our worship, that our witness continues to grow, and that God's will be done.

**Blessings,
Hazel.**