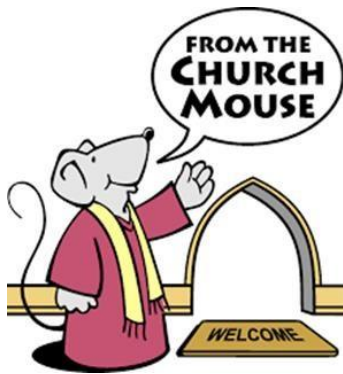




EDITION September 2026

EDITOR:

Gill Heyworth

PHONE: 05 65 21 47 99

EMAIL:

heyworth.g@churchinmidipa.org

WEBSITE:

www.churchinmidipa.org

DISTRIBUTION:

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.**



Back to Church Sunday – 20th September 2026

This service will take place on the 20th at Terre Rouge with our Chaplain Revd Paul Willis presiding. Printed invitations have been sent to members of the Cahors congregation who we have not seen for a while. We hope that there will be returning members and that they will feel welcomed back to Terre Rouge. We are also having a Bring and Share lunch.

The Reason we are all here.

This Creation-tide prayer by Pope Francis had great ecumenical connections and our Chaplain Revd Paul used it in our first Evening prayers on 1st September

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.

They come forth from your all-powerful hand:

They are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,

through you all things were made.

You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this

earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.

Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.

Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light

you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as

it groans in travail.

You also dwell in our hearts

and you inspire us to do what is good.

Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate

you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

Seize us with your power and light to prepare for a better future, for the

coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! - Amen.



Sad news from the Cahors Congregation.

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Elisabeth Fanshawe had died following a long illness.

Many of you will remember Elizabeth who with Peter was a regular attendee at Terre Rouge.

Our sympathies go to Peter and the rest of the family.



LAICITY – by Gavin Porter

“Laicity in France is a blessing. I consider that it allows me to carry out my professional activities, as I interpret them, in an environment, where other people, who don't think like me, also operate.” *Delphine*

Horvilleur, rabbi, journalist and essayist.

For a British mind, laicity is not easy to understand. As a legal principle, governing the relationship between the French state and religions, laicity has 3 pillars.

Protection of freedom of religion

You have the freedom to hold religious beliefs or not to hold any religious beliefs, to no longer hold religious beliefs, to change your religion and to participate in religious services. You have the right to display your religious convictions by wearing signs or clothing in a public place and by attending services in a place of worship (while showing due respect for public order requirements in all cases.)

Respect of pluralism

While the State does not officially recognise any one religion, it does acknowledge the value of each religion and accepts the existence of religion as a reality in society. Consequently, each religion enjoys an equal freedom of expression and the French State maintains a dialogue with each individual religion.

Neutrality of the French State

A law of 1905 established the official separation of public institutions and religious organisations, formalising neutrality with regard to all religions. Public services are provided without paying any attention to the religious views of individuals receiving them and public servants must not display any sign of religious affiliation.

This law of 1905 does not apply to the French Overseas Territories. Nor in Alsace and Lorraine, where religious education is compulsory, although pupils can ask for exemption from it.

Laicity is not just a theory but a living concept. Every year prizes are awarded for projects, which have promoted laicity or the understanding of laicity. Millau in the Aveyron was one of the winners in 2025 for its programme celebrating the 120th anniversary of the 1905 law.

As the late former President Jacques Chirac said, “The Republican State is also laicity.”



The Church Mouse

Thank You

This little newsletter started in Cahors in August 2019 and because of GDPR was stopped after a year. In May 2021 a special edition announced the whole of Archdeacon Peter's presentation to us of Workstreams – remember those? In July 2021 – the Church Mouse officially restarted and has been continuously published throughout the Chaplaincy ever since – covering news from every corner of our Chaplaincy – a sincere thank you to everyone who contributes articles, takes the photos and the special proof - readers.

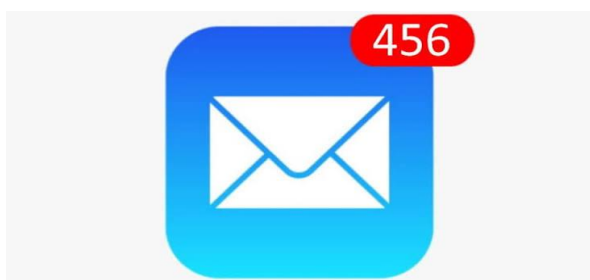
The Church Mouse



Creation – tide

By the time this edition of the Church Mouse reaches you Revd Paul will have started his weekly Tuesday evening prayers, and it has been an excellent start. Revd Paul led the service with members of the Chaplaincy taking readings and the psalm. There has been an excellent spread across the Chaplaincy with an average of 24 people joining the sessions.

The Zoom link which has been sent to everyone on the Notices lists is recurring, so keep it in a safe place. Unfortunately, for security reasons the Zoom link is not published on our website, or on the Church Mouse.

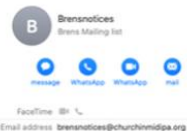


A real nuisance!

Chaplaincy Notices

Do you have your local 'church notices' emails diverted to your spam folder rather than your inbox?
Often this can be overcome by making sure that you have the appropriate church notices address in your contacts. Give it a try!

Example below is for [Brens](mailto:brensnoces@churchinmidpa.org) subscribers (if using a Mac):
add brensnoces@churchinmidpa.org to your contacts



V.I.P.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE A CHURCH EMAIL VIA A 'NOTICES' ADDRESS
PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THE EMAIL.
IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE TEAM,
PLEASE EMAIL HIM/HER TO HIS/HER PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.]
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS AREA.



Important information

Our Chaplain Revd Paul Willis has now been with us over 6 months and has attended every Worship Centre at least three times. He has started weekly evening prayers on Tuesdays on Zoom, and a 5 week talk on Creation tide which started on September 5th – Saturday mornings at 10am. Zoom links have been sent to everyone. There is also lots of information on our website – please go to www.churchinmidipa.org

The Church Wardens would like to remind everyone that Revd Paul works and is paid for 4 days – which are Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Please respect his days off and try to keep emails to the days that he works.

He is also the SW France Area Dean – all 4 Area Deans in France run Chaplaincies as well. Revd Paul can be contacted at chaplain@churchinmidipa.org



NEWS FROM TOULOUSE – SAM SILVERTHORN

We said a fond farewell to Stephanie Vincent Sweet in August. Stephanie has been an active member of our Toulouse congregation for several years...a talented musician, reader, welcomer and calming presence, she will be missed, along with her smile. Stephanie was also passionate about sustainability

and was good at reminding us how best to use, reuse and recycle the resources we have.

She's moved northwards to the Nantes area and we wish her all the very best and hope that it is more "au revoir" than "goodbye".

We had a very special service on 2nd August, which included the baptism of Juliette Quernard, part of our church family in Toulouse,



by Rev James Johnston. It was a joyful and emotional occasion, with many family and friends including Grandma who had come over from the UK. We thoroughly enjoyed the service and coffee and cakes afterwards. Thanks to all who made the day so welcoming and personal.





A SEASON OF INVITATION

As the long summer days fade, we start preparing for our **Season of Invitation** – the months of September, October and November – the months leading up to Advent.

National **Back to Church Sunday** is on **20th September** - a nationwide movement designed to help churches reconnect with those who've drifted away, as well as reach new families and visitors in their communities.

Herbs mentioned in the Bible

Mint, Dill, and Cumin: In Matthew 23:23,



²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

26th September – Great British Breakfast – a Cahors fundraiser for Chaplaincy Funds and another full house!

27th September – **Chaplaincy Day** held at **la Maison Diocésaine**
See all the details on Page 1.

11th October – is Harvest month, when many people come to church to sing the traditional harvest hymns



25th October – Bible Sunday

1st November – All Saints – Cahors hold a special service to remember members of the church who have died over the last 10 years

8th November – Remembrance Sunday – this service is held throughout the Chaplaincy – poppies and bluet are often available



22nd November – Christ the King

29th November – Advent Sunday- Chaplaincy Zoom Service.