



# ECHO

16TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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

## VAMPIRE HUNTERS MAKE A GRAVE MISTAKE IN WHITBY

A church in North Yorkshire has been trying to convince eager tourists that a vampire's grave is NOT located in their churchyard.

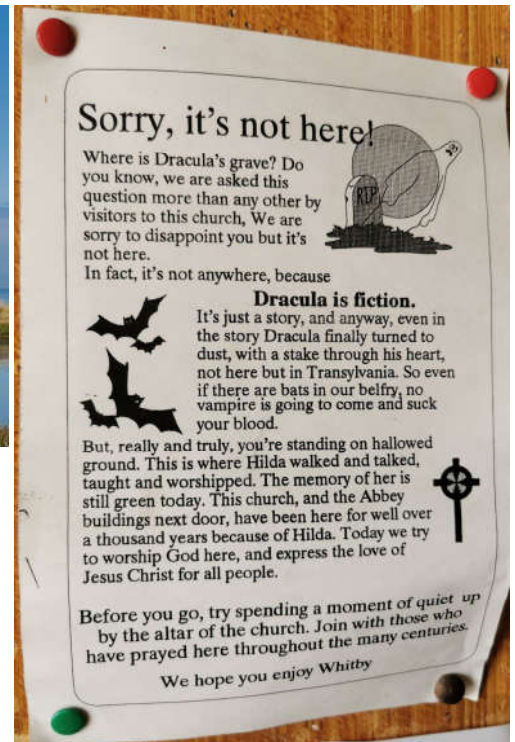


Every summer, scores of tourists arrive in Whitby on the trail of the dreaded vampire Count Dracula, who was created by Bram Stoker in his 1897 book of the same name. Because Dracula was supposed to have landed in Whitby when he travelled to England from his home in Transylvania, vampire-fans have convinced themselves that he is also buried in the churchyard there.

The guides having gotten tired of repeatedly explaining that the graveyard is a Vampire-Free Zone, the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Whitby, which stands beside Whitby Abbey, and has a churchyard, has now put up a poster in the entrance door explaining that, being a fictional character who only ever existed in Bram Stoker's imagination, there is no grave to visit.

Whitby actually inspired Bram Stoker, who lived there from 1890—1896, to write his novel after he first came across the name 'Dracula' in the library there. It was another name for the blood-thirsty Romanian ruler, 'Vlad the Impaler', a 15th Century Prince who is actually buried near Lake Snagov in Romania.

A grave that can be found, however, is that of a man named William Swales, who is also mentioned in the book in which he is portrayed as dying a 'mysterious death' and 'being found dead in the cemetery shortly after Count Dracula's arrival in Whitby.' All of this was simply taken from Stoker's imagination as the real William Swales had actually died in June 1781.



Church Mice



## NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT

### ECO

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

**[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)**

#### **Sunday September 19th: Trinity 16 - Proper 20**

##### **10:30 am Online Sunday Prayer Service**

This Sunday's Prayer service will be led by Linda Billenness and will include a Reflection by Clive Billenness on the theme of "Being A Servant-Leader". For technical reasons our service will not be held on Zoom this Sunday but will be broadcast on YouTube and our Facebook Page. Our Zoom Coffee Bar will be open, as normal, after the service, at about 11:15am.

#### **Tuesday September 21st**

##### **19:00 - An Iona Service of Evening Prayer**

This is a short service of prayer and readings from the Bible which is available as a video and also as a Podcast to download and listen to at the close of the day. We also provide the order of service in .PDF for you to download and keep so that you can follow it on your smartphone, tablet or computer if you wish.

#### **Thursday September 23rd**

##### **15:00 - Open Air Communion Service - Alet les Bains**

By kind invitation of Les Marguerites Restaurant in Alet les Bains, we will be holding an Open Air Communion Service which will then be broadcast on Sunday 26th September. This will be led by Bob and Deb Carr.

As is our normal practice, this will be a "Bubble Communion" at which we each bring our own bread and wine which we only share with members of our own 'Bubble'.

Tea and home-made cake will be available after the service.

In accordance with the current Covid precautions in relation to restaurant premises, it is obligatory that anyone attending our service has a valid Passe Sanitaire which will be checked upon arrival.

Because of number restrictions in force, it is also essential that you let us know in advance if you would like to come. If you would like to join us, please e-mail

**[contact@ourchurch.fr](mailto:contact@ourchurch.fr)**

or contact Bob or Deb Carr directly.

As a result of this, for one week only, we are moving our Service of Prayer for healing to:

#### **Friday September 24th**

##### **19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing**

Each week, we come together to pray by name for God's healing touch for those who are in special need at this time. We are happy to include anyone known to you in our prayers (we only refer to people by their first names)

Please send any names of people whom you would like to be included to

**[healing@ourchurch.fr](mailto:healing@ourchurch.fr)**

by **Thursday evening 23rd September** please.



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

If you are joining us for worship with younger members of your family, each Sunday we are now also broadcasting a short video reflection on the readings for the day from our colleague and friend Margaret Pritchard Houston, who is a member of the Children's Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans. This Sunday's video is entitled "A Child In The Midst" and will be on the web page for our own Sunday Service.