



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN – Rev'd PAUL WILLIS



### EDITION June/July 2026

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*All photos have been checked against Tin Eye*

#### Elections!

In the run up to elections, the various parties and politicians are given the opportunity to explain the contents of their manifestos and outline their main priorities, emphasising the changes for good that will happen if they're elected, whilst dwelling perhaps a little too much on denigrating the ideas and the character of opposing parties and politicians.

I don't know how you feel about elections, but for me there's a real sense that when I've voted, put a cross in my box of choice on a ballot paper, democracy ends; and regardless of whether the new government has received my vote or not, I have to assume that they will do as they've promised. Unfortunately, sometimes the impression given is that there's not much any of us can do to influence government policy once we've cast our vote. There's nothing more to be done.

#### Faith and Politics

Some Christians are wary of mixing faith with politics, and visa versa, feeling that the two are incompatible. I would argue that to be authentically involved in a world that is so politically polarised, our faith should speak loudly and profoundly into the division, oppression and cruelty that is so apparent in today's world. You may remember Bishop Marianne Budd taking the opportunity to speak truth to power, pleading for an attitude of mercy from the newly elected American President in Washington DC.

A prime example of authentic Christian faith in action. I believe that she was incredibly courageous, and right to do it.

#### Manifesto for Change

Do you remember where Jesus' ministry began? It was in the temple at Jerusalem...

You may not have thought of it this way before, but if you cast your voting eye over

**Luke 4;16 -21** you might agree that Jesus is presenting a manifesto for change.

Jesus speaks, and in front of the religious authorities he picks up the scroll of Isaiah and recites the following: -

***'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me***

*to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim  
release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

*And he rolled up the scroll,  
gave it back to the attendant,  
and sat down. The eyes of all  
in the synagogue were fixed  
on him. Then he began to say  
to them, 'Today this scripture  
has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

Jesus - given the blessing of his Father to attend to injustices in society, bringing good news to the poor, freeing those who are imprisoned by circumstance, and release from any sense of oppression, cancelling all debts and making healing a priority.

I never get the impression that Jesus was speaking empty words, and prefer to think that after reading his manifesto for change in the temple, Jesus goes out into the world, putting flesh on the bones of the words of Isaiah to show what God's justice looks like. He fulfils the terms of his manifesto.

So, does Jesus get your vote?

I would suggest that if he does, you must be confident that more will be required than your cross in a box and then thinking there's nothing more to be done. Responding to God is a beginning not an end, and in the interest of realising a vision of lasting transformation in this world, we all have a part to play, and those of us who yearn for a just society must take risks in doing more with our cross than that.



## SERVICES AROUND THE CHAPLAINCY

June/July 2026

### BRENS

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 11h 00 Morning Prayer on Zoom – Robin Johnston  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 11h.00 Holy Communion by extension – Peter Gibbs

### CAHORS

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 10h.00 Morning Prayer – Georgina Hodgson  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 10h.00 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10h.00 Sea Sunday – Morning Prayer – Georgina Hodgson

### CARCASSONNE

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10h.30 Holy Communion - tbc

### CAYLUS

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 Morning Prayer – Celia Scott  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 10h.30 Holy Communion - Revd June Hutchinson

### TOULOUSE

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 10h.30 Holy Communion Revd - Jacqueline Rodwell  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 10h.30 Service of the Word - Zena Baker  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10h.30 Holy Communion

### VAYRAC

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 10h.30 Holy Communion - Revd June Hutchinson

**Follow us on Facebook!** Our page is 'Anglican Chaplaincy of Midi Pyrenees and Aude'.



*We also have local church pages which are at 'Anglican Church in Brens / Cahors / Caylus / Carcassonne' - just using the local name! 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

### A prayer for the Holiday season

Loving Lord, thank You so much for holiday times and the wonder and excitement that they engender in all our hearts, and I just want to praise You for all the goodness and grace You generously pour out on us and all people. Especially, I thank You for the many blessings we gain from these important times of holiday fun and family reunion.

I remember the many feast days and times of rejoicing that You planned for Your people Israel and I bless You that we too have holiday days and holiday seasons, when our inner soul can be refreshed and rejuvenated in a relaxed atmosphere, when we are surrounded by precious friends and family members, and which provides us with such special opportunities of close fellowship and communal fun.

At this holiday season I particularly remember those that are alone, or ill, or going through times of stress or difficulty, and pray that You would draw very close to each and every one. Let them know Your special peace in their

heart and give to each one Your sufficient grace.

Thank You, that You are a God that answers prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Holidays#1484>

## The Chaplaincy Council for 2026/27 – Midi Pyrenees and Aude

The composition of the Chaplaincy Council is as follows:

- Chaplain: Rev'd Paul Willis
- Church Wardens: Gill Heyworth (Cahors) and Tricia Lauanders (Brens)
- Ex-officio members: Kate Clark, (Cahors) Freda King (Cahors) and Anita Phillips (Carcassonne) as members of the Archdeaconry Synod, and
- Two members from each Worship Centre (except Carcassonne where no representative had been elected

**BRENS:** Elisabeth Pearson and Penelope Wanklyn. Ross Jenkins will continue as Treasurer and is to be coopted to the Council at their first meeting.

**CAHORS:** David Heyworth and Kevin Megarry. Georgina Hodgson will continue as Secretary and is to be coopted to the Council at their first meeting.

**CARCASSONNE:** It was not possible to hold the Local Annual Meeting (LAM) as insufficient number of members were present.

**CAYLUS:** Margaret Herbert and Gavin Porter. Celia Scott remains Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer.

**TOULOUSE:** Janet Matkin and Samantha Silverthorn.

**VAYRAC:** Karen Humphrey & Robert Humphrey.

We welcome Karen Humphrey from Vayrac as the only new member of the Council and hope that she enjoys her time on the Council



## Being honest.... Prayer

When it comes to prayer I have to confess that I am a bit of a failure. To make things worse, I suffer massively from envy of those Christians who seem to be able to achieve a great intimacy when they pray.

My problem? Just the usual one of concentration, daydreaming, and finishing prayer with a feeling of something being missing. Maybe it's old age, maybe it's divine revelation, or maybe I heard a good sermon, but things changed a little while back.

I realized that's while I didn't achieve a special feeling during long times of prayer, I spent quite a lot of most days in a sort of conversation/prayer relationship with God. Much

of this was based around need, asking for His help in the situations I was facing, but more recently appreciating something beautiful and positive.

So having relaxed, I have the following very practical suggestions to make a time of closeness with God work:

A. Don't beat yourself up if you can't get a special feeling, you are in the same position as most people in my experience.

B. If your prayer habit is not working, vary it, I use a variety of daily meditations and I am learning that there's much to be gained by shopping around.

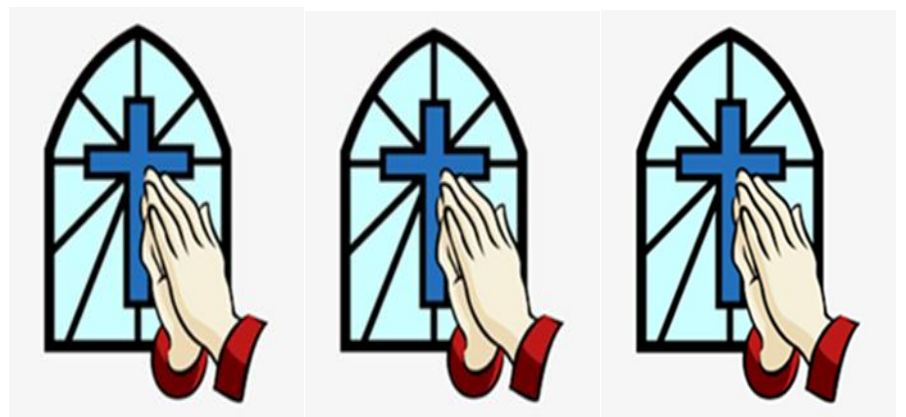
C. I find that music, old hymns in particular, are very helpful in moving me into a more spiritual place. I listen therefore to hymns on YouTube and I find them very effective in bringing me into the presence of God. (Having hunted around for a while I find the following link really good, I think it's just a church which seems to have a very traditional sound which I can resonate with.

<https://youtube.com/@chetvalleyhymnsandsongs?si=ywzNKaKXWKIY1PWg>

or more simply just put Chet valley into your YouTube search

D. If it is not working for you and you continue to feel out of touch with God, relax, he loves you and he isn't going anywhere!

And as we accountants like to say" that's the" bottom line!"



**Kevin Megarry - Cahors**



## Caylus Vide Grenier Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July In Fenéyrols

The Caylus worship centre are excited to announce that they are having a table at the **Fenéyrols Vide Grenier on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

The aim of this is to do several things.

Raise money for both our church and a charitable cause yet to be decided upon by the group.

Promote our church and our chaplaincy.

This is the first time the group has ever done this, so it is particularly exciting.

We would love to see any of you there on this great day.

Photos and how we got on in the next church mouse.



## The Caylus Worship Centre



### From Gavin Porter - Caylus

#### QUOTATION FROM ALDOUS HUXLEY

“The religious sentiment tends to develop, as we grow older. We inevitably turn to God for this religious sentiment is of its nature so pure, so delightful to the soul, that experiences it, that it makes up to us for all our other losses.” (Aldous Huxley “Brave New World”)

I included this quotation at the end of the Caylus Congregation Report for 2025, presented at the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting on 27th May. “Brave New World” (1932) portrays a future world run as a totalitarian state, where citizens are controlled from birth and assigned to specific roles. Despite this the book does include the quotation above.

That surprises me but also reassures me. Huxley is saying, that despite technological advances - Artificial Intelligence for us today - men and women will still need a spiritual dimension to their lives. Personally, he became an adherent of Vedanta – a philosophy of Hinduism – in later life.

My own experience is well described in that quotation

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## BELL SUNDAY



One of the things I miss in France (and there aren't many) is listening to bells being rung by bellringers!

We live next to a church, and the bells start ringing at 8am and finish at 9pm with a single ring every half hour. But they are all computer generated and rarely does our local bell ringer climb up the dangerous rickety steps to ring out the funeral bell. So, when I hear about Bell Ringing Sunday, I thought other readers of the Church Mouse might also be interested in this very English Sunday celebration. St Dunstan is known as the Patron Saint of Bellringers

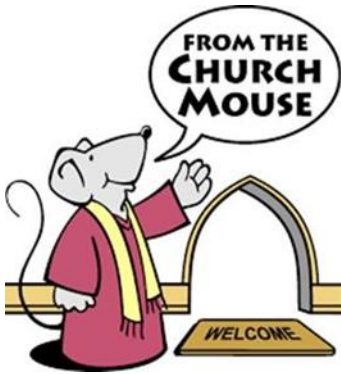
due to his experimentation in early forging of bells in the 900's AD. It is this reason we have chosen a Sunday near his feast day (19th May) that does not conflict with any other significant days in the church calendar to promote Bell Sunday; a day where the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life of the church is recognised.

With co-operation between church and bellringers it may be possible to be involved in a service on the day, from reading lessons, giving a talk instead of a sermon, playing handbells, singing bell-related hymns, readings and prayers, all associated with bells and bellringers. Even bell-shaped biscuits served with after-service refreshments.

We have put together resources to assist with the arrangements - suggestions on how to take an active part in services or using it as an opportunity to demonstrate bellringing and show people the bells, even use it for a bit of cheeky recruitment.

It is hoped the day will raise awareness, emphasise the importance of the sound of bells in our communities and how it can help bring the Church and Community together, strengthening relationships between clergy and bellringers.





## NEWS FROM CAHORS

## GOODBYE TO OUR DEAR FRIENDS ADRIANA and NICK WATERMAN FROM CAHORS



Many of you will remember Keith and Helen Brown who attended Terre Rouge for many years. A few weeks ago their friends, the Griffiths, were on holiday in the Lot and came to our Sunday service. We wanted to hear all the news from Helen and Keith and asked for our love and best wishes to be sent to Keith and Helen from all of us.

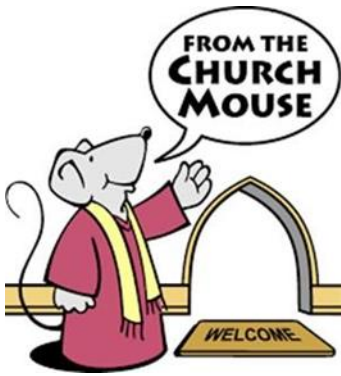
On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at Terre Rouge we said goodbye to Adriana and Nick Waterman who are leaving France to return to the UK after 9 years of living here.

They have always been actively involved at Terre Rouge, reading lessons, Intercessions, welcoming, coffee, a Warden and as Revd June said “quietly and calmly they did what needed to be done”

We will miss them greatly at Terre Rouge as well as our local Book Club and our local Walking Group. Revd June presented them with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and there followed lunch with friends.

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**The Church Mouse this month will cover June/July as the Country Church Mouse is becoming a Town Mouse for a month. The next edition will be for August so, to the dedicated contributors, please send articles for the August edition.**



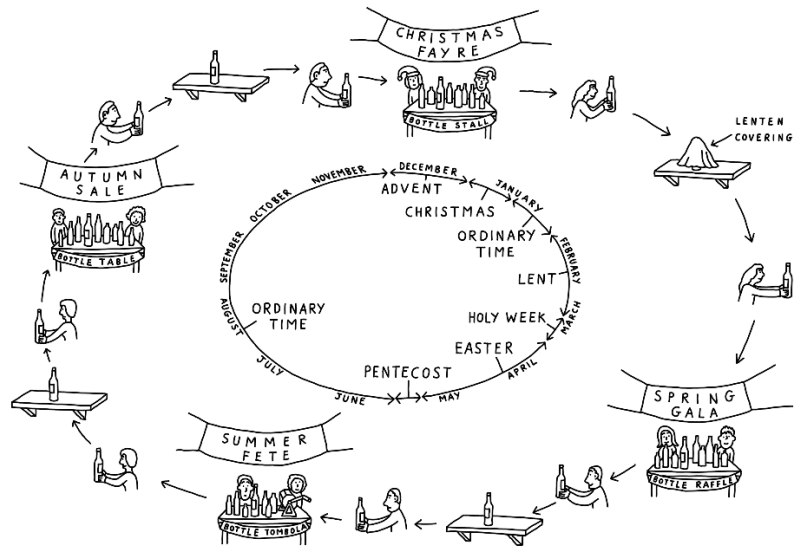
## Basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona – Gill Heyworth

This beautiful Basilica is all over the news at the moment with Pope Leo in Barcelona for the dedication of the cross. The Sagrada Família is a one-of-a-kind temple, for its origins, foundation and purpose. Fruit of the work of genius architect Antoni Gaudí, the project was promoted by the people for the people. Five generations now have watched the Temple progress in Barcelona. Today, more than 140 years after the laying of the cornerstone, construction continues on the Basilica.





# THE CHURCH YEAR



CartoonChurch.com

A bit of humour !



As many of you will already know **The Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, Archdeacon of France and Switzerland**, will be leaving the Diocese in the summer.

We in Midi-Pyrenees and Aude owe him a special thank you for his time and commitment in helping us recruit our new Chaplain. He has nudged, cajoled, suggested and at times been exasperated by us over the last 5 years.

Peter, we cannot thank you enough and pray that you and Liz enjoy the journey and the new adventure in the UK – we will all miss you!



## FROM AIDE et ESPOIR – The Charity supported by Cahors

I'm pleased to announce a concert at the end of July organised by the Joy Artistic Circle for the benefit of Help Hope/Aide et Espoir and given by South African pianist **Ben Schoeman** on July 26 at 6:00 p.m. Petra Tamboer has generously offered to host this concert in her lovely Touffailles studio.

Ben, a Steinway artist, performs in concert halls around the world, both as a soloist and with orchestras. He has also won several prestigious awards. For this concert, Ben Schoeman has created a wonderfully varied programme - from Bach to Liszt, as well as pieces from his native South Africa.

This is a private concert, by reservation only, and places are limited. Please email Clare Brigstocke ([clare.brigstocke@gmail.com](mailto:clare.brigstocke@gmail.com)) to reserve. More details in the flyer below.



## From Martin Milnes Cahors

My choir – the one I belong to (including also other members of the congregation) are giving concerts in Monflanquin (too far for most) and Prayssac (much nearer for some) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The main works are:

Dvorak's Mass in D (he wrote two versions, one for large orchestra and choir first performed at the Crystal Palace in London, and the other (the one we are performing) for organ and small orchestra and choir (our version) for the dedication of the chapel at Lužany Castle, the summer residence of his patron Josef Hlávka.

Sir John Rutter's Requiem was also written as a commission, for the Sanctuary Choir and small orchestra in Dallas and then Sacramento in 1985, conducted by the composer. We first performed it a few years ago, and then had the great privilege of hosting and participating in a weekend workshop led by Sir John at the Abbaye de Cadouin in the Dordogne in September

last year which ended with a performance of the Requiem on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This inspired us to want to do it again!

If you want to reserve, call Fran on one of the two phone numbers on the poster below; if no reply, leave your name and number, the number of places, and which concert.

A concert poster for 'Canta Vivace' set against a background of a church interior. The text on the poster includes:  
- Title: **CONCERT** *Canta Vivace*  
- Subtitle: Choeur et orchestre Direction Vicky O'Neill  
- Works: **A. DVORAK MESSE EN RÉ** and **J. RUTTER REQUIEM**  
- Dates and Locations:  
 - 04/07 Église Saint André Monflanquin (47) à 20h30  
 - 05/07 Église St. Barthélémy Prayssac (46) à 17h00  
- Pricing: 15€ sur place et en ligne; gratuit pour les moins de 10 ans  
- Contact: Renseignements et réservations 05 65 36 45 98 - 06 06 45 72 85  
- Websites: www.cantavivace.com, www.helloasso.com  
- QR codes: Two QR codes are present on the right side of the poster.