



ECHO

30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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

THE SEASON OF SPECIAL SERVICES

During the autumn and winter months, churches begin to hold a whole series of special services, and ECO is no exception to this.

Earlier today, the ECO Ministry Team met to begin to plan for our online worship during the next few months, leading up to Christmas, and we have identified the following special worship events which we will be broadcasting online:

- **3rd October** - A Service dedicated to St Francis of Assisi and to the animals of God's Kingdom. The service will include prayers, a Canticle written by St Francis and a reflection on his life.
- **10th October** - An online Communion Service of Harvest Thanksgiving. Around us, the vendange is nearly completed and we have much to give thanks for.
- **24th October** - Bible Sunday. We will think about our Holy Book and all that it has to teach us
- **31st October** - We will celebrate All Saints Day
- **2nd November** - We will hold a special online Evening Service for All Souls Day to remember all those departed whom we hold dear.
- **14th November** - Remembrance Sunday. We will give thanks for and remember all those who gave their lives to bring peace and freedom to our World, and who continue to do so even today. The Service will include an online 2 minute silence at 11:00am
- **21st November** - The Festival of Christ the King
- **28th November** - Advent begins, and we will enter the time when we begin to count down towards Christmas.

During Advent, we will be holding an online Festival of Lessons and Carols and there will of course be special services over Christmas, including on Christmas Day morning.



ECO's Northern House Group met recently to celebrate a *Ceilidh Communion* which is one of the communion liturgies of the Iona Community from which we draw much of our worship material.

If you live around Cahors, and would like to come and worship with us, please send an e-mail to contacts@ourchurch.fr



George always gets like this around the time of Annual Church Meetings!



SANTÉ ! FROM TEAM ECO

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 October 3rd - Celebrating St Francis of Assisi

10:30 am Online Sunday Morning Worship

This Sunday's Service will be a special service to celebrate the Feast of Day St Francis of Assisi. The service will be based on a special liturgy supplied by the RSPCA and will consider St Francis' life and how his love of animals reaches out to all of us today. As usual, you are welcome to join us in our Zoom Virtual Coffee Bar after the service.

Tuesday October 5th

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 October 7th

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 6th October** please.



The Covid-19 emergency has sadly limited the ability of the ECO Team to meet in person. Last week's service in Alet les Bains provided an opportunity for a team meeting to discuss plans for our online worship until Christmas.

Of course a shared meal formed an essential part of the planning process !

We have now made plans for a series of special services from now until the beginning of Advent.

We are currently discussing plans for a series of special services during Advent and Christmastide. Please watch out for more details of our worship nearer to Advent.



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 "Let The Children Come To Me" and will be on the web page for our own Sunday Service.