



# ECHO

6TH JANUARY 2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE  
[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)

## CELEBRATING THE EPIPHANY

Today we are celebrating Epiphany but what is Epiphany? It comes from the Greek word "Epiphaneia" which means a manifestation and in the Christian faith means the manifestation of Christ as God. There are however many different interpretations and traditions associated with it around the World.

In Western Christianity it mainly commemorates the arrival of the Magi to the Christ Child and represents Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles and is celebrated on the 6 January. The Baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana are also celebrated as events showing Christ's divinity.

In Eastern Christianity it commemorates Christ's Baptism in the River Jordan and is seen as His manifestation to the World as the Son of God and is celebrated on 19 January because of the time difference created by the Julian Calendar which is used by the Orthodox Church. This is referred to differently, using the word "Theophany"

The Epiphany Season is celebrated for different lengths of time, from eight days in some traditions up to the beginning of Lent in some parts of the World.

In the UK it is often seen as the end of the Christmas period and Christmas decorations are removed on the night before, Twelfth Night, whereas in France decorations are kept until Candlemas, 2 February.

Here in France we are probably also all familiar with the Galette des Rois in which a feve can be found. Originally the feve was a bean - as opposed to the plastic or ceramic object we are more familiar with today - and the person who found this was crowned King (or Queen) for the day. There was a similar tradition in the UK with a Twelfth Cake, a rich cake with sugar work to commemorate the three kings.

Always be careful with eating Galettes, however, as the feves are known as "The Dentist's Christmas Present" !

However we celebrate Epiphany let us remember that Christ was born to light the World and God appeared in human form to change the World forever.





## A BIG THANK YOU



...from Patricia Gillespie in Alet les Bains for the generous donations from so many people, including ECO Members, which totalled over €1,000 and enabled her to pack more Christmas parcels to be distributed via Secours Catholique to our less fortunate neighbours to help them celebrate Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donated money or took part in preparing these Christmas gifts - and of course to Patricia who brought the whole thing together.

**WELCOME TO**

This short film will tell you more about us

ECO - The Ecumenical Church of Occitania - ...

Watch on YouTube

ECO Online Worship Diary

Today	Tuesday, 23 December	Week	Month	Agenda
Sunday, 2 January 2022	10:30 ECO Morning Worship			
Tuesday, 4 January 2022	19:00 Service of Evening Prayer			
Thursday, 6 January 2022	19:00 Service of Prayer for Healing			
Sunday, 9 January 2022	10:30 ECO Online Communion Service for Epiphany			
Tuesday, 11 January 2022	19:00 Service of Evening Prayer			
Thursday, 13 January 2022	19:00 Service of Prayer for Healing			
Sunday, 16 January 2022	10:30 ECO Morning Worship			
Tuesday, 18 January 2022	19:00 Service of Evening Prayer			
Thursday, 20 January 2022	19:00 Service of Prayer for Healing			

Google Calendar

## OUR NEW ONLINE CALENDAR OF SERVICES

You can now check when all our services will be held at the click of a button on our website. New for 2022, we have placed an online Calendar of all our forthcoming services on the front page of our website, so you can check the dates and times more easily. Clicking on any of the diary entries will display more details when these are available.

### Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart

Our friend Margaret Pritchard Houston from the Diocese of St Albans has prepared a video for 9th January.

As usual, we will place a link on the web page for the ECO Sunday Service

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



## 2021 Was a Very Good Year

**Well, except for the Pandemic, the lockdowns, the travel restrictions and vaccinations of course !**

For ECO, however, 2021 has been a very busy year for our Church since we started broadcasting English-language worship in June.

Because we concentrate on providing our ministry mainly via online worship, we pay very close attention to the (anonymous) web statistics that we get from our Website as well as our YouTube and Facebook channels.

Since the website was launched on 1 June 2021, we have welcomed more than 2,500 visitors to our website. Our visitors have read more than 17,000 pages on the site as well as downloading around 700 copies of this Newsletter, not counting the 1,000 copies we have e-mailed to subscribers.

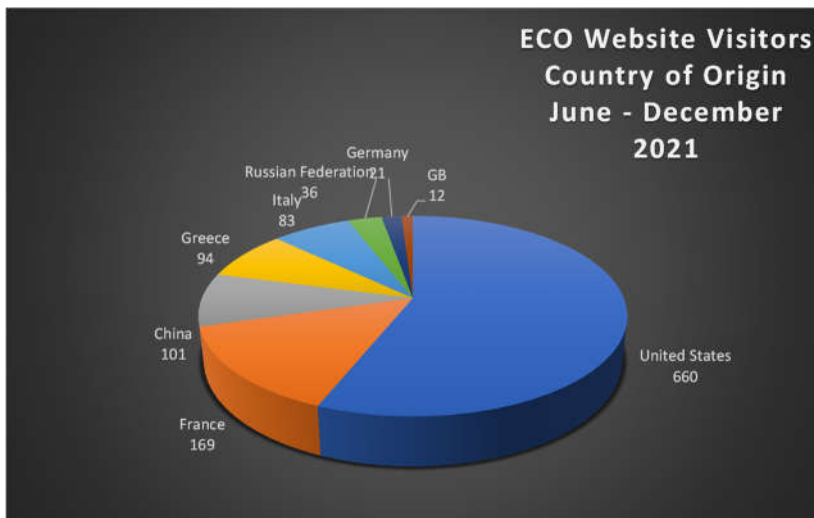
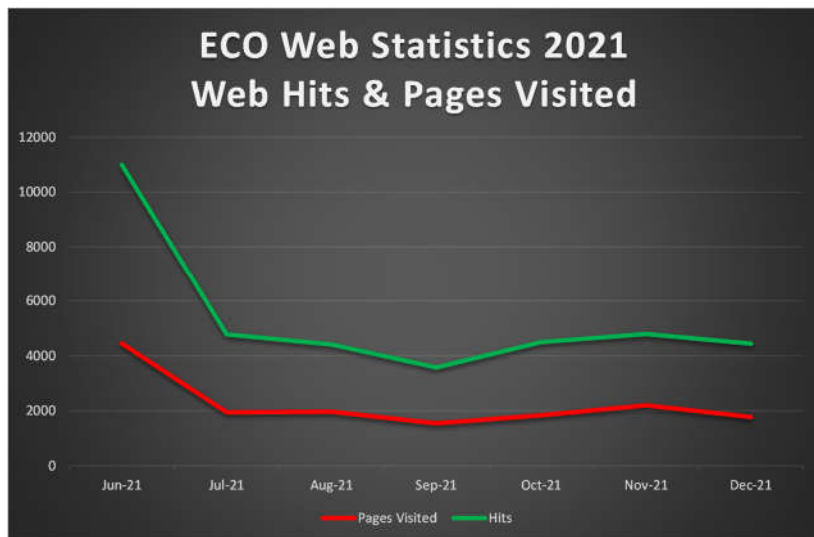
According to YouTube and Facebook almost 3,000 people have joined us in our online worship since June and our Sunday morning services are regularly watched by 30 - 40 people each week. And that doesn't include anyone who joins via Zoom when we broadcast worship live....

...or those members of ECO who join our house groups or our occasional live worship events !

So Thank You to everyone who supports ECO and Bless You if the worship which we are sharing is providing you with spiritual nourishment.

We look forward to continuing to share the Good News of Jesus' message with our community of worshippers, not only here in the Occitanie but also all across the globe throughout 2022.

We wish everyone who joins us a Happy, Safe and Spiritually Fulfilling New Year



After a very busy launch month in June 2021 (which happens on most new websites), ECO's visitor numbers have settled down to be about 2,000 page visits per month, with around 4,000 hits on those pages.

Not every one of the more than 2,500 individuals who have visited the ECO website more than 4,000 times, looking at more than 17,000 pages since 1 June 2021 leave an indication of where they have arrived from, and to protect their privacy we do not gather any personal information about our visitors. However, as you can see, we are reaching out with God's message all over the World as well as in the Occitanie

