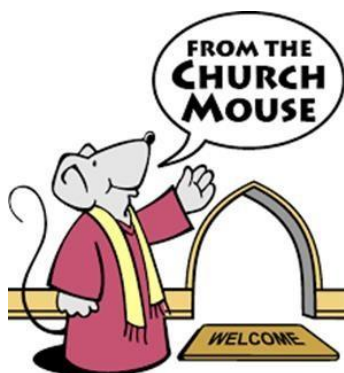




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If you know someone who wants to be added to the list and receive the Church Mouse, please email the Church Mouse. Equally, if you no longer want to be on the list, please click the unsubscribe link [here](#).

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Church Mouse needs to let you know that all photos that you might agree to for the Church Mouse are now on the website and are also on Anglicanfrance. If you do not want your photo published – please let me know on gill.heyworth@orange.fr

At the present time the Church Mouse is an independent voice speaking for any member of the Church subject to the editor's discretion, and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Chaplaincy, Archdeaconry or Diocese.

All photos have been checked against Tin Eye



The Anglican Chaplaincy of Midi Pyrénées & Aude

**Chaplaincy Celebration Day Sunday
27 September 2026 from 10 am**

***Come and meet with God and celebrate with friends
old and new!***

The venue: Maison Diocésaine, 91 Boulevard Montauriol, 82000 Montauban There is ample parking available, and we strongly encourage car sharing or mini-bus use where possible.



While we understand not everyone may be able to attend for the full day, we would love for you to come, even if just for part of it, to show support and share in the life of our Chaplaincy.

You are invited to attend the all-day celebrations and fellowship:

10.00: Coffee and biscuits served in the refectory

11.00: Holy Communion service led by the Chaplain & Ministry Team

12.00: Vin d'honneur 12.30: Picnic lunch (bring your own food and covers)

15.00: Workshop 1 - (30 min)

Workshop 2 - (30 min)

16.00: Afternoon tea and cake

16.30: Plenary Session

17.00: Departure

***“Celebrate His goodness; proclaim His faithfulness
to all generations.” (Psalm 89:1)***

**We need bakers of cakes, bringers of biscuits and
volunteers for our Chaplaincy Day – contact
georgina.hodgson@orange.fr to offer your help.**



News from the Chaplain September 2026- What's On around the Chaplaincy

First ... a request ... As I continue to settle into Midi P&A, I would like to hear from you about what our Chaplaincy means to you. It's a personal question - so please don't be shy about giving a personal answer, and send to chaplain@churchinmidipa.org

Dates for your diaries

1. Evening Prayer on Zoom starts Tuesday 1st September 18h30 - 19h00 – and every following Tuesday,
 2. Connecting with our Creator - Starting Saturday 5th September 10h00-11h00, and on the 4 Saturdays following. This will be an online Zoom event. In the first 4 sessions we will reflect on the 4 Elements, coined by St Francis as Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire and Mother Earth. The final session falls on Saturday 4th October ... the Feast Day of St Francis, when we'll focus on St Francis himself. Zoom links for Evening Prayer and Creation Course will be available nearer the time.
 3. Following General Synod, the CofE will this year observe, for the first time, The Festival of Creation in Christ, which will be an annual event marked on the 1st Sunday in September. This year it falls on 6th September. It is hoped that seasonal Orders of Service will be used throughout Creationtide.
 4. Back to Church Sunday - 20th September -, or the nearest Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday - depending on your pattern of services. This presents an opportunity to invite old and new friends to join with us; a chance to perhaps repair old friendships and build new ones.
 5. 27th September - Chaplaincy Day at Diocesan House, Montauban. This will be a great opportunity to come together from all points of the Chaplaincy, for a day of worship and fellowship. **IMPORTANT** - please see the other attachment for more details.
- From here-on-in I'll be in touch with regular Chaplaincy updates, news from a broader faith perspective that may be of interest, and other bits and bobs.

Have a great summer. Blessings, peace and brotherly love -
Rev'd Paul.

(Editor's note – the Chaplain's newsletter was sent out to everyone on the Wordship Centre lists but there are many more readers on the Church Mouse list and in the Archdeaconry so this is why it is repeated here)





The Reason we are all here.

Forgive O Lord, the sins
that divide us

We pray that artificial
barriers between peoples
and nations may come
down

We pray for ethnic minority
groups

For all who are judged
because of their race,
colour or creed

We remember at this time
all refugees, all outcasts
and rejected peoples.

Lord help us.

*(Prayer taken from Clouds and
Glory by David Adam)*



News from Cahors – Gill Heyworth

We have been in the UK for a month joining up with our New Zealand family and we stayed in Hither Green a busy part of SE London. We visited the local church for 2 Sundays and were welcomed by the local congregation – the church is called St Swithin's and as the service on 12th July was a service for their Saint – I thought Church Mouse readers in SW France would be interested. Not that we have seen any rain for the last couple of months!

St. Swithin's Day falls on July 15 each year. According to British folklore, if it rains on this day, it will rain for the next 40 days and 40 nights. If it is sunny and dry, 40 days of fair weather will follow. Well, the rain didn't happen!

St. Swithin (or Swithun) was the Bishop of Winchester: he was an Anglo-Saxon bishop in 9th-century England who died in 862 AD.

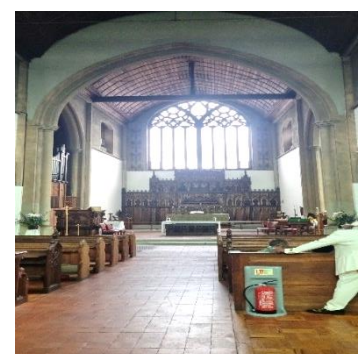
A Humble Grave: He asked to be buried outside the Winchester Cathedral graveyard where rain and footsteps could fall on his grave.

The Legend: When monks moved his bones inside the cathedral on July 15, 971 AD, a massive storm supposedly broke out to show his anger.

The Famous Rhyme "St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain, for forty days it will remain; St. Swithin's day if thou be fair, for forty days 'twill rain nae mair."

There is No Scientific Proof: Weather records show no evidence of 40 straight days of rain or sunshine following July 15.

Weather Patterns: Mid-July can bring shifts in the jet stream, which may explain why old traditions tied summer changes to this date.





NEWS FROM TOULOUSE – Sam Silverthorn

Like many of you I'm on my holidays ..but wanted to make sure that you all know about our Late Summer celebration service and picnic **on 30th August.**

August 15th is the commemoration of the Assumption of Mary into heaven and what our church building is dedicated to. So please say a prayer for everyone who goes into the building and those who live and work around it. It is a legal public holiday in France.



SUMMARY of Chaplaincy Council Meeting on 28 July 2026

1. Our Chaplain, Rev'd Paul Willis, presented Rev'd Jacqueline Rodwell's report of a new worshipping community in Alaigne in Aude, south-west of Carcassonne proposing to join the chaplaincy. To start with, services will be held once a month and services at Floure will be reduced to once a month. The proposal was accepted unanimously.
2. **There will be a weekly Evening Prayer on Zoom to begin on Tuesday 1 September 2026 (Creationtide) at 18h30 and lasting 30 minutes.**
3. **Every fifth Sunday there will be a service on Zoom at 11h00 beginning on 29 November 2026 - Advent Sunday.**
4. Chaplaincy Day will be held on Sunday 27 September 2026 at the *Maison Diocésaine* in Montauban. Detailed information will follow shortly.
5. Chaplaincy Council meetings will be held bi-monthly starting in September 2026.
6. The treasurer explained that the process for obtaining the fees for funeral services had to be improved to avoid confusion and any distress to the next of kin at a very sensitive time.
7. Finance report for June 2026 was presented and accepted unanimously. The treasurer advised the council that regular giving by bank transfer was currently below the budgeted figure for the year.
8. **New travel and subsistence allowances, as set by the French state, were presented by the treasurer. There will be an entry in the Church Mouse explaining these.**
9. The treasurer is currently seeking an assistant in the bookkeeping and records area. Volunteers are being urged to come forward. All financial transactions would remain the responsibility of the treasurer.
10. A Stewardship campaign is needed to augment the ongoing work of the chaplaincy. A representative from each congregation must be involved to deliver the objectives in their area. Juliet Evans, the diocesan fundraising advisor, is willing to help with the standard organisational structure of this exercise.
11. Our Chaplain wishes that our website becomes the Chaplaincy Communications hub. The communication committee is working to have the circular email communications to members be streamlined. Without increasing workloads too much, it was suggested that Church Mouse and Chaplaincy Weekly could be used to send zoom links to online worship etc and have documents for circulation attached.
12. Anita presented the Archdeaonry report in which the Archdeacon confirmed he would be stepping down at the end of July to return to the Diocese of Leicester. The new Acting Archdeacon will be Ben Harding, who is currently Chaplain at Lyon (see Page 5). The House of Laity also held elections to the Standing Committee, electing David Bean as Lay Chair, Rosemary Ulyett as Secretary, Anita Phillips as Treasurer and Donna Derrick as a fourth member. The House of Clergy members are the Area Deans and the Archdeacon as Chair.



Archdeaconry Synod 27th June 2026

The Archdeacon confirmed he would be stepping down at the end of July to return to the Diocese of Leicester. The new Acting Archdeacon will be Ben Harding, who is currently Chaplain at Lyon.

We received a report on the June meeting of the Diocesan Synod. The theme this year was “Called to be Peacemakers” and comprised bible studies in the morning and interactive sessions in the afternoons. The resulting body of material may be worked into a Lenten bible study for 2027. There was also a presentation on future diocesan strategies, which can be accessed on the diocesan website.

The meeting then broke out into separate meetings of the two Houses (Clergy and Laity). Both Houses considered topics that they would like to discuss at future archdeaconry workshops in the coming Autumn sessions. These included exploration of mission and outreach, a Readers’ workshop, further understanding of the developing Diocesan Strategy and a session looking at

deepening ecumenical relations.

The House of Laity also held elections to the Standing Committee, electing David Bean as Lay Chair, Rosemary Ulyett as Secretary, Anita Phillips as Treasurer and Donna Derrick as a fourth member. The House of Clergy members are the Area Deans and the Archdeacon as Chair.

At the close of the session, thanks were expressed to David Bean as the outgoing Treasurer and to Archdeacon Peter.

The Archdeacon responded, thanking the synod for the journey of the past five and a half years and pledging to continue to pray for the archdeaconry.

Anita Phillips 2026

From the Chaplaincy Treasurer – Ross Jenkins

It is a good time to check and update clergy and volunteers engaged on chaplaincy business of the allowances that they are entitled to:

Use of private vehicle on official business: 45 cents/km,
toll and parking fees: repaid in full if receipts are provided.

Restaurant meals: The French state sets limits on the amount that can be re-imbursed for restaurant meals that are necessary whilst on official chaplaincy business. Re-imbbursement of restaurant meals is €21.40 for lunch and € 21.40 for dinner. If the meal costs more, only this amount will be repaid. Receipts must accompany claims in all cases. Snacks: if these are purchased instead of a restaurant meal, an allowance of €10.40 can be claimed. Receipts must accompany claims.

Accommodation and breakfast per day:

In the Parisian area: €76.60. In the rest of metropolitan France: €56.80.

Wedding blessings and funerals: fees paid to non-stipendiary clergy for wedding blessings and funerals are € 275 and € 125 respectively. There is no fee allowed for baptisms.

All allowances are reviewed annually.

(This information was requested at The Chaplaincy Council Meeting on July 28th – see Summary on Page 3)



The 2026 General Synod

The General Synod of The Church of England met again from July 10-14, this time in York.



The Agenda for the 5 days was packed – with key issues being discussed:

- National unity and global challenges;
- Legislative business, structural updates, and final reviews for the outgoing Synod term;
- Consideration of reports and papers provided by the Archbishops' Council, legislative committees, and various boards.
- A full report is produced later in the year.

Following the Church year with the Lectern Story from Cahors



“The Cahors Trinity Lectern Fall was made in 2012 and is used for the majority of the Liturgical year which falls outside the great seasons of Christmas and Easter – often now known as Ordinary Time.

The Triquetra is an early symbol of the Trinity; the continuous interweaving of indivisible but equal arcs may be taken to express eternity; in the centre is the triangle of the Trinity. The circle is eternity, the sun and the renewal of life.

Three is the number of the Trinity and the threefold concept of man as body, mind and spirit – The father as creator, the son as Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as sanctifier.

The colours too are symbolic – green for life, hope and peace.

Red for love, joy and Christ's passion

Gold for pure light, radiance and glory.

The colours were chosen to make a bold impact without words.”

(Thank you, Andrea, for allowing me to use the words from your wonderful book about the Cahors Lectern Falls)



Caylus group's Vide Grenier

In July the Caylus worship group of our Anglican chaplaincy took a stand at the annual vide grenier in Feneyrols, near Saint-Antonin, Tarn-et-Garonne. It was enjoyable in every way: it is held in the deep shade of a park running down the river Ayeron, it is very convivial and attracts a wide mix of visitors, and it was lovely for us to work together as a group: collecting and donating items, setting up and staffing the stand.

Our aim was twofold: to raise money for the chaplaincy and for the Tafakari Centre, a Kenyan mission in the slums of Nairobi, run by the Church Army Africa of the Anglican Church of Kenya, which works to take people off the streets and give them work and educational skills. It was also to publicise the fact

that we worship as a group together every two weeks and thereby try to attract more members: we distributed leaflets on both. We managed to raise €216 which, given that everything sells for €1-5 and nothing much beyond €10, was satisfactory. And it wasn't TOO hot!

Items remaining at the end were donated to the Association Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Féneyrolais for various local projects and also to MainsTendues82, a *friperie* at Varen which, originally set up to help refugees evicted from Calais to integrate locally, now distributes funds to a variety of local charities and people in need. Many thanks to all involved

Anne Rawnsley, Caylus Worship Centre





A VISIT TO NORWAY – from Paddy Wright from the Cahors Congregation.

A former capital of Norway, Trondheim boasts a cathedral to match any in Europe. Nidaros Cathedral began its life as a stone church circa 1070. Since then, it has experienced many alterations, additions, reconstructions and restorations.

The West Front is breathtaking. I counted more than 56 statues. The building is so wide it was hard to fit it into the camera lens. [For a better aspect of the cathedral I suggest you go to Nidaros cathedral online.

St. Olaf, converted to the Christian faith in Rome and Norway's patron saint, is buried in an unknown site in the cathedral, his shrine was once on the altar in the original church.



There are many stories relating to this magnificent edifice, too numerous to tell here. But one interesting fact is that the North Tower carries an image of Bob Dylan's face on the statue of Archangel Michael, sculpted by Kristofer Leirdal in 1965!

The stained-glass window above the entrance door is not original but created between 1908-34. It is an incredibly intricate work in rich reds, blues plus black and white. All the stained-glass windows were created by the same artist.

Boasting 2 massive organs, the Steinmeyer organ is one of Europe's largest. It is certainly imposing and being so close to the stained-glass window above it, it makes one wonder how the panes stay in place when it is played!

The completion of the stunning Nave in 1930 under architect Helge Thiis's direction, celebrated the 900th anniversary of St. Olaf's death. A Christ crucified cross in silver dominates the altar; it was donated by Trondheimers who emigrated to the United States.

