

# action

## *Missionnaire*



### **Inside this Edition:**

- Singing the gospel in Aix-les-Bains
- Church growth in Rennes
- Serving together across the Channel





## What is the Lord saying to us in Paris-Cardinet?

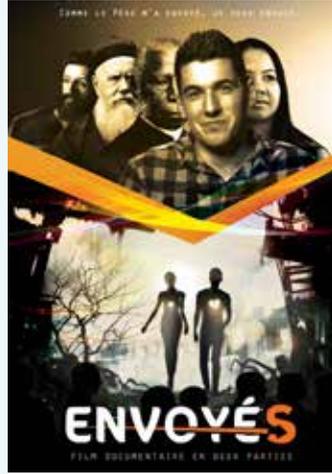


### Reflections by Paul Cooke, FM's UK Director

How was your summer? Mine involved spending an unexpectedly large amount of time in hospitals with my wife. And there will be a lot more hospital visits to come since she's just embarked on a course of chemotherapy, to be followed by radiotherapy in the New Year.

We certainly wouldn't have asked for this, but we've experienced a **huge amount of blessing** over the past few months – ranging from the wonderful love and kindness shown by family and friends, through the faithful prayers of God's people, onto the constant reassurance provided by the Lord Himself, and not forgetting the extraordinary level of care provided by the

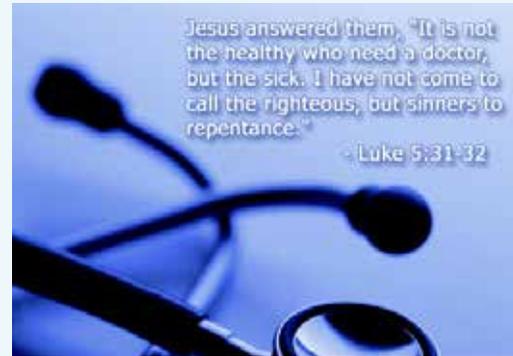
But, of course, although the Lord is concerned about our physical wellbeing, His main concern is with our spiritual state. Hence the words that follow on from those just quoted: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (v.32). This was the Son's primary mission and it's a mission He calls us all to join: **"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"** (John 20:21). This is the primary motivation behind all we do in France Mission and is at the heart of the **Envoyés DVD** that we're offering as a free gift (see page 19). If you haven't yet got a copy, please do take up this offer; I'm sure you'll find it an excellent resource.



The next time you receive our magazine, it'll have a different look and feel, but rest assured that supporting the spread of the gospel in France will remain our **number one priority**. Ultimate healing and hope – in France or elsewhere – can only ever come from recognising Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Every blessing

*Paul*



Thanks to [www.heartlight.org](http://www.heartlight.org) for image

NHS... Jesus said that "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill" (Luke 5:31) and these words remind me what a privilege it is here in the UK to have ready access to medical care when we *need* it.

Front page photo: A gospel concert in Aix-les-Bains ; photo courtesy of Didier Berger

 [www.facebook.com/FMTrust](http://www.facebook.com/FMTrust)

 [@PaulFmtrust](https://twitter.com/PaulFmtrust)

### Missionaries Dave & Mary Brown wonder what the future holds

We personally, and the church members with us, were **very disappointed** at the beginning of September to learn that the couple from the Geneva Bible Institute who were planning to come and work for us for three years as an integral part of their training... had decided not to come. The reason for this decision was simple: they hadn't managed to find accommodation despite practical help plus advice from the church and from France-Mission. In the Paris region demand is high and the **rents are steep**, and estate agents want the guarantee of a high salary before letting out property.

So as a church we've had to **ask the Lord**: what are You saying to us? Where do we go from here? It seems important now as a priority that we seriously consider buying a flat as accommodation for a future pastor or intern.

### "We're seriously considering buying a flat as accommodation for a future pastor or intern."

In connection with this it looks right at this stage to **close our Equithéo shop** as we won't be having the expected help to run it and the decision to close will enable us to redirect money towards the purchase of a flat. In any case, sales are dropping, probably because people buy more and more online, and we can meet people in our

You can contact the Browns at [david.brown.paris@gmail.com](mailto:david.brown.paris@gmail.com)

church building, in their homes or in cafés (Dave has been meeting an interested non-Christian man in Starbucks over recent weeks).

What's encouraged us is the good spirits of the church members as we face this unforeseen situation. And we're looking forward to a **church weekend away in Normandy** in mid-October – the first one for over a decade and a great opportunity to strengthen our fellowship and commitment to each other and to the Lord.



Church weekend away location



Church weekend away location

# A new chapter for the Vaux-sur-Seine seminary



## Staff member Mike James shares about the FLTE's new project

Located in Vaux-sur-Seine (40km north-west of Paris), the **Free Faculty of Evangelical Theology (FLTE)** has been offering high-level training to evangelists, Bible teachers, and missionaries since 1965. To continue fulfilling its vision well into the 21st century, the FLTE has embarked on an important programme of renovation.

### Theological training: a necessity in France

Since 1950, the number of evangelicals has increased nine-fold in our country and, somewhere in France, a new evangelical church is opening every ten days. If evangelical church leaders are to offer solid teaching, they need appropriate training. In France, there are only five centres offering such

training – one of which is the FLTE. The training we offer also has a major impact in **other French-speaking countries**, notably in Africa.



Architect's vision for new library

### The FLTE: responding to needs in France

We offer high level training for Christian ministry. Every year, **80 students** come to Vaux to follow courses at undergraduate and at Masters level. To meet the needs of our students, we also offer Continuing Professional

Development (CPD) courses, an e-learning programme, distance-learning options, and summer schools. The seminary's leadership team reviews teaching methods annually to ensure we're responding to student need. As well as teaching, our academic staff are engaged in theological research and welcome researchers from all over the French-speaking world.



CPD session

### Improving infrastructure: an essential priority

In order to meet its goals, the FLTE has set up an ambitious development plan including the renovation of on-site **residential accommodation** and building a **new library** so that students and researchers can have improved working conditions. These improvements represent a very significant cost for us in Vaux, so we've also launched a major **fundraising** programme to help us complete the necessary work in good time. If you'd be interested in donating to the work, Paul Cooke will be pleased to pass on any gifts (fmtrust@france-mission.org). Thank you in advance for **praying** for all that we do in Vaux!



FLTE main building

If you'd like any more info about the FLTE project, please contact Mike at [fundraising@flte.fr](mailto:fundraising@flte.fr)

## A student's view from Hannah Prior:



"I started at the FLTE in September 2016. Many of you have prayed for me over this time and/or supported me financially, thank you very much, I'm extremely grateful for your partnership in the gospel.

Over my time here, I've enjoyed the intellectual rigour of the classes (they've really stretched my brain!) and the interaction of the academic with pastoral and spiritual aspects. I appreciate the way that the staff are ready to help and answer questions and it's been great to get to know people from different countries and different evangelical denominations. This unity around the gospel is a very precious thing. I've already seen how useful this time of study is, for example, things I've learnt have been very useful in leading Bible studies. All in all, I'm really pleased to have the opportunity to study here."



# Summer outreach in Paris



## Trainee missionary Hannah Prior reports on a week of events at Paris-Télégraphe

The Perspectives church in Paris-Télégraphe hosted a week of events in the summer called *Bâtir sur le roc* (= "Build on the rock"), linked to the parable of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24-37. **Three Canadians and one person from Alsace** joined a team from the church to serve different members of the church and other local people.

For example, they visited church members who were ill or lonely, and helped on a market stall offering Christian books and literature. They were also able to support ministries amongst homeless people and prostitutes. There were times of training and time spent as a team around the Bible. The twin elements of **sharing the gospel and serving others** were intertwined. It was a time to "try out" lots of different things. The week finished with an evening show organised by the team including a drama of the parable of the wise and foolish builders.

**"Some people were asking questions and one young person made a profession of faith."**

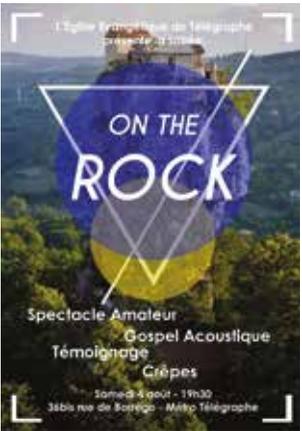
The team felt it was a positive time. Some people were asking questions and one young person made a profession of faith. **Please give thanks** for this positive week and pray on for these people, and for team members

You can contact Hannah at [hannah\\_prior@hotmail.com](mailto:hannah_prior@hotmail.com)

who've now returned to everyday life and work.

Télégraphe would also **value your prayers** for activities such as the after-school homework club and literacy classes that have restarted after the summer. The church is also praying about finding a new pastor/full-time leader as Philippe, the current pastor, is now past retirement age.

On a personal note, I'd appreciate your prayers as I **combine studying at Vaux with work**. Please pray for wisdom and grace – particularly in terms of planning and organising my study – and also for good relationships with students in the weekly English classes I teach, and that a good number of people would join for the year.



Church member providing DIY help during events week

# The God of the unexpected



## Missionaries Paul & Marjorie Dowling see God at work in Châteauroux

**B**ack in 2012 we received an email out of the blue from a church leader in Brazil. To our amazement, he said that their church was praying for France and, in particular, for Châteauroux. An Englishman they were in contact with turned out to be a member of a church in Yeovil who had a second home not far from Châteauroux. From this first contact stemmed an **amazing series of consequences** which we could never have imagined and scarcely believed. The link with the Brazilians has already led one young man to come as a missionary to France (Marcio in Blois). And through them, we praise the Lord that **our link with Yeovil Community Church** has become very precious and continues to bear fruit.

We took a group from this church's English conversation group to Yeovil in April. Since then we've had three Sundays when folk from Yeovil have been present in church and two of the folk who came on the trip, but are not church members, have been in church every time.

**Please join us in praying** that they'll take part in a nurture course this term.

Another surprising thing the Lord has done relates to Paul's membership of the local neighbourhood council. Even though he finds the meetings a real trial, he's persevered and is now an integral part of the council, with the result that the church once again this year was

You can contact the Dowlings at [paul.dowling@sfr.fr](mailto:paul.dowling@sfr.fr)



Church's stand at local fête

able to have a **stall in a central location at the big annual fête**. Paul was interviewed about the church both by the compere through the PA system and for a web radio station covering the event.

Another unexpected opening for which we praise the Lord is the opportunity to broadcast on the local Catholic radio station. **Please pray** that the new director will look favourably on our programmes – though we're guaranteed for one more year as the outgoing director has set up the programme for the year with us in it!

Our God is indeed a God of the unexpected!



Lunch with couple from Yeovil

# Serving together across the Channel



## Church member Laura Ferris celebrates the links between Aix-les-Bains and Rochester

The Perspectives church here is called **Le Rivage** and my husband, Sylvain, and I have been members here for two years. One of the first things we did with the church was to spend an entire weekend together, and we've been excited to see what God has in mind for us all ever since.

I remember that, when I arrived, the very first thing I noticed (apart from the stunning mountains of Savoie, of course!) was people who spoke English and whom I'd never met before in

Aix. Someone told me they'd come all the way from **Rochester** to serve us by looking after our children... And they really did take good care of the kids (and us adults too!) those "people from another church".

We had a lot of fun together, we listened to what God had to teach us together, we prayed together. In short, we spent time **being together**. I soon understood how wrong I was to see them as "people from another church". As you can see from the photo of us all taken that weekend, there was no distinction between "us" and "people from another church"; there was a family.

**"There was no distinction between 'us' and 'people from another church'; there was a family."**

Then it was our turn to fly to Rochester and help with the town's very British **Dickens Festival**. Every year, people from Rochester Baptist Church put on a Dickens play as part of their outreach. French people absolutely love visiting the town at that time of the year and often stop to watch the play. It was a good

opportunity for us to ask them about their beliefs and share the gospel in French in the UK.

The Dickens Festival isn't the only inspiring thing I've discovered about Rochester church's ways of proclaiming the gospel. When you enter the church, you go through a coffee shop where you can sit and chill. It's a remarkable way to serve the town and make new friends – friends who know little about what Jesus did on the Cross.

In Aix-les-Bains, the **choir "Gospel Aixpression"** started two years ago with this very same vision. Since then, we've had great opportunities to create strong and special bonds between us all.

The choir season ended before the summer holidays with believers and not-yet-believer friends singing Gospel songs together right in the middle of the town's main square. What an **incredible symbolic picture** of what God is doing in Aix! The project is now fully part of the town's community.

We're really grateful to Rochester for their prayers, donations, and time; they've been a great support for Le Rivage and Gospel Aixpression. Being able to **receive and share** what we had was a great example of the body of Christ, not only as individuals but also as churches from different cultures and stages of growth. Let's stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.



Gospel concert in the main square



Gospel concert in the main square



Le Rivage & Rochester Baptist Church team

### P.S. from Paul Cooke:

A huge thank you to all FM supporters for your gifts and prayers over the past few years that have helped the church plant in Aix-les-Bains get off the ground. You can find out more about the church and gospel choir from their respective websites: [www.lerivage.fr](http://www.lerivage.fr) and [www.gospelaixpression.fr](http://www.gospelaixpression.fr). The Holy Spirit is enabling them to fulfil their vision of creating a church that's "visible and comprehensible". The plant's original leadership are training others to take over from them in Aix so that they can focus on starting **another church plant** in nearby Rumilly. Please pray for wisdom in this process.



You can contact Laura at [laura.farrell@wanadoo.fr](mailto:laura.farrell@wanadoo.fr)

# Church growth in Rennes

Pastoral Assistant Stéphanie Revault shares her story



Hello everyone. My name is Stéphanie Revault and I'm the new Pastoral Assistant at the FM church in Rennes-Sud (Brittany). First, I'd like to take this opportunity to **thank all of you** who support our church union (now called Perspectives). Your prayers and gifts truly participate in the great mission of spreading the good news of the gospel and building the church in France. Thanks for being an encouragement to us!



Website of the new CAEF church plant in northern Rennes



A crowded service at Rennes-Sud

I'd probably be seen as odd in my agnostic country because, from early childhood, I knew that someone was the master of this world and that this majestic person, mysterious yet familiar, knew me. Following the Catholic family tradition, I took catechism classes, until my father found answers for his own spiritual thirst in an evangelical church, where I discovered other ways to see and adore God, especially a hunger for obeying Bible teaching and a search for intimacy with God Himself. Then I became a **passionate teenager hungry for holiness**, impatient in my desire to see a devoted church... Years later, the Lord purified my passion, humbled me, and made me realize that *servicing and loving* my brothers and sisters in Christ, with His guidance, was the

best way to help them get closer to Him. The **call to ministry** seemed clear, but I still had a stubborn and frightened heart. Five years working in an international school in Morocco was the radical challenge I needed to finally accept His call – on my knees but with peace, and a renewed heart.

Back in France, it felt right to go back to the evangelical church I grew up in, where I met a few ladies who shared my desire to see God do great things. We decided to meet every week to pray and, after a few months, we felt led by God to ask Him to **send us new spiritual seekers**. It made me wonder if our church was ready to accept

the challenge of walking with many newcomers on their spiritual journey, so we prayed that God



Stéphanie's prayer group



Stéphanie baptizing one of her mentees

**"It's such an uplifting feeling to be in the right place at the right time!"**

would show us the way to do this. I wanted to be one of these mentors but realized that I needed training in theology and spiritual guidance. The elders' response to our group's vision was really enthusiastic: they also sensed that God was about to send more people to our church, so knew we'd have a great need for **mentors to walk with them**. They also accepted me as an intern during my three years of study.

During those years, the Lord did send many new people, with very diverse spiritual backgrounds! Our leaders responded to this new situation by creating courses for them, training a dozen of our church members to conduct these courses, and asking mature Christians to mentor the young

believers personally. I was asked to be part of this great project. It's such an uplifting feeling to be in the right place at the right time! Also, God has given me a heart for **people of different cultures**, and most of the ladies I walk with on their journey are foreigners (Africans, Chinese, and British!).

**Four of them were recently baptized.** My studies are now over and in June 2018, after months of prayer, the church appointed me as a Pastoral Assistant to continue in this ministry and also to work as the admin secretary. At the same time, we faced a new challenge when we sent several families to help start a new church plant elsewhere in Rennes.

**We pray** that we might let God continue to root us deeper in love for Him and for one another.

You can contact Stéphanie at [stephanie.revault35@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.revault35@gmail.com)

# New Team Members in Blois



## Missionaries Peter & Rachel Calvert welcome some new faces to their team

**J**ohn and Fiona, originally from Zimbabwe, have been part of Grace Church Guildford in recent years. Fiona's professional background is in speech therapy and John works as a consultant in the oil industry. Having realised that, for a variety of reasons, France might be a good place to be based for the next few years, they started praying about how they might be able to use their skills and experience to serve the church here. Raphaël Anzenberger (former pastor in Loches) encouraged them to consider the Région Centre, and John and Fiona bought a house in Pontlevoy, not far from Blois. After a year studying French at Les Cèdres language school near Paris, they are settling into life here. **Please pray** for openings for them to share the gospel as they form friendships, and for God's help for perseverance with French.

at work changing hearts and lives as she shares His word. There is a possibility that she may work as an *au pair* for a family we know from school... **pray** for God's direction.

Our team is quite "foreigner heavy" at present. **Please pray** that God would help all of us who are non-native French speakers as we work hard



John & Fiona

to adapt well and serve those around us. **Pray too** for a French family who are thinking about whether Blois might be the right place for them to serve from Autumn 2019.



Megan

**Megan**, from Northern Ireland, has just finished her A-levels and has decided to take a year out before university to improve her French and to serve God in France. **Please pray** that this would be a time of spiritual and personal growth for her, and that she would have the joy of seeing God

You can contact the Calverts at [pierrerachel.calvert@gmail.com](mailto:pierrerachel.calvert@gmail.com); they will be happy to pass on messages to other team members

# Planning in Le Pré



## Missionaries Jonathan & Rachel Vaughan share what's new

**T**he new school year is now underway, and our church activities are back up and running after the summer break. Much of what we do continues unchanged from one year to the next: preaching, Bible studies, meeting one-to-one with people, gospel choir. But we wanted to share some of our plans for this year that are new and/or different.

We're very happy to have **two British language students** join us to work with the church as part of their year abroad: Becca Rushworth until Christmas and Bethany Pearson from January to June. They'll be helping out with many different areas of church life, especially children's work, and we pray it will be a time when they grow in their faith as well as improving their French.

other Christians in a small group or prayer partnership, and to be serving in some way (inside or outside of church). We started the year with a short sermon series looking at why these three things are important; **please pray** that many would want to make this commitment and that it would make a noticeable difference.

We're also starting to think about finding a **bigger building** to meet in. This is a subject that's been on our minds for a while but has been put off owing to the amount of work involved, and because the congregation size fluctuates over the year.

**"We're starting to think about finding a bigger building to meet in."**

The fact that we'll soon have repaid the mortgage on the existing premises has encouraged us to think seriously about the next step. **Please pray** for wisdom, and that God would provide what will best serve the gospel long-term.



Mélie's baptism in July

This year we're asking our church members to make a **threefold commitment**: to regularly attend the Sunday service, to meet up with

You can contact the Vaughans at [jony.vaughan@gmail.com](mailto:jony.vaughan@gmail.com)



Becca Rushworth



Bethany Pearson

# Connecting with Loches



## Pastoral workers Jim & Annette Wheeler offer opportunities for links

Crowborough to Loches, using the Newhaven-Dieppe crossing. His route was along quiet roads and crossed the fewest possible hills. Phil raised sponsorship funds for World in Need and for our work in Loches.



Phil arriving in Loches



## Brexit

Like many Brits living in Europe, uncertainty surrounding Brexit is forcing us to **consider contingency plans**. We're dependent on our UK pensions, which have already lost around 15% in value due to changes in exchange rates since we arrived seven years ago. A "no deal" Brexit could further erode our income and end the reciprocal health and social care agreements between the UK and Europe, making our life here simply unaffordable. **Please pray** that the outcome to Brexit will not diminish our work here.

### Support Links

We're blessed to have strong links to four UK churches with whom we exchange news, prayer requests, and occasional visits:

- St Barth's, Bath, and daughter church Riverside
- Holy Trinity, St Andrews, Scotland
- Above Bar Church, Southampton
- All Saints, Crowborough, Sussex, and sister church St Richard's

Their support and interest in us are a great encouragement and we're keen to build on these special relationships. One thought is that some of their members, especially young people, might wish to spend time in 2019 working with us for **short- or medium-term mission visits**, giving them experience of church and social life in a different culture. We would tailor programmes to meet individual needs, ensuring a mix of specific projects, routine tasks, learning, and social life. If other churches wanted to join us in this **partnership network**, the invitation would be open to their members too.

Another possibility would be to accept the **"Dieppe-Loches Challenge"**, pioneered by Phil Rowland-Smith of St Richard's. In May he celebrated his 70th birthday by cycling from

Please contact us at [oasis1jim@aol.com](mailto:oasis1jim@aol.com) for more information on either of these suggestions.

# A first baptism



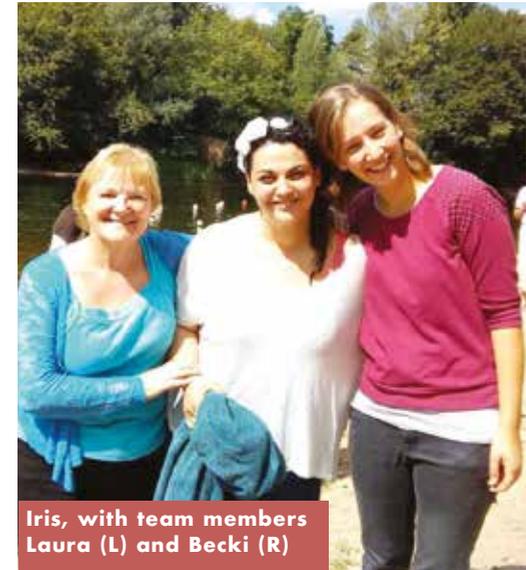
## Missionary Laura Simmonds provides an update from Descartes

At the end of August, we enjoyed celebrating the **baptism of Iris**, a young woman who has recently joined our fellowship. We thank God for her testimony; **please pray** for her as she shares her faith with her family and friends. Iris' family prepared a lovely table for the picnic, they brought a beautiful antique French tablecloth, china plates, real knives and forks and napkins, and fresh flowers. Although they weren't sure of the step Iris had just taken, their love and support for her special day was very touching. All I could think of was the possibility of someone staining the lovely family tablecloth or breaking one of the china plates! But they were giving her the best of everything they had, generously and lovingly – a beautiful illustration of God's extravagant love for His children.

**"This year's been challenging, but it's also been a year where we've seen God work through different situations."**

This year's been challenging, but it's also been a year where we've seen God work through different situations, bringing His love into the opportunities that we have to serve Him here in Descartes. So, whether it's through a small group study in the church, or through a friend helping you put together an Ikea wardrobe,

You can contact Laura at [maclaur74@gmail.com](mailto:maclaur74@gmail.com)



Iris, with team members Laura (L) and Becki (R)

**we share Christ's love.** The ladies' Bible study group from my home church in St Andrews faithfully pray for me, encourage me and support me – they're a real inspiration!

**Remembering that we're prayed for** by our churches at home, our supporters and prayer partners, our sending missions in different parts of the world, we're encouraged that it's each one of you who gives us the strength, vision, and ability to be flexible in our relationships and share Christ's love the way He did.



Table prepared by Iris' family

# Bouge ma Ville – Cormeilles-en-Parisis 2018



## A report from FM supporters Rob & Karen Wheatley

Last summer, we spent a week in the outskirts of Paris helping the outreach organised by the **Perspectives church plant in Cormeilles**. The project, known as *Bouge ma Ville* (= “Get my town moving”), was worked out through the linked cultural association *Harmonie Famille Parisis* (<http://association-harmonie.fr>). This July we went back for another week, taking a Francophile friend from church.

It was great to renew friendships with the small team from Cormeilles, some from the mother church in nearby Taverny, and our hosts. This time round not everything was new for us. However, our first new challenge was linguistic as the remainder of the “visiting” team were 17 Swiss students, so we had a **multi-lingual dynamic** with morning devotions in three languages – somewhat disorienting at times!

As last year, morning activities culminated in a **public Gospel Music concert** at the end of the week. This is a genre very popular with the French and is often used by French churches to make connections with the local community.



Gospel music workshop (primary age)

Our middle-aged English team helped with the primary-age gospel music workshop, where we had about 10 local children having fun with activities and learning songs. The contingent of Swiss students took part in the Gospel Choir workshops for the *ados* (young people).

Afternoons were spent building contacts in other ways such as an **intercultural evening** where five countries were featured, an afternoon of activities for older people, gardening for those who couldn’t manage this themselves, and sport and games in local parks for young people. Karen decided to try her hand at running a **First Aid course in French** and so, having learnt the technical language beforehand, we enjoyed seeing those attending learning basic life support, some for the first time. On arrival in France, Border Control had joked about passports for the resuscitation manikins strapped into the back of our car!



First Aid training session

What impacted us most was the amount of encouragement that the French team felt from us being there, although we didn’t really feel we did very much. It made us think about **how very different God’s economy is from our own**, with obedience and prayer being of primary importance.

Comparing this year to last, some things have changed. Two or three members of the Cormeilles team have moved on or are away on long-term furlough. The work with the cultural



Our host family in Taverny

association *Harmonie* is, however, continuing to **grow more new contacts** and a greater depth of trust among those already engaged. A number of people are committed to the Association, but they have yet to realise the full meaning of what they sing about.

The church plant is a long-term project, so speed is not the priority here. **Monthly celebration meetings are just starting** (Oct. 2018), and several local believers see themselves committing to the fellowship.

It was a privilege to be with this small core group of believers for a second time and join

them in blessing the local community and being part of God’s work to plant a church in Cormeilles.

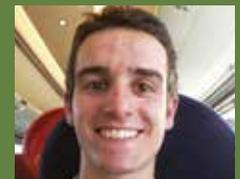


Team lunch

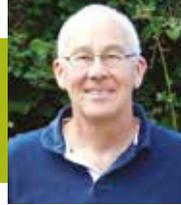
You can contact Rob & Karen at [karen.wheatley1@gmail.com](mailto:karen.wheatley1@gmail.com)

## Two new helpers in Cormeilles

Two young people from the UK joined the Cormeilles team in September. Frédéric Cryan ([fredericcryan@me.com](mailto:fredericcryan@me.com)) graduated from the University of Exeter over the summer, having completed his schooling in the French system while growing up in London. He’ll be investing in children’s ministry and helping to create publicity material for *Église Harmonie*. Bekah Watkiss ([bekahwatkiss@googlemail.com](mailto:bekahwatkiss@googlemail.com)) is a Year Abroad student from Lancaster University. She’s excited about getting involved with all aspects of church life, but especially with the gospel choir because she loves to sing and play the violin. Please do pray for them! Thank you.



# Tea and cake in Avallon



# Other news from Paul Cooke



## FM supporter Alex Price-Alexander reports on summer outreach in Burgundy

For the fourth year running, a team from the UK travelled to Avallon this summer to help the town's small Perspectives church in their outreach. Carolyn and I (from Devon) were joined by Harry Sado from Bristol, and Laurence Richardson and David Clements from Lancashire.

This year, we tried something new by transforming the church's garage into an English tea shop. We offered visitors tea and homemade cakes, as well as giving them the opportunity to practise their English.

Our *salon de thé anglais* was a great success, attracting plenty of interest from bemused neighbours of the church. As a church "profile-raising" initiative, it worked wonders.

**"As a church 'profile-raising' initiative, it worked wonders."**



You can contact Alex at alexnews123@yahoo.co.uk



We even got a write-up in the local paper! Perhaps other evangelical churches in France might consider something similar, as it's a **very simple formula**. All you need is a handful of enthusiastic and outgoing Brits who

are happy to serve all-comers with a **smile and basic French!** Some colourful flags and bunting (bought online in the UK for about £10) transformed a dingy garage. Make sure there's a Tricolour fluttering above the other flags!

Carolyn baked some **traditional**

**English biscuits and cakes** in the church kitchen, which went down a treat. We also took over about 20 nice teacups and saucers, and four or five stainless steel teapots – all sourced from British charity shops. Finally, we spent no more than £15 on half a dozen boxes of NICE tea bags.

And then, all we did was be ourselves, serve tea, and chat to whoever dropped in. It was a fantastically simple, inexpensive way of saying: **"Hello Avallon! There's a church here!"** On one of the afternoons, a husband and wife from the church also put on an impromptu mini-concert with some guitar-accompanied singing. **Please pray** for ongoing fruit from this outreach.



## New DVD



As mentioned on page 2, Dave Brown and a team from the CNEF (National Council of French Evangelicals) have put together an excellent new DVD called *Envoyé-s*. The title means "Sent"



and is based on Jesus' words in John 20:21: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." The DVD comprises two 25-minute films providing a powerful reminder of the biblical basis for mission and a fascinating overview of the history of Christian mission, with a particular focus on French contributions. It also presents a couple of engaging contemporary scenarios designed to help all of us think about how we can be "missionaries" in our everyday lives. The aim is for the film to be screened in every evangelical church in France but, thanks to the subtitles, the DVD is entirely accessible to English-speaking viewers too. You might like to offer it to your church's mission group or consider it as a resource for Home Groups. We've spent about £10 per DVD getting them made but, if you'd like one, we're offering it to supporters completely free of charge. To order a copy, please use the response form that came with the magazine or email me at fmtrust@france-mission.org.



## Next France Day (13th April 2019)

A reminder that this event will take place, God

willing, on **Saturday 13th April 2019 at Brook Lane Community Church in Bromley** ([www.brooklanecommunitychurch.org.uk](http://www.brooklanecommunitychurch.org.uk)). In addition to myself, our speakers for the day will be Paul & Marjorie Dowling (from the Perspectives church in Châteauroux) and Chris & Joanna Frizelle who have gone out from Bromley to help with a church plant in Clermont-de-l'Oise (northern France). It promises to be a great day so do please save the date in your diary!



## More prayer for France

If you'd like to have more regular updates about prayer needs in relation to France Mission, don't forget that we produce a monthly email bulletin to help guide your prayers. If you'd like to receive it, please just complete the form at <https://goo.gl/Kzi1Aa> and it'll be our pleasure to send it to you.



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Each area representative offers your church or Christian  
Union group:

- Up-to-date news about God's work in France.
- DVD presentations.
- PowerPoint presentations to explain France Mission's strategy.
- France Mission literature.

Please contact your local representative direct by  
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We work particularly closely with PERSPECTIVES, a French Protestant evangelical church union created in 2018 following the merger of two well-established organisations: France-Mission and Vision-France. There are about 80 churches and centres in the Perspectives network. Their central office is at 36 bis rue du Borrégo, 75020 Paris.

This newsletter is also available in large print. It is published three times a year, and is available free of charge from:

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