



Christ Church in the Manche

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



February No 2

February Letter

'An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace' – the Anglican definition of a *sacrament* – those special means, whereby God, uses a physical reality (water, or bread and wine) to convey a unique spiritual experience. The great Gospel Sacraments are a familiar and central part of our life together as Christians, but Christians in the Orthodox (Eastern) tradition offer a less familiar image - the Church itself as sacrament. If you think about it, as well as being the setting within which the other sacraments find their meaning, the Church itself perfectly fits the definition of a sacrament. A gift of Christ? - Yes! The vehicle of His promises? - Yes! (The word *sacrament* means a promise) An outward and visible sign? - Yes! Linked to an inward and spiritual grace? - Yes!

It would take pages to describe all the inward and spiritual graces that we inherit by being joined to the Church through our Baptism. The inward reality of the Church is that we are the Body of Christ, but the outward reality is that it is made up of a varied and fallible bunch of people, people who may have nothing obvious in common beyond the fact that Christ has called them together! It would be a serious mistake to ignore the outward signs, because their holy function means they deserve to be of the best. For Baptism we use clean clear water (the early Church insisted it must be *flowing* water!), while Holy Communion requires that *The bread, whether leavened or unleavened, shall be of the best and purest wheat flour that conveniently may be gotten, and the wine the fermented juice of the grape, good and wholesome*. It would be perverse to choose to use less than the best in each case, because simple reverence demands that we should always put our best at God's disposal.

The same principle applies when we think about the Church in these terms. But getting the best out of people is a much bigger challenge than getting the best out of a loaf or choosing a bottle of wine! Too often we give up on the challenge too readily: we tell people all about the lovely inner reality that God creates of His Church, but we fail to help people to make the connection between that inner reality, and the outward reality which needs to be our offering for God to use. The Church can't be 'only' a spiritual reality: our spiritual reality needs to include being visible – people need to be able to find us, and recognise us as followers of the teaching and example of Jesus.

It would be too easy to regard the 6-yearly remaking of our Electoral Roll this month as just a fussy and irrelevant administrative chore, nothing to do with following Jesus of Nazareth. At one level it is about structures and representation, but at a deeper level it's about standing up and being counted as members of the visible and local Church. The Church can only be visible (we're not talking about empty buildings here!) if we are prepared to be visible – to declare that we are the people (deeply human and flawed!) whom God has called together here so that He can shape us into the Church that He wants us to be. The Electoral Roll is one (important) way in which we can express to God our willingness to be that Church.

So please fill in the form AND return it by the due date. And sign it with thought and prayer, praying for our Chaplaincy, for our life today and God's plans for our tomorrow. May God bless all of us as we accept the challenge to walk with Jesus and work with Him, so that the outward reality of our Church may be an even better and clearer pointer to the inward spiritual reality of being the Body of Christ.

Love in Christ Jesus and His Church,

Chris

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Saint Croix Church - St Lo

On Wednesday evening 16th January, Saint Croix Church, Saint Lô held the first service in our area of La Manche.

Donna Derrick, seen here at the Lectern, was part of the team preparing the Unity Prayer services for sometime in advance.

That evening Gratot was very well represented in giving support for Donna at the church. There were many attending from other denominations, all joining together in the unity of Christian worship in a lovely church.

The next service was held at Ducey, further South, and a good number of members from Virey church were also there in support, including several from Gratot.

The other services were held at Barneville-Carteret and Cherbourg and we later heard that an additional service would be held in Montmartin sur Mer on Monday 21th January. Donna had been asked to take one of the readings.

Full report from Donna will be in the March Issue

Readings for February 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>1st Reading</u>	<u>2nd Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
3rd	24: 7 -End	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-End	Luke 2: 22-40
10th	138	Isaiah 6: 1-8	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	Luke 5: 1-11
17th	1	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	1 Corinthians 15: 12-20	Luke 6: 17-26
24th	65	Genesis 2: 4b -9, 15 - End	Revelation 4	Luke 8: 22-25
3rd Mar	99	Exodus 34: 29 - End	2 Corinthians 3: 12, 4: 2	Luke 9: 28-36

Eurobishop

Extract from Bishop David's blog

St Thomas à Becket, a very English and very European saint, patron of the Anglican Church in Hamburg



For over 400 years, since 1611, the English Church in Hamburg has been serving the English speaking community in the city. At first the congregation was made up of English residents who were largely engaged in shipping and trade. Today the Church is a multinational community; typically at the Sunday mass the congregation, which is regularly more than 100, represents over 15 nationalities.

The Church is dedicated to St Thomas à Becket. On 9 January a window depicting the saint was blessed, having been restored, mounted and illuminated in one of the upper galleries of the building. The glass, dating from the late 19th century, was donated by Graham Dry and his wife Beate Dry-von Zerschwitz who discovered it among other stained glass in a specialist shop in London.

The members of the congregation are proud to have this saint as their patron, particularly in these days when the relationship between the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe is uncertain. They know that St Thomas à Becket is a very *European* saint. Just a couple of years after his martyrdom in 1170 in a provincial city on an off-shore island, he began to be honoured across the entire continent. As early as a decade after the martyrdom people from as far away as Iceland were including Canterbury on their pilgrimage agenda along with Santiago de Compostela and Rome. St Thomas is a reminder that we in Europe share a history; we share a story; we share heroes; we share an identity. For over 800 years St Thomas has joined the English community to other European communities. His widespread veneration is a reminder that we are essentially one as people, united in proclaiming and living the great values and truths of the Gospel.

Apart from speaking of our fundamental European solidarity and unity St Thomas's martyrdom, on the orders of King Henry II, reminds us our Christian calling to resist all abuse of power in our world today, and to stand with courage against all distortion of the Christian message and Christ's values of justice, love and peace.

The Bishop in Europe:
The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes

Renewed Electoral Roll

We notified you in January that every 6 years we have to renew our Electoral Roll. That time is upon us again and its new E/R has to be completed before our 2019 AGM.

The next step will be to send to you the Electoral Roll Application Form for completion. *(if you wish to apply to be entered on the Electoral Roll for the first time. Now is the time)* Please print off both sides (Ideal if you use **double sided print** please, if your printer has that facility. it will save your paper and also space in our file).

Please complete and return to the Electoral Roll Officer as quickly as possible, as it takes time for us to collate all the information in the really short time available. Your help in this will be very much appreciated.

Being on the Electoral Roll shows your commitment to our church and gives you the opportunity for your voice to be heard, allowing you to vote on all matters when they arise, and be elected to any office or committee. It is also your permission to allow us to keep your details on file and in return keep you informed of services, notices and social events by e-mail, telephone or post under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Father Chris Probert in his letter on the front page has very kindly expressed the importance of being on the Electoral Roll *“At one level it is about structures and representation, but at a deeper level it’s about standing up and being counted as members of the visible and local church”*

This is only a small quotation from Father Chris, so if you haven’t read the letter, please do.

Due to the General Data Protection Regulations should you wish to receive information via e-mail etc, we require your permission to hold your personal details. Hence a consent form requiring your signature will be included. Very important when we all live so far apart.

The e-mail will contain both forms and you need to complete one of them. Then returning by the due date will be greatly appreciated, Thank You.

FORM 1 - THE ELECTORAL ROLL APPLICATION-FORM:

If you wish to be entered on the church Electoral Roll, please complete this form and return by the due date. **2nd March ‘19.**

FORM 2 - CONSENT FORM.

If you do not want to be on the Electoral Roll, but wish to be kept informed of Notices, receive the magazine and other information, please complete this form and return to us as instructed by the due date. **2nd March ‘19.**

The information on both forms will be held in strict confidence. You are able to withdraw or change your consent at any time.

You only need to complete ONE FORM. The *ER application/consent*, or the *Consent Form* if not applying for the ER. You have several ways of returning either completed forms.

Electoral Roll application:

By post or hand to a Churchwarden, Deputy Churchwarden or a member of the Ministry Team. Who will forward to the Electoral Roll Officer immediately.

The Consent Form:

By post or hand to a Churchwarden only

Thank you for your help and support.

Electoral Roll Officer





SERVICES BEFORE LENT



GRATOT-HOMMÈEL 11.00 AM

3rd Feb	Presentation of Christ	Morning Prayer.	(W)
10th “	4 before Lent	Eucharist	(G)
17th “	3 before Lent	Morning Prayer	(G)
24th “	2 before Lent	Holy Communion by Ext.	(G)
3rd March	1 before Lent	Morning Prayer	(G)

VIREY CHURCH 5.00PM

3rd Feb	Presentation of Christ	Eucharist	(W)
10th “	4 before Lent	Evening Prayer	(G)
17th “	3 before Lent	Eucharist	(G)
24th “	2 before Lent	Evening Prayer	(G)
3rd March	1 before Lent	Eucharist	(G)

**Come
Worship
with us**



Everyone is welcome

Prayer Diary for FEBRUARY '19



Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us.

The important thing is not to think much but to love much and so do that which best stirs you to love.

Love is not great delight but desire to please God in everything. (St Teresa of Avila)

Revd C J Probert

Day Please pray for...

1st (Fri) **Brigid of Kildare** Ireland, facing political & economic uncertainty after 'Brexit'

2nd (Sat) **Presentation of Christ** May we see the fulfilment of our long-held visions

3rd (Sun) Our Chaplaincy: That God may move us from 'maintenance' to 'mission'

4th (Mon) **Gilbert of Sempringham** Those seeking new forms of Christian community

5th (Tue) Gratot Church: Committee, leaders and congregation

6th (Wed) **Martyrs of Japan** Japanese Christians, a tiny but faithful minority community

7th (Thu) Our diocese (Bps Robert & David), Archdeacon of France Meurig Williams

8th (Fri) Those struggling with sickness, infirmity, or difficult decisions

9th (Sat) Church Council meets at Virey: may God guide us with His vision for our future

10th (Sun) Our Chaplaincy: That we may discern and employ the Spiritual Gifts of all

11th (Mon) Virey Church: Committee, leaders and congregation

12th (Tue) May the renewal of the Electoral Roll challenge our commitment to our Church

13th (Wed) The Church of England: Abp Justin Welby, the General Synod

14th (Thu) **Cyril & Methodius** Russia & its leaders, may the Church use its influence wisely

15th (Fri) **Sigfrid of Sweden** May apathy give way to renewal in Church & society in Sweden

16th (Sat) Our musicians: may our worship lift us to heaven!

17th (Sun) Our Chaplaincy: May we better communicate our faith, priorities and values

18th (Mon) To know the Will of God when faced with uncertainty and 'closed doors'

19th (Tue) Our Readers: Donna completing training, Mary in her continuing ministry

20th (Wed) Those facing hospital appointments, surgery or other treatment

21st (Thu) Our children and grandchildren, that they may know, love and serve Jesus

22nd (Fri) Existing and planned Bible Study groups in our Chaplaincy

23rd (Sat) **Polycarp of Smyrna** Justice & freedom in Turkey, the end of persecution

24th (Sun) Our Chaplaincy: That we may learn to recognise God's handiwork in creation

25th (Mon) Our clergy, David and Chris – for strength and health

26th (Tue) How can we deepen our prayer life as individuals and as a community?

27th (Wed) **George Herbert** The renewal of our neglected vision of Pastoral Care

28th (Thu) Brexit next month! That the outcome may be pleasing to God, & for our good

Abbreviations – a reminder of why a saint is remembered:

Ab = Abbot/ess Ap = Apostle B = Bishop Pr = Priest D = Deacon M = Martyr

Miss = Missionary Sch = scholar Tr = (Bible) Translator T = Teacher Ev = Evangelist

Visit from friends in Jersey

On Sunday 20th Jan we were blessed with a visit from Martin and Sue Dryden at Gratot. Martin was leading our Eucharist service that morning and Sue supporting the choir.

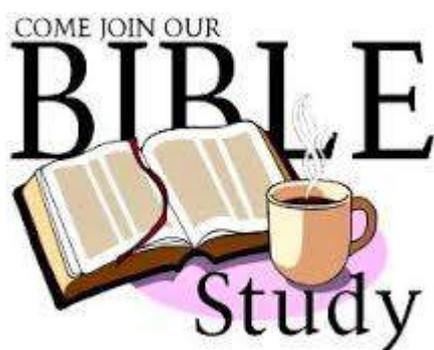
When I last spoke to Marin on the telephone, Saturday morning, he was still in Jersey as the ferry he had booked wasn't running. A bit of quick thinking had to pass across my mind as it was Saturday and Martin may not be at the service. I already new that the ferries to St Malo had already been cancelled on Wed/Thur because of the weather. Martin assured me that there would be a Ferry around lunch time (Promised) so hopefully all would be well.

Those present on the 20th know the answer to my concerns. Martin was there with Sue so plan B was not required. The church was quite full, with around 40 people present, which was a wonderful turnout with Martin being there and our service continued as normal. Thank you both for your help and support.

After the service many gathered in the Salle for a chat and all seemed not to be in a hurry to leave as they enjoyed each others company. Martin & Sue then went down to Virey to lead the evening service.

Make a note, Martin and Sue will be over again on the 10th February and we will be organising one of our Soup Lunches on that day.

Southern Bible Study Group



The Barenton Bible study

continues on the last Friday of each month at
14h30.

Details from David or Mary Jackson.

For directions contact

David or Mary

02 33 49 64 41

Last we heard the builders were still at David and Mary's house.
So please check the venue with them.

V i r e y N e w s 2 0 1 9

Another of our Worship Leaders was initiated last Sunday. Everyone seemed to think Roger's first time for leading the service had gone well and I, certainly, learned a little more about baptism from Mary's sermon and other snippets. Our numbers seem to be holding quite well during these winter evenings. There were seventeen in our congregation last Sunday and the offertory amounted to 250 euros.

According to François Crompton-Roberts *Barnabas* sent a lovely thank-you letter to us. There is a grateful email from *Mustard Seed*; *Emmaüs* also have thanked us profusely, giving us an explanation of what they do, and inviting us to lunch in Fougères, in Brittany, because it is there that the head office of the Granville section is located. We'll have to think about when we can accept the invite!

It was lovely to see the gratitude of all the recipients. Thank you all for your generosity. It was obviously very much appreciated. We also received a letter from the *British Legion* to thank us for our poppy sales. All these should be available in the file in the Salle for you to see if your committee has been efficient!

The committee met on the 21st January 2019 at La Banciere, information is available.

Mary and David had to change the location for the Bible Study group as the house was being invaded with builders and electricians

Please remember the local needy and continue to add dry and tinned goods to our basket in the cupboard in the Salle which will be then distributed by the Banque Alimentaire. Thank you.

THANK YOU to our friends Martin and Sue who come all the way from Jersey to be with us (and even brought biscuits!) I was sorry to miss Martin's sermon which compared the gospels to various landmarks in London, I understand. There were twenty in the congregation.

Your committee met on the 21st Jan and found no difficulty in talking for two and a half hours on your behalf. You should now find evidence of the grateful way in which your charity donations were received in the file in the Salle. Well done everybody.

Justice and Peace: A group went to the Christian Unity service at Ducey on the 23rd Jan. to support Donna and to meet the people who will, hopefully, find us a more user friendly venue for our services, God willing.

Roger says : - A big thank you to Donna and all those who attended Ducey Church for the ecumenical service on Wednesday evening. We were well represented and our support was appreciated. There was a chance to meet those of other denominations in the salle afterwards and introduce ourselves. From the interest shown we look forward to further closer contact in the future.

Thank you again, (CW) - *Contributed by Joyce.*

Ministry Contacts

Priest in Charge	Vacant	
<u>LEAD MINISTERS</u>		
Gratot	Revd Chris Probert	02 33 61 35 82
Reader in Training Safeguarding Officer	Donna Derrick	02 33 17 19 52
Virey	Revd David Jackson	02 33 49 64 41
Licensed Lay Minister	Mary Jackson	02 33 49 64 41
<u>President & Churchwarden</u>	Alan V Wellstead	02 33 90 84 60
<u>Churchwarden</u>	Roger Burge	02 33 58 93 46
<u>Worship Leaders</u>	Wendy Farnsworth.	02 33 45 56 79
	Humphrey Farnsworth	02 33 47 96 48
	Michaela Winterman	02 60 06 18 26
	Paul Evans Scott...	
<u>Deputy Churchwarden Gratot-Homm�el CCC Secretary</u>	Agnes Crompton-Roberts	02 33 45 64 67
<u>Deputy Churchwarden Gratot-Homm�el</u>	Wendy Farnsworth	02 33 45 56 79
<u>Deputy Churchwarden Virey Environmental Officer</u>	Penny Feather	02 33 58 01 35
<u>Deputy Churchwarden Virey</u>	Joan Peagam	06 37 22 55 64
<u>Congregational Churchwarden</u>	Pat Laws	02 33 07 82 26
<u>Electoral Roll Officer Sacristan-Gratot-Homm�el</u>	Alan V Wellstead	02 33 90 84 60
<u>Sacristan - Virey CCC Treasurer</u>	Adrian Feather	02 33 58 01 35



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**Classified Ads
Vacant**

— * —

WEBSITE:

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— + —
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Dates for your Diary

3rd Feb	Baptism of Christ	
9th Feb	Chaplaincy Church Council held at Virey	Virey 10.30am
5th Mar	Shrove Tuesday -Pancakes & Beetle Drive	Gratot 2pm
14th Mar	Gratot Church Meeting	Gratot 10.00am
TBA	Spring Fair	Gratot
TBA	Virey Church Meeting	Virey

Please let me have your planned dates as soon as possible. Thank you.

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Ambassadors

Yes, we need ambassadors please. We are not always able to get to many special events, social gatherings etc. Distance, time, health issues, not to mention the cost of fuel having an impact. .

All we ask, is someone attending to make a few notes perhaps take a picture or two (In jpeg please) and send them in. WE can do the rest.

We hear frequently from people who are away and love reading what is happening back here in the Manche. Keep a check on the weekly services for when they return. It may not always be news to us locally but it is news, good news to our friends in the diocese, and further abroad. It is important that we keep people in our two churches here up to date, as not everyone can attend our services frequently and it keeps them informed.

Please, when at a special service or any another gathering, write something and send it in. Don't be afraid of repeated notes or articles. A different view is welcome and will be used whenever possible.

Please consider this seriously and try to help, lets get the news first and out to all our friends, wherever they are. Let's spread 'The Word'.

Yours in Christ,

Editor



magazine@manche-church.net

Meet & Greet Team

YOUR HELP is still needed.

The few Meet & Greet members are working hard and could do with a break, so we need more people to volunteer to increase the members of the

Meet & Greet Team.

This is a very worth while part of our ministry and if you feel you can help occasionally,

Approximately once every
8-10 weeks

please contact Alan, Agnès, Pat or Wendy who will be delighted to hear from you and be able to give you the details .

Please come and help.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Ian	Graham
Iris	Whitby
Robert	Lovelock
Patricia	Daveney
Alan	Wellstead
Wendy	Woodley
Humphrey	Farnsworth



Happy Birthday to everyone not on our listing but will be celebrating a Birthday this month

If you would prefer your name not to appear, please notify the Editor

FEBRUARY Coffee Rota

3rd Bronwen

10th Peter

17th Helen & Rob

24th Peter & Wendy



Correct at time of going to print - Editor

Web Site Manager

Web Site.

This is a very useful job, placing information on to our site monthly.

Not difficult to do and can be uploaded anytime

If you are interested.

Contact Alan or Roger

Churchwardens

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02 33 58 93 46

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Monday 4pm (Saint-Denis-Le-Vêtu, in English)
Wednesday 7.45am & 9:15am (Saint-Lô, in French)
Wednesday 6.30pm (Saint-Denis-Le-Vêtu, in English)
Thursday 11am (Saint-Denis-Le-Vêtu, in French)
Saturday 9am & 10.15am (Saint-Lô, in French)

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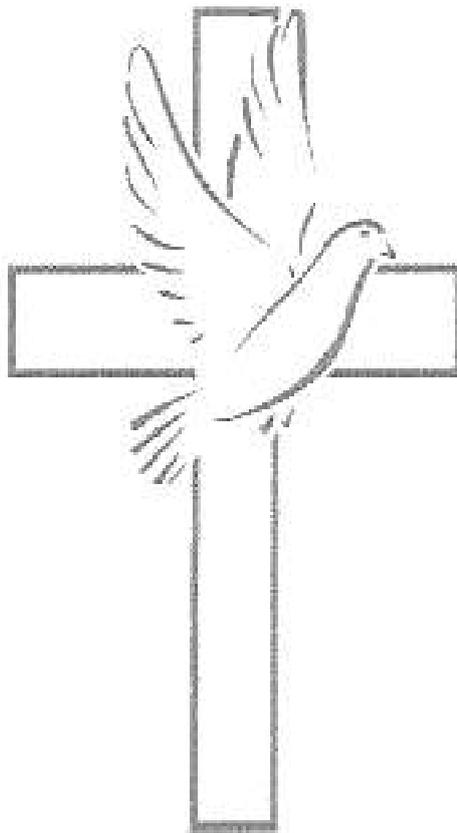
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Christ Church in the Manche

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Christ Church in the Manche

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50200 Gratot, France**

Contributions for the March 2019 Issue will be accepted up to 22nd February (or earlier please) May I also remind you, if you have any Photographs or Posters, please send as a jpeg, its easier to include. Many Thanks.

www.manche-church.net