

## EDITION November 2025

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*All photos have been checked against Tin Eye.*

## SERVICES AROUND THE CHAPLAINCY November/December 2025



### BRENS

Sunday 16 November	11h.00	Holy Communion by extension – Peter Gibbs
Sunday 23 November	11h.00.	Zoom Morning Prayer – Robin Johnston
Sunday 7 December	11h.00	Zoom Morning Prayer -Tricia Launders
Sunday 14 December	11h.00	Holy Communion by extension with carols- Peter Gibbs

### CAHORS

Sunday 23 November	10h.00	Morning Prayer – Safeguarding Sunday & Christ the King – Kevin Megarry
Sunday 30 November	10h.00	Holy Communion – Advent Sunday Revd June Hutchinson
Sunday 7 December	10h.00	Nine Lessons and Carols Revd June Hutchinson & Kate du Toit

### CARCASSONNE

Sunday 23 November	10h.30	Morning Prayer - Safeguarding Sunday – Margaret Snow
Sunday 14 December	10h.30	Holy Communion by extension with carols - Kate du Toit
Sunday 28 December	10h.30	Morning Prayer – David & Anita Phillips

### CAYLUS

Monday 24 November	10h.30	Holy Communion – Safeguarding Revd June Hutchinson
Monday 8 December	10h.30	Holy Communion with Carols, Revd June Hutchinson

### TOULOUSE

Sunday 16 November	10h.30	Holy Communion – Safeguarding Sunday Revd Jacqueline Rodwell
Sunday 23 November	10h.30	All Age Celebration for Christ the King Samantha Silverthorn
Sunday 7 December	10h.30	Service of the Word

### VAYRAC

Sunday 30 November	15h.30	Carol Service at Betaille
Tuesday 9 December	10h.30	Holy Communion by extension Malcolm Rigley



**Follow us on Facebook!** Our page is 'Anglican Chaplaincy of Midi Pyrenees and Aude' (under development). Carcassonne page is at 'Anglican Church in Carcassonne'. Please have a look and follow the pages and like the posts! It all helps to spread the word that we are here and are open to those who are looking to join us.



## The Reason we are all here

Pray for Peace in Israel  
and Gaza 24-7 Prayer  
International

O God, whose heart  
breaks for the world,  
May your justice dwell in  
the land  
May your righteousness  
abide in fruitful fields  
May the effect of  
righteousness be  
quietness and trust  
forever  
May the effect of justice  
be peace—enduring  
peace.  
Amen.

*(Taken from the Bishop's  
Advent Appeal)*

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty.

*(Charles Wesley)*

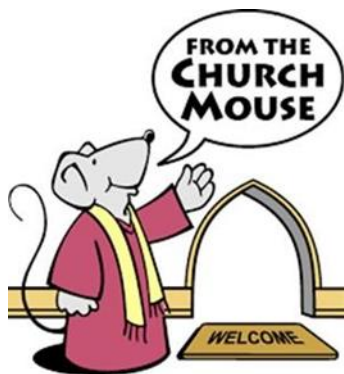
It is the Church's New Year as the Lectionary changes from Year C to Year A on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Many churches light candles throughout Advent, with the coloured candles and Christingle Services are often held as well.



Many people pull out and count off advent calendars, listen to lectionary sermon themes and Bible readings, and recite set prayers at the dinner table around candles in meaningful hues of purple and rose, as the nights draw in.



Paddy Wright from the Cahors Congregation has pots to give away – just a donation to Church funds would be great!



## CAYLUS NEWS From Gavin

MESSAGE FROM PERE SERGE Every autumn the Caylus congregation sends a cheque of 120 euros to Père Serge Solignac. It is a gift of thanks for the use of Saint Peyronis church in Lacapelle Livron, (Tarn et Garonne) - in spring and summer. You might like to see part of his reply - freely translated from the French original. "I was very happy to read, that the Pope Leon XIV and King Charles III prayed together in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. This was a welcome boost for the ecumenical movement and good news for both the Roman Catholic and Anglican communities. Let us pray together, that these all too human divisions, created partly by history and partly by human weakness, may find a positive outcome in Christ."

## AIDER-Help&Hope Anniversary Newsletter



**Happy Anniversary AIDER-Help & Hope!!** AIDER-Help & Hope is officially 10 years old this month! Our journey began in 2015, when we first heard about the Syrian refugee crisis and the desperate need for everything: clothing, food, and compassion in Greece. In response, we filled a car with donations from Lauzerte and drove them all the way to Athens. In October 2015, a small group of us met in Lauzerte, united by the desire to help. By the end of that month, our association, AIDER – Help & Hope, was officially registered. From the very beginning, countless kind souls joined us. In 2016 alone, we organised seven fundraising events — and we haven't stopped since! Over the past decade, our wonderful volunteers have held more than **70 events**, from community meals and concerts to poetry evenings, garage sales, garden sales, tea parties, conferences, and even a very successful art auction! In October 2017, **AIDER – Help & Hope was officially recognised as a humanitarian organization of general interest**, allowing us to issue tax receipts for donations — a milestone that strengthened our capacity to serve and expand our mission. All of this has been possible thanks to the energy, compassion, and tireless commitment of our members — together contributing well over **30,000 hours of volunteer work!** This immense effort of solidarity has enabled the purchase of more than **€20,000 worth of essential goods and support each year**, complementing the many in-kind donations we continue to distribute. Beyond material aid, a vital part of our mission has always been **human connection and hospitality**. Many of our members have welcomed refugees into their own homes — sometimes for extended periods — including families from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. We have also helped secure visas for some of these very vulnerable families needing asylum to travel legally and safely and offered shelter and support to asylum seekers already here. Thanks to these combined efforts, our association has been involved in a wide range of humanitarian actions: on the ground in refugee camps, where members have spent weeks volunteering in every kind of task — from construction work and warehouse organization to food and clothing distribution, and — most importantly — a little human warmth and hope for a better life. Creation of safe spaces in Athens, and support for integration projects like a hairdressing salon offering employment opportunities. Long term educational and housing initiatives, to provide shelter for displaced families, including partnerships with organisations such as There You Go and Love Without Borders. Ongoing support for families in France, particularly those who, despite having refugee status, still face barriers such as educational costs for children or young adults, education and transport for a family in Istanbul, and driving lessons in France to promote autonomy, support for Yezidis in Iraq still living in camps after the genocide.

We truly have so many reasons to celebrate — and to thank all our volunteers, donors, and supporters. We do so wholeheartedly. At the same time, on a less optimistic note, we cannot ignore that the political and social climate around us has changed dramatically. The number of refugees is increasing every year but the interest and sympathy towards them has not only decreased but in many cases become openly hostile. Around the world and even here at home, compassion towards refugees has too often been replaced by fear or hostility. Yet, in the face of this, we must stand firm in our values — empathy, humanity, and solidarity. These principles have guided us for ten years, and they will continue to do so. Compassion is not





weakness, it is courage in action. The past year has brought its share of challenges. Organising events has become more difficult, and **we rely now more than ever on your help** — whether through financial contributions, offers to host or participate in events, or simply by spreading the word about our work. The need is still there, and so is our determination. Our 10th anniversary is an occasion for joy, gratitude, and renewed commitment. Who knows what the next ten years will bring? What we do know is that, with your support, we will continue to bring help — and, even more importantly, hope — to those who need it most. As we celebrate our decade together and look toward the future, why not mark the occasion with a special anniversary gift in the form of a donation? Big or small, every gesture counts — each one strengthens our possibilities and reinforces our shared determination to make a difference. In the words of the wonderful Desmond Tutu: **“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”**  
<https://www.aider-helpandhope.org> ♥ 1 rue du Millial, 82110 LAUZERTE. Tel. 0679636201

## NEWS FROM BRENS – thank you Pete Burd



Spot the mice on the lovely Harvest bread made by Ross and Ginny.

Thanks to Penelope and Marguerite for the wonderful flower arrangements and a huge thank you to June for driving down to Brens for our Harvest Service. A convivial, relaxed lunch was had by one and all after the Service at L'Ispiens Restaurant in Gaillac.

### A gem - I thought!

A soul cake is a small, round, spiced cake traditionally associated with All Hallows' Eve (31 October) and All Souls' Day (2 November). They were given to children and the poor as part of the “souling” tradition, where people would sing door-to-door in exchange for the cakes.

Soul cakes have a soft, lightly crumbly texture and were usually made with flour, butter, sugar, and spices, such as cinnamon and nutmeg, as well as currants or raisins. They were considered a symbol of remembrance of the souls of the dead. Maybe next year!





## SUMMARY OF THE CHAPLAINCY COUNCIL MEETING 15 OCTOBER 2025

**1. Chaplaincy Day 28 September 2025** There was general agreement that the decision to keep the day to allow all the congregations to meet up at Brens for the service to relicense our three Lay Readers and enjoy a shared lunch, was a good one. Thanks were given to all who worked hard to make the day a success, including the music-makers and those who set out the luncheon.

**2. Finance** Ross, the Treasurer informed the meeting that the Chaplaincy funds were on track to meet the budget. The Treasurer has been able to place more funds in a savings account where it can earn better interest.

**3. Safeguarding** There were no incidents to report since the last Chaplaincy Council meeting. Celia reminded the meeting that 16 November is Safeguarding Sunday and that a special homily is being prepared for it.

Those Worship Centres that do not meet on that date can choose another one to hold their Safeguarding Service. The Archdeaconry is setting up meetings for Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers within France, Switzerland and Monaco. Celia noted that the Safeguarding Officers in each of our Worship Centres are now meeting regularly on Zoom.

**4. Communications Committee** The Chaplaincy's new website went live on 7 October. Thanks were given to Rebecca Silverthorn for her work, as well as to the members of the Communications Committee, and to Anita Phillips and Pete Burd for their assistance. The new website looks similar to the old one. Any comments or queries can be passed to David, the Chair of the Communications Committee at [webmaster@churchinmidipa.org](mailto:webmaster@churchinmidipa.org). Work is currently being undertaken to update the Chaplaincy's mailing lists.

### **5. Any Other Business**

a. Caylus requested approval for the Chaplaincy to fund the cost of using a church in St Antonin Noble Val for two services per month during the winter period. Approval was given.

b. Toulouse 60th Anniversary celebration day on 21 September. Revd Canon Tony Jewiss and Kate du Toit gave a wonderful service. Eleven nationalities were represented at the service. Founding members also attended. Toulouse is setting up a Time Capsule that will be opened in 10 years' time when they celebrate 70 years of services.

### **Margaret A Snow 16 October 2025**

#### **The Ways of St James**

We have lived in the Lot in a house about 200m from the GR65/Voie de Puy/Via Podiensis since 2004.

We encountered references to Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle in many places during our campervan holidays in the 1980s & 90s but it wasn't until 2002 that Chris, armed with a guidebook written by John Higginson, late of the Cahors Congregation, cycled the route from Le-Puy-en-Velay to Santiago-de-Compostella, crossing the Pyrenees by way of the route between Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and Roncesvalles. The same route that we took in 2003 when he encouraged me to join him on foot.



## Carol Services around the Chaplaincy

30 November - Bétaille at  
15.30h

7 December - Cahors, Terre  
Rouge at 10.00h

8 December - Caylus with  
Brens, St Antonin Noble Val  
at 10.30h

10 December - Gourdon at  
19.00h

15 December Toulouse -  
Pibrac





Having gained our "Compostellas" we bought our house near the path so that we could welcome other "Pilgrims" and continue to experience "L'ésprit St Jacques" by exchanging experiences with them and encouraging the ones who were daunted by the endeavour.

We were tempted back on the route ourselves 3 times and on one occasion met a pair of walkers (a Devonian & his Australian walking partner) who had, on that trip, crossed the Pyrenees via the Col-du-Somport on the GR653/ Route d'Arles/ Via Tolosana. Chris decided that at some point he too would like to cross the Pyrenees by that route.

In 2025 Genevieve suggested that she would like to walk part of the Chemin in the Summer Holiday, Aveline decided she wanted to come too.

On 25 July, "Fête de St Jacques", the four of us set off for Accous on the Via Tolosana. The following day after a peaceful night at the "Maison Despourrins" the four of us set off for Urdos, finding some of the path a bit

tricky because of erosion. The well-equipped Communal Gite at Urdos was superbly equipped but there were no other walkers. On 27 July we left Urdos and trudged up the hill in full sun to the Col du Somport, arriving in early afternoon in need of a rest. We then had to wait until 3pm for the door to the "Albergue" to be opened but as the venue is also a Bar the wait allowed us to quench our thirst! The 28 July was mostly downhill, and we started off with rain capes to protect us from the mist. At Canfranc Station, we once again admired the International Station and enjoyed chocolate & churros. Suitably refreshed we pressed on to Villanua where we stayed in a Youth Hostel. On 29 July, leaving before the dining room was overrun by a group of Spanish schoolchildren on a Football-Camp holiday, we started on our final day's walk towards Jaca. The well signposted path led us onwards and at Castillo de Jaca after a long gentle uphill stretch and a steep downhill we stopped for a drink and Tortilla Espagnol snack to recharge our energy banks for the final 8kms to Jaca.

We have visited Jaca on numerous occasions but have never before arrived on foot. Our accommodation for the last night of our adventure was in Casa Mamré, a gite run by the Spanish Evangelical Church and situated near the Cathedral in the centre of the town.

The following day we made our way back to Accous by Public transport. Jaca to Canfranc Station on a Spanish bus then Canfranc Station to Accous on a French bus.

It took us 4 days to walk from Accous to Jaca but the return journey took only 2.5 hours. We had demonstrated to our granddaughters that they were capable of undertaking "The Chemin" and hopefully they will at some time in the future. The only disappointment to us was that we encountered so few other Pilgrims during our walk.

**by Eileen Gillon from Cahors**





*"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit."* – Psalm 34:17-18 (NRSV).

The newspaper headlines may be fading, but the suffering in Gaza is far from over. Months of devastation have left entire communities struggling. The impact of conflict lingers long after the fighting stops. Disease spreads rapidly, food and clean water remain scarce. At the time of writing, 68,280 people have been killed in Gaza, the vast majority of whom are civilian women and children, and the toll of wounded stands at 170,375.

Despite overwhelming challenges, the medical team at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza is doing everything in their power to care for the injured and sick. They face impossible odds: shortages of medicine and essential supplies, dwindling fuel reserves for life-saving equipment, and an ever-growing number of patients in desperate need.

## Bishop's Advent Appeal Al-Ahli Anglican Hospital, Gaza



Beyond emergency treatment, Al-Ahli hospital offers long-term rehabilitation, mental health support, and essential community care. Many of those injured will face lifelong disabilities, requiring physiotherapy, pain management, and counselling. Without urgent funding, these critical services could be lost.

### **This Advent, I am asking you to**

support the work of one of our partners in the Gospel, USPG, whose partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem gives us the opportunity to sustain this vital hospital, ensuring that it remains open and equipped to serve those who need it most, not only in moments of immediate crisis but in the long, difficult years of recovery that follow.

It looks – for now – that there is a fragile semi-peace. It is to be hoped that this not only lasts but spreads and deepens, and that rebuilding can begin. Your gift today will help keep the hospital open and equipped to provide urgent medical aid, long-term rehabilitation, and dignity to those in crisis.

*"Every donation and every prayer are an act of love. It is a message to families in Gaza that they are not forgotten,"* says Sawson Aranki-Batato, Programme Development Officer, Diocese of Jerusalem.

I commend to you these resources for prayer as I ask you to give generously to this Appeal (details below).

[Prayers for peace in the Middle East — Embrace the Middle East](#)  
[How to pray for Gaza and Israel – Tearfund.](#)

[Pray for Peace in Israel and Gaza -24-7 Prayer International](#)

O God, whose heart breaks for the world,

May your justice dwell in the land

May your righteousness abide in fruitful fields

May the effect of righteousness be quietness and trust forever

May the effect of justice be peace—enduring peace.

Amen.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

### **How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Advent Appeal 2025:**

Via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office:

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039

Sort code: 20-06-13

IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39



Swift / BIC: BUKBGB22

By cheque made out to:

Diocese in Europe

Diocese in Europe Board of Finance

14, Tufton St

London SW1P 3QZ

(Please add the words "Advent Appeal 2025" to any note you send with the cheque)

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-ineurope>

(please add "2025 Advent Appeal" in the *Message from Donor* column)



## The new Archbishop of Canterbury – by Gavin Porter - Caylus



### NURSING HER FLOCK

According to the Church Times, Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, will inherit "an unmanageable and leaderless Church of England stripped at last of pretension to match its loss of power."

Wow! What a challenge. As the French say "Is Sarah Mullally 'à la hauteur'?"

She has been a committed Christian since the age of sixteen and her decision to train to be a nurse rather than a doctor was motivated by her Christian faith. She wished to apply a holistic approach to healing people. Holistic medicine considers the whole person, physically and psychologically, rather than treating merely the diseased part. Christianity also looks at the whole person and seeks to shape his or her attitude to life and influence behaviour.

Working in Surrey is where she grew up and went to sixth form college. Her mother was a hairdresser. This background in addition to her experience as a nurse in hospitals has given her a good understanding of people and human nature.

As the youngest ever Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient Experience in the Department of Health for England, she had to deal with the top civil servants and ministers there in the day to day running of the nation's health. This role taught her valuable skills in dealing with senior people and politicians, which will be useful for an Archbishop of Canterbury.

Also helpful will be the experience of dealing with the Department of Health's press section, when they had to brief the newspapers on new developments in the health service and to devise answers to criticisms. She was in the Department of Health at the time of the Dr. Shipman revelations (He killed patients subtly without being detected.) and, when there were high rates of infection in hospitals - both tricky issues to handle. As the first woman Archbishop of Canterbury, she will be under





the media spotlight and they will pounce mercilessly on any gaffes or even slightly unfortunate comments.

Sarah Mullally is taking on her role at a moment, when the Anglican Church faces a crisis of public confidence and low internal morale. Resolving these two problems will take time and ingenuity. Will the new Archbishop manage to do so? There is every probability the answer is “Yes.” Linda Woodhead, professor of theology at Kings College, London commented, that Mullally's strong management skills were needed to help address safeguarding issues. She added: “Her emphasis on unity, gentleness and strength is exactly what the church, and nation, needs right now.”

## CAHORS NEWS



Congratulations to Kate du Toit and Chris who recently got married – every happiness to you both.

## NEWS FROM VAYRAC – thank you Bob



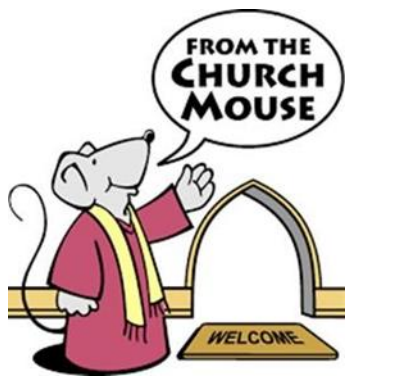
It wasn't just Toulouse celebrating 60 years this year as in our little church at Vayrac we have just had a very special service led by Rev. June and Malcom. It was special as we celebrated All Saints Holy Communion and remembered all those we had lost, both in conflict and more recently, by hanging a card of remembrance onto a tree of life at Vayrac.

Somehow, June managed to integrate a renewal of wedding vows into the service to celebrate 60 years of marriage between Colin and Dianne Ellis and we all wish them well for many more years to come. Colin and Dianne enjoyed their second Honeymoon with a

holiday in Bali returning refreshed for the winter ahead of us.

We now prepare ourselves for a Bi-Langue “Festival of Lessons and Carols” on November 30 at 15:30 which we hold in the Catholic Church of St-Georges, 46110 Bétaille, Lot.

**Further details:- Contact Bob Humphrey on [bobh46320@gmail.com](mailto:bobh46320@gmail.com)**



## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Safeguarding Sunday has been an annual event in the Church of England calendar in the month of November for the last 7 years. Churches throughout parishes in England and the Diocese of Europe have been celebrating this event with a particular theme each year.

This year the theme is:

## ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

The Safeguarding team are putting together an Intergenerational service for this special day. There will be an order of service and Homily provided for all worship centres.

Churches are encouraged to: -

- Celebrate the unsung heroes who help keep people safe
- Reflect on how to grow in care, transparency and accountability

- Pray for healing, justice and wisdom
- Commit to building a safeguarding culture that is second to nature.

Each worship centre can celebrate Safeguarding Sunday on the nearest service they hold to 16 November this year.

Jesus showed his love for us by laying down his life; in the same way our actions show how much we care for those in need of safeguarding and support. We think about how our actions can make our church community a safer space for all.

These thoughts and actions help all our church community to feel safe and cared for. We all need to understand the importance of how to protect ourselves and others regarding Safeguarding.

This does not involve just 'doing the training' but being aware of others vulnerability.

Encouraging churches to not just talk about safeguarding but to take positive action towards creating safer places.

We must also be there to support those who have been abused and support and care for their recovery.

I look forward to hearing how your Safeguarding Service went in your particular worship centre.

Celia Scott

Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer

## NEWS FROM TOULOUSE – Thanks Sam

Last Sunday, 9 November, we had our Annual Remembrance Sunday service. This will be a Holy Communion by extension, led by Reader Kate du Toit and will incorporate the traditional Act of Remembrance. We hope to be joined by members of Toulouse Scouts and Girl Scouts. There will also be the opportunity to buy a poppy and therefore to donate to the work of the Royal British Legion, as they support veterans and their families.

On 16 November there is a Holy Communion service led by Rev Jacqueline Rodwell. It is also Safeguarding Sunday and there is something special planned .....!

SATURDAY 22 November is the TWIG Fayre in Pibrac where we will have a stand. This is an excellent opportunity to meet people and tell them about our wonderful church!!! We need some volunteers to help for a couple of hours during the day - please contact me to let me know how / when you can help :)

Sunday 23 Nov is Christ the King Sunday - and we will be having a celebration service. Then 30 Nov is Advent Sunday (already? yes, I know!!) Please put these dates in your diary and come to as many as you can. Future Dates: 9 Lessons and Carols in Pibrac on Monday 15 December. And, if you fancy attending a pantomime, then Rev Jacqueline is in Dick Whittington (12-14 Dec) near Carcassonne - see attachment- and our own Secret Panto Society panto is in Jan in Pibrac - and it is Hercules. Tickets are selling fast so don't lose out!