



ECHO

4TH NOVEMBER 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE

LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD



Heidi and Ralph were delighted to welcome members of the ECO Team for a team meeting and time of fellowship on Wednesday. The day included a time for worship and reflection, sharing food, (and of course wine), and a formal team meeting.

ECO has been running now for 5 months and in that time we have achieved a lot. From a glimmer of an idea back in May this year we are now broadcasting 3 services a week - in the five months we have broadcast about 70 services. These have included some special services for special occasions and some physical services for people to meet and enjoy time of fellowship.

Most of our services are done, however, by people in their own homes with some expert studio work to join the separate recordings, editing them and producing the quality services you all see. We are grateful to our Technical Support Team for all their hard work and commitment.

Meanwhile in the North of the Occitanie Region, Janet has been working hard with her fellowship Group. In this time friendships have been made; spiritual love, understanding and true Christian Fellowship developed.

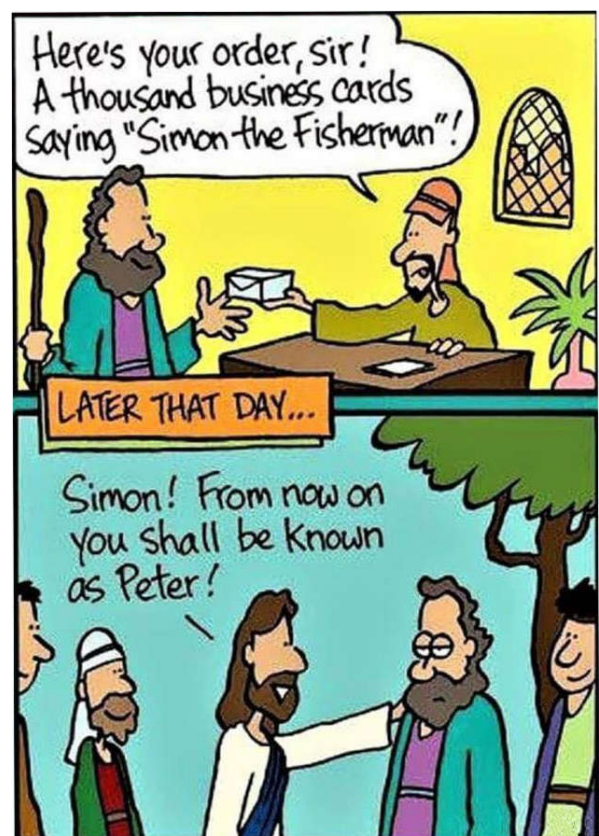
We are now looking to the next challenges with ideas for extending our worship offering, improving our website, and for training.

This is both to extend our technical capabilities and also to spiritually develop us all.

We are also looking at possible discussion groups and bible studies, to enrich us all and our love and understanding of God's Kingdom.

The team would welcome input and would love to hear from anyone with ideas or feedback.
(contact@ourchurch.fr)

In all we had a day of fun, fellowship, reflection, and hard work and are eagerly anticipating the challenges ahead working as a team with our hearts and minds open to where God is leading us.





CARING FOR CREATION

As the COP26 conference draws to a close, Canon Paul Hardingham considers how Christians should engage with Climate Change.

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 7th November

10:30 am - Online Communion for the 3rd Sunday Before Advent

Our service will be led by Margaret Cross and Janet Varty, with a Reflection on the Readings presented by Deb Carr. Anyone is welcome to share in our Communion - please make sure that you have some bread and wine (or fruit juice) to hand

Tuesday November 9th

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 November 11th

19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace for Armistice Day—based on an Iona Liturgy

We are changing the nature of our Thursday Service of Prayer for Healing to focus on God's will for World Peace and Justice as across Europe we commemorate Armistice Day. We will commemorate by name those known to us who have died as a result of war. If there is anyone whom you would like us to include in this service, please e-mail contact@ourchurch.fr by Wednesday 10th November at 18:00 at the latest.

Our normal Healing Service will resume on Thursday 18th November.

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.' (Genesis 2:15).

This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: 'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.' (Colossians 1:16).

We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.



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 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 considers how Jesus called a group of fishermen to be His first disciples.