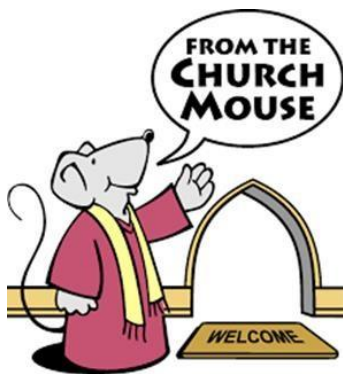




EDITION August/ September 2025

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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](#).

If you would like the Church Mouse in large print – font 20 – please let me know. If you would like the Church Mouse printed and sent by post - again, please let me know.

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.



A message from your new Chaplain, The Rev'd Nils Chittenden

Dear members of the Midi-Pyrénées and Aude Chaplaincy,

Kelly and I are greatly looking forward to becoming fellow members of your chaplaincy community very soon, and I thought it might be helpful to pen a little introduction of ourselves in advance of my licensing **on Sunday, 28th September**.

At the moment, we are living in a rural part of Connecticut, United States. I have been working as a supply priest and transition consultant for parishes in the Diocese of New York, and Kelly works for a large insurance company in Hartford CT where she manages a team that provides IT tools for their sales force. Prior to that, she worked in a similar role for IBM, at their global HQ in Armonk, New York, whilst I was the Rector of the local Episcopal parish there.

Moving to Europe is something of a return to my roots, since I was born and raised in a rectory in Kent, and worked in the Church of England for thirteen years until moving to the US in 2010. Although Kelly is American, our upcoming move also rekindles former times for her, as she lived in Poitiers for a year in the 1990s, and speaks good French (unlike me, at the moment). My mother was Swedish, and I have a lot of family in Sweden still, and my brother is a cathedral organist in Norway.

Transatlantic moves are quite an enterprise, as I know from experience. Added to this is the fact that Kelly has some projects to see through at work, and we are preparing our house for sale. So, our move to Occitanie will be in a couple of stages: I'm the advance-party, arriving in September so that I can get started in



my new post. Kelly will be joining me early in 2026, along with our golden retriever, Paddy and our cat, Arthur. We'll be looking for our new home at that point. Until then, I'll be living in a rented apartment in the centre of Albi. Whilst I will need to make a few trips back across The Pond over the next few months, I will be making every effort to make a good start and to meet as many of you as possible.

I know that these past few years haven't always been the easiest for the Chaplaincy and I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to keep everything going, not least the Chaplaincy Council and the Ministry Team. With God's help, we will continue to strive for His kingdom in our small corner of His vineyard.

With our very best wishes,

Nils & Kelly



SERVICES AROUND THE CHAPLAINCY August/September 2025

BRENS

Sunday 24th August 11h.00 Zoom Morning Prayer – Robin Johnston
Sunday 7th September 11h.00 Holy Communion by extension – Peter Gibbs

Sunday 28th September 11h.00 Licensing Service for Revd Nils Chittenden – by the Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, Archdeacon of France, Switzerland & Monaco

CAHORS

Sunday 31st August 10h.00 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson
Sunday 14th September 10h.00 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson

CARCASSONNE

Sunday 24th August 10h.30 Morning Prayer – David Phillips
Sunday 14th September 10h.30 Holy Communion by Extension – Kate du Toit

CAYLUS

Monday 25th August 10h.30 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson
Monday 8th September 10h.30 Morning Prayer – Celai Scott
Monday 22nd September 10h.30 Holy Communion – Revd June Hutchinson

TOULOUSE

Sunday 7th September 10h.30 Service of the Word – Sam Silverthorn
Sunday 21st September 10h.30 Diamond Jubilee Celebration Service

VAYRAC

Tuesday 2nd September 10h.30 Holy Communion - Revd June Hutchinson
Tuesday 7th October 10.30 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

Our prayer this month is an indigenous prayer from Chile:

"Teach me not to pass judgement on my neighbour until I have walked many miles in his sandals and carried his burdens on my shoulders.

Instead, make me mindful of the needs of my neighbour. Amen."

A message from Revd Paul Willis – our Area Dean

I'm sure that you, like me, will have been following reports on the wildfires in the Aude. Huge devastation across such a large area.

My thoughts and prayers are with MP&A, and hoping that none of the members of the chaplaincy have been caught up in it.

A day Retreat

Who would have realized just how much a day of meditation, prayer and connecting with other people would have such an incredible impact.

But it did!

A beautiful day at Colombo-le-Roc, which always inspires patience, love, beauty, joy and the feeling that God is with us. Six women sharing a truly special day!

We spent our time together in the chapel, firstly making incredible prayer beads, and then using them to pray and meditate.

We shared a wonderful lunch that each of us contributed to. Great discussions and debates, joined by Ian, Eleanor and little Angela.

And our afternoon was spent in more quiet contemplation, prayer, meditation and discussion about scripture. Using our prayer beads, being inspired by the birdsong and butterflies and even cicadas (one landed on Paddy's arm and didn't move).

We left with a new calm, an updated realization that only we can use our relationship with God to move forward with patience and unify with our soul!



The Retreat Day called Waiting for God – a day retreat around the theme of patience took place on 25th July at Colomba le Roc and was led by Joanne Evans-Boiten,



Welcome to Nils

A new era is about to start.

We welcome Nils with all our heart.

The task's not easy, the way long.

But our commitment robust and strong

Will ensure success in this task.

Support and grace of God we ask

To go forward with faith and care

For the good of all who are there.

Gavin Porter – Caylus Worship Centre.

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.

Below is a list of dates for everyone.

21st September – Toulouse celebrate their 60th Anniversary – further details in the article on page 6.

National **Back to Church Sunday** is also on **21st 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.

28th September – Licensing of Revd Nils Chittenden at 11am at the beautiful church in Brens followed by a reception at L'Espace Sociocultural in Brens

11th October – the Great British Breakfast – a Cahors fundraiser for Chaplaincy funds

12th October – Harvest Festival – celebrated throughout the Chaplaincy



12th October – Cahors celebrate their 60th anniversary

26th October – Bible Sunday

2nd November – All Saints – Cahors hold a special service to remember members of the church who have died over the last 10 years

9th November – Remembrance Sunday – this service is held throughout the Chaplaincy – poppies and bluet are often available



23rd November – Christ the King

30th November – Advent Sunday



CWL Zoom Course by Paddy Wright

Archdeacon Peter Hooper, Tina Marshall, Revds. Helen Savage and Jacqueline Rothwell put together an interesting and informative 6-month Zoom course for CWLs, which started in January 2025. Our Chaplaincy was strongly represented by Celia Scott, Maggie Herbert, David and Anita Phillips, Peter and Margaret Snow, Georgina Hodgson, Kevin Megarry and me, Paddy Wright. Working closely together, it was good to at last put faces to names!

The once-a-month sessions lasted two and a half hours with two breakout sessions, where, in small groups of 5 or 6, topics were introduced and discussed. Then, when all together again, we had in-depth analysis with the instructors of all that had been considered.

The topics were

- 1) What is Worship?
- 2) Anglicanism,
- 3) The Church Year,
- 4) The purpose of the Liturgy,
- 5) Practical ways to lead,

6) Public worship and how to prepare a short talk.

A spokesperson was chosen from each breakout group to set out what comments and ideas had been put forward by the group. Every month we were put into new groups so you got to meet many CWLs from various countries of birth. Each session had different themes of worship in our Anglican Church. We learnt the 4 ways of encountering God in worship. We studied styles of worship - evangelical, charismatic, sacramental and contemplative. The Book of Common Prayer and its origins were covered, as well as the Trinity, the 3 Creeds and the 'traditions' of Anglican worship.

The colours of the Church Year were explained and what green, red, purple, white and gold signify. The use of the Lectionary was detailed and the difficulties of English translation of the scriptures debated. The quiz was fun - what quotation given to us came from the Bible or Shakespeare? we were all surprised at the answers - all from the Bible! The explanation of the Liturgy and forms of worship using the Service of the Word were helpful - why we have the Order of Service and what should be included, i.e. preparation, penitence, hymns, Gloria, psalms, intercessions, etc. Five different ideas of what and whom to pray for in the intersessions were particularly useful.

The last two sessions were about learning the practical ways of leading services, how to speak and dress, what to do and what NOT to do! One 'homework' project had been to write a brief account of our own chaplaincy and these were read out. What a marvellous variety of churches and meeting places we have here in France and Switzerland! What we gathered from the course is a clear recognition that in the future CWLs will be more and more used as it is difficult and expensive to engage chaplains. It was a real pleasure to be involved in something so positive and vibrant within the chaplaincy. To end the course, 8 different points to follow when making a short talk were given, very useful to those who have not yet had to write one. Be brief was No 7. So, as this is an article, close to a 'talk', I will stop here!

Our Cahors Church Worship Leaders are Georgina Hodgson Paddy Wright and Kevin Megarry.

Thank you, Paddy.



Toulouse Worship Centre Diamond Challenge



Are you up for our Diamond Challenge?

Complete a column of challenges...or a row...or several ...or everything...Do have a go!

Share your "evidence" to get your activity acknowledged.

The Toulouse congregation has been very busy organising this amazing Challenge for their Diamond Celebration.

Here is what Sam Silverthorn would like everyone to get involved in:

The Diamond Challenge Was unveiled at Toulouse church on 10th August and I'm pleased to say that it was

enthusiastically received. We even contributed to one of the challenges there and then!!

Please find attached the sheet with all the Challenges - it is for everyone! You can do a row - with 10 different types of things, and / or a column, so deepening your knowledge/ experience of one subject. If you are up for it, you can do everything - the Ultimate challenge!!! And Yes, there will be a badge and recognition for those who achieve the challenge. But actually, we will all benefit - as all the tasks help us to be more of a church community, a church family, and to deepen the expression of our faith.

So, don't delay!! Print off the attached sheet (it is 2 sides of A4) and start to challenge yourselves! You will need someone to verify what you have done - a lot of this can be verified at church.



Chaplaincy of
Midi Pyrenees &
Aude

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The Anglican
Church of
Toulouse

INVITATION

To our
Diamond Jubilee Celebration Service
followed by lunch

On Sunday 21st September 2025
at 10h30
Notre Dame de l'Assomption, 23 rue Larade Toulouse

RSVP to silversam317@gmail.com or matkinjanet@gmail.com

We are looking forward to 21st September to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Church in Toulouse.



All are welcome, from all over the Chaplaincy. We are inviting past and present members of the congregation, and some special guests.

We have a "memory book" where we are collecting people's memories of church in the SW of France. Please feel free to add your memories – eg your first service, who you met, social activities, a service that was special to you. Please send any memories to Sam at silversam317@gmail.com or Janet at matkinjanet@gmail.com

We are also compiling a history through photos. So, if you have any, please upload each photo to the Dropbox, with a label of what it is and when it relates to. The link is ??? or contact Sam or Janet as above.

Had I realised that the 80th Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki was in August I would have saved this article for this month. But I didn't, so here is the photo again of all that remained of Hiroshima after the bomb.

Gill Heyworth



The Church of England published the following prayer to remember the Anniversary.

“God, you are the Father of all the families of the earth, and call the nations to live in peace and unity.

We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death unleashed on this day upon the city of Hiroshima, and later upon the city of Nagasaki.

We pray for the people of Japan, and all whose lives are disfigured by war.

We pray for ourselves, the often-unwise stewards of the powers of the universe.

Transfigure the lives and cities scarred by conflict by the revealing of your glory and move us by your uncreated energies to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,

our light and our salvation”. Amen.



Are you up for our Diamond Challenge?

Complete a column of challenges...or a row...or several ...or everything...Do have a go!

Share your "evidence" to get your activity acknowledged



	A: Prayer	B: Bible	C: Music	D: Art	E: Fitness/Sport	F: Food	G: <u>Communic'n</u>	H: History	I: Service	J: Church
1	Learn and recite The Lord's Prayer in English	Learn by heart John Chapter 3 verse 16	Go to a concert / opera / musical	Take a photo of your favourite place (in church?)	Walk at least 5000 steps in a day	Bring a favourite food to church to share after the service (fruit / biscuits / cake/ crisps...)	Tell a friend about our Church	Write down your first memory of our church. Add to our history file	Make and share a drink for someone and spend time with them while they drink it	Come to church at least once a month July – Christmas Or at least 6 times
2	Learn and recite The Lord's Prayer in another language	Find the shortest verse in the Bible – what is it and where is it?	Learn the "new testament song" (see the music group)	Draw an "ichthys" fish and put it on your bedroom / study wall	Do 20 " <u>keepy uppies</u> " – does not have to be continuous!	Donate some food to Secours Catholique	Invite a friend / family member to a Church event /service	Write Down your best memory (so far!) of our church. Add to our history file	Take part in church cleaning	Volunteer to be a greeter or a refreshments server – at least twice
3	Say / Sing a "grace" before every meal for a week	Read one of the Bible readings in a church service	Participate in our Songs of Praise service: say what your favourite hymns are & come & sing them!	Look at the church mosaics – what do you see?	Go Dog walking Or ride a bike to somewhere new	Participate in a "bring and share lunch" at church- bring some food and eat some food!	Write a post about church – for FB / <u>Insta</u> / the Church Mouse.... (remember to get permission for any photos taken of people)	Find out when you were baptised, and where	Take part in church gardening	Tidy up the Children's Corner or help with the washing up after the service

Toulouse Diamond Challenge

Name:

4	Use our prayer book at church – add anyone that you would like to pray for and pray for all that you see	Build a Lego Bible story	Play a musical instrument during or after a service (on your own or as a group)	Draw / sketch a Bible passage or your version of a famous “Christian” painting	Walk at least 5000 steps / day for a week (7 days)	Have a period of fasting (a day?, once a week at lunchtime for a month?...) and donate the money that you saved to SC	Tell someone that Jesus loves them	Find any photos of church events and upload them to the <u>dropbox</u> (labelled!)	Volunteer to raise funds for a charity – be creative sponsored event?	Borrow and read a book from our library and bring /give a book to our library
5	Pray for a person / situation every day for a month & see what happens	Find which book does not mention God once... read the story and share a summary of it with someone else	Put a tune to a Psalm (at least 4 verses) It could be a tune we sing in Church, or from a song or piece of music...or make one up!	Illustrate a Psalm – read a Psalm ...many of them use images in their words...draw / paint what you think of	Have a go at an e-sport / computer game that you haven’t tried before – how did you do?	Make a dish for the first time == new to you. Take a photo of it and tell someone about the dish – did you like it? Would you do it again?	Talk to someone at church for the first time and find out something about them	Talk to an “older member” of the church to learn more about us	Philippians Chapter 2 says that we should “shine like stars” – how can we do this in our community – as a group, plan and carry out a star activity.....	Learn how to use the computer / projector and project a service, with someone who has done it before! Or learn how to take the collection and present the offering to the service Leader – then do it”
6	Take part in a 24/7 prayer event or a prayer Clock	Read the four Gospels and share what you noticed / learnt	Write / perform a short song (a Bible passage?) – on your own or as a group	Perform /act in a Bible story or verse (can be in a group)	Organise and deliver a sporting event for more than 4 participants (<u>Petanque?</u> E-sport? Cycling?	Explore a new cuisine (make something / go to a restaurant...)	Make a poster for a church event and share it.	Make a organised Album of photos of church events that you have been involved in	First Aid: Learn CPR or do a first Aid course	Learn about our Chaplaincy, Deanery, <u>Archdeanery</u> , Diocese, and about Synods and explain to someone at church
Total										