



ECHO

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE
www.ourchurch.fr



GOOGLE PREPARES TO MAP GRAVES ACROSS THE UK

Many of us already make regular use of Google Maps and “Streetview” to find our way around the highways and byways of most European countries. With a smartphone in your car, you can even let friends and family see exactly where you are and follow you on a journey if you wish.

Google have now announced a new project to visit every one of the 19,000 Church of England churchyards in the UK, and photograph and record the details of every headstone in the churchyard, and then place the details on a free online database so that everyone can search for the resting places of their ancestors.

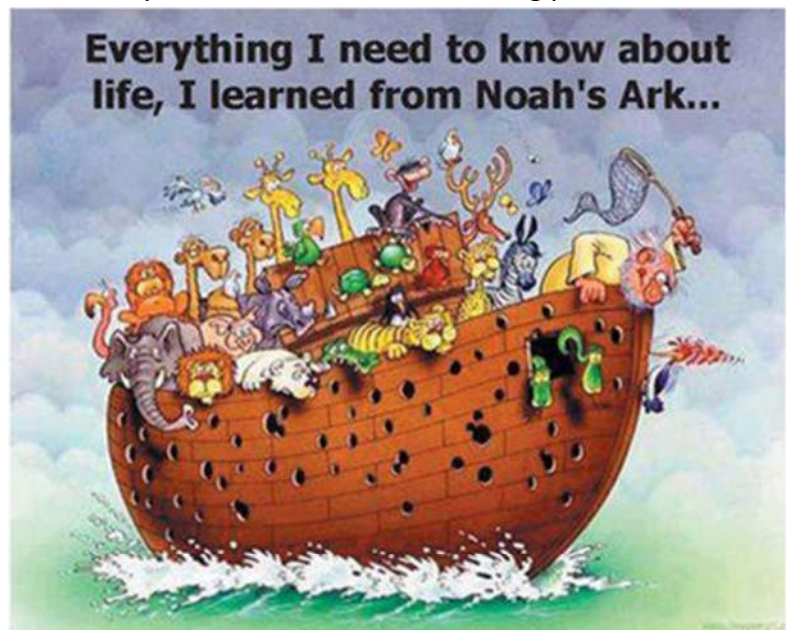
To achieve this, a team of surveyors wearing backpacks like the one seen in the photograph will visit each churchyard. The backpack, costing over £100,000, contains 5 cameras, 2 laser scanners and a satellite GPS unit. Each headstone will be photographed and its precise position recorded.

Internet users will then be able to log in and search for headstones by the name of the deceased or other details engraved on it, after which they will be able to see a photograph of the headstone and be shown precisely where it is located.

The project has already started in Cumbria with 4 teams of surveyors each able to visit up to 3 graveyards per day. The results will begin to come online later this autumn, and the entire project will take up to 7 years to complete.

The project has been funded jointly by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund as well as by the Family Search and My Heritage genealogy websites. Searches and the viewing of headstones will be free of charge, although there may be an additional subscription service to allow detailed searches of parish records.

The project will also incorporate information from a national biodiversity survey providing information about flora and fauna in churchyards.



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..



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

Sunday September 26th: Trinity 17 - Proper 21

10:30 am Online Sunday Communion Service

This Sunday's will be a recording of the live Communion Service held in Alet les Bains on Thursday 23 September. You are still welcome to share in the Communion at home on Sunday. Please just have some bread and wine (or fruit juice) to hand. Our Zoom Coffee Bar will be open, as normal, after the service, at about 11:30am.

Tuesday September 28th

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 30th

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

by Wednesday evening 29th September please.

TAKE THIS BREAD

Communion Services in churches and online throughout the world are based on the Last Supper of Jesus.

At the Passover meal, on the night before His death, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "This is My body given for you;" (Luke 22:19a). He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, "This is My blood, given for you."

These two elements, the bread and the wine, continue to be the central focus for Christians: doing what Jesus asked us to do, 'Do this in remembrance of me'. (Luke 22:19b)

It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did (the word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means 'thanksgiving'), reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word 'Communion' comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I' becomes 'us'.

When the word 'Mass' is used, it comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: 'Ite, missa est.' 'Go. You are being sent.' Today the ECO Communion service uses similar words, "May the nourishment we have received enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here."



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 "Hands, Feet, Eyes" and will be on the web page for our own Sunday Service.