



ECHO

15TH JULY 2021

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



2 COMMUNION SERVICES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

As the summer (hopefully) dries out and warms up **ECO** is planning our next two Communion Services:

Sunday 18 July - Please feel free to join us online on our website at 10:30 am for a Communion Service which will be celebrated by Janet Varty. If you would like to take part, please have a piece of bread and a small glass of wine (or fruit juice) handy.

You do not need to be confirmed in any church in order to take part in our Communion Service

Thursday 29th July - you will be invited to join us in person at an open-air Communion Service starting at 15:00 hrs. We will send more details via our mailing list nearer the time. French Government vaccination regulations will apply.

This Communion Service will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook on **Sunday 1 August** at 10:30 am

We hope you will join us to share our Communion



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 will also broadcast a short video reflection on the readings for the day from our colleague and friend Margaret Pritchard Houston, who is a member of the Childrens Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans

We will put a link on our web page for each Sunday Service. We hope that you and any younger members of your family will enjoy these

This Sunday's video is entitled "Sheep Without A Shepherd" and is based on the Gospel Reading from Mark 6.



While we have all been worshipping online, here are

FIVE WICKED THINGS YOU COULDN'T DO DURING A BORING SERMON

- 1 Pass a note to the organist asking whether he/she plays requests.
- 2 See if a yawn really is contagious.
- 3 Slap your neighbour. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the minister.
- 4 Try to take the handbag of the lady in front of you by putting your toe through the handle.
- 5 If all else fails, look up at the ceiling, point, and scream.



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 July 18th - Trinity 7 - Proper 11

10:30 am Online Communion Service

This Sunday we will be holding an online service of Communion which will also be streamed live on both YouTube and Facebook Live so you can watch the service later if you prefer. Our preacher and celebrant will be Janet Varty

Tuesday July 20th

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 July 22nd

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.



Would you like to be kept informed about our future services and events ?

If you go to our website

www.ourchurch.fr

You can find details of all our forthcoming services, copies of the orders of service which we will be using (where the words of the service will not be appearing on screen) and the readings

You can also subscribe to this newsletter, which will be sent to you via e-mail. You can, of course, unsubscribe at any time that you wish. Just follow the link on the front page of our website to subscribe, or send an e-mail to

echo@ourchurch.fr



[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Look up:

[@Ourchurchinfrance](#)

Watch us on Facebook Live next Sunday

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting us!

When you watch on Facebook or on YouTube, you remain completely anonymous and we are not given any of your details.



A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR EACH NEW DAY

By Daphne Kitching



Dear Father,

In this strangest of summers, with its traffic-light travel restrictions and on-going concerns about Covid 19, help us to remember that You never change. Your light is constant. Your love continues. Your presence is assured, whether we stay at home, or travel within the UK, or further afield. There are no restrictions on Your Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of each new day, wherever we may be. Thank You that by Your grace, we share all our days with You, secure in all circumstances, when we put our trust in Your precious son, Jesus Christ.

In His name we pray.

Amen.



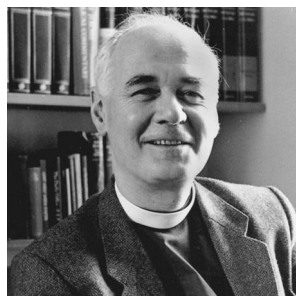
THREE CUPS A DAY MAY KEEP THE LIVER DOCTOR AWAY

Drinking three cups of coffee a day is good for you. A recent study has found that it can cut your chance of dying from chronic liver disease by up to half.

The study at the universities of Southampton and Edinburgh studied almost half a million Britons for a decade, to assess the link between coffee intake and health. The findings were published in the June 2021 edition of the journal BMC Public Health.

On average, coffee drinkers seem to have a 21 per cent reduced risk of developing chronic liver disease, and a 49 per cent reduced risk of death from the condition. Researchers found that the optimum intake for health is three or four cups a day.

The results apply to all kinds of coffee, whether instant, ground, or decaf versions, although the instant is slightly less effective. This may be due to the lower levels in instant coffee of the liver-protecting chemicals kahweol and cafestol.



Physicist and Priest

John Polkinghorne

(1930-2021)

A tribute by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he'd done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure.

Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England and became a priest in 1982. In an interview 40 years later he said, "It's one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn't expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, 'Oh John what are you up to?' They mostly weren't thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian." (From Test of Faith, Paternoster, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that "I'm not a vegetarian butcher. There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science."

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: 'He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.'

John's explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. "I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of his cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns."

John wrote 5 books on physics and another 26 on the relationship between science and religion.

May he now rest in peace and rise in glory.