



# NEWSLETT'EURE

« l'Eglise Évangélique des Portes de l'Eure » COMMITS ITSELF TO JESUS

Our Church's new calling to follow Jesus

It's a real pleasure for us to send you the very first installment of our newsletter. For this first edition, I propose to go back in time to help you better understand where we are today.

We are a Protestant Evangelical Church based in a part of Normandy called «les Portes de l'Eure», that is to say at the threshold of Normandy, between Paris and Rouen, not far from Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny. We call ourselves «l'Eglise Protestante Évangélique des Portes de l'Eure», or you can call us by our acronym: the EPEPE.

This newsletter is part of our communication effort towards our dream goal: that of better reaching out towards our neighbours. We hope you may be of help in our endeavour.



*“And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16.15)*



## History of EPEPE

### First, a little of who we are



Our church was legally founded in 2012 and named “L'Eglise Protestante Évangélique des Portes de l'Eure”. It is a member of the French Union

of Free Evangelical Churches (Union des Eglises Évangéliques Libres).

We have known each other and met as a group for longer than that. It has been several years already since our small group of Christians started to meet to pray and share in the “Portes de l'Eure” area, situated between Paris

## LATEST NEWS

On May 20th, the Union of Free Evangelical Churches board unanimously decided to support our project to receive Christophe Chamard as a Church planter, starting in September 2020, and to allocate us a yearly grant.

The project has now entered a more concrete phase. There are still some financial steps to be taken to ensure its sustainability: it means we now have to find around 1000 euros more every month (12 000 euros for a whole year).

More details on page 3.



and Rouen (<http://www.cape-tourisme.fr/en/presenting-the-area/>).

Most of us used to be members of the Free Evangelical Church in Meulan while living in the Normandy region and had to travel for more than an hour and a half each Sunday to attend service. The realization that we were not alone in our region, and that we lived in a place where the Gospel was desperately needed, made us want to start a new church in the Eure area.

### A geographical path...from one place to another

We have switched locations quite a lot in our existence – as a group and as a Church. We started gathering with a family, first near Vernon, then in Houlbec Cocherel when the host family moved in a new house.



2009 : a moment of outdoor worship in Houlbec Cocherel

Later on we decided to rent a larger room in the Catholic presbytery in Houlbec-Cocherel, which we used until 2012.



2011 : presbytery of Houlbec Cocherel



2019 : our church in Corny

After the official creation of the EPEPE in 2012, we felt the need to meet in a more accessible environment. We found a place also linked to the Catholic Parish, in Aubevoye this time. We decided to

We stayed there for several years, forging warm relationships with our Catholic friends.

### Settling in Corny

2017 marked a new turn in our project as a Church. With a strong will to dive further into our commitment to God and our region, we called upon our Church Union for help and coaching in order to better define our vision and project.

The first milestone of this new project was to find a more permanent place to stay, a home base to foster enduring relationships in the region. We decided to rent a building in Corny, a small village near Les Andelys. The building, in which the main room allows us to welcome up to 100 people, is surrounded by large gardens so that the location is ideal for children. We have already organized various meetings there: not only worship services, but also gatherings dedicated to children or festive meals such as “Le Noël du Coeur”.



2011 : presbytery of Aubevoye

step up from family gatherings into a full-fledged Church and started to organize ourselves accordingly. We structured our service and worshipping, we took on alpha courses and put on Christmas shows...



2013 : preparations for the Christmas celebration in Aubevoye

### Planting a church

After several years aimed at building a



community, we have now clearly decided to live the Church as a place where one can be a witness and proclaim the Good News. Our team of about twenty people shares a common wish to develop a project oriented towards evangelization. We are now ready to take a new step in order to reach the inhabitants in our area, i.e. a place where people do not often hear about Jesus.

### Meeting with a Church planter

The meeting with Christophe Chamard, a pastor who has led several church-planting projects in the French Union of Free Evangelical Churches, gave momentum and substance to this new project, for which we wish to solicit you today. The vision it rests upon responds to our desire to touch the hearts of those who do not know Jesus, even if it means going beyond traditional patterns to do so.

It seems to be the right time – the favorable time now: local authorities are kind to us. Our Union supports us in concrete

ways and our team is ready to continue on its progress with the help of a Church planter.

We are convinced that our path over these years has not been trodden in vain and that our community is going to bear fruit – it has already begun to do so.

«You did not choose me, but I chose you, and I appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide. So whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.» John 15:16.

For the «Eglise Protestante Evangélique des Portes de l'Eure», Stéphanie BERNARD, President of the EPEPE



## A word from Christophe Chamard

It was while responding to an invitation to «narrate the Bible» that I met the small community in “les Portes de l'Eure” in the fall of 2019. In the exchanges that followed, I perceived an authentic impetus to spread and share the Gospel in this region around the town of Les Andelys. Little by little the idea sprang up in me to go and encourage the dynamic of this team in order to reach and touch those who are lost and far from Jesus in this area.



Photo of Christophe Chamard

Since the early days of my call as a pastor, I have been sensitive to building «bridges» and convey the message of the Gospel through acts and words that are understandable to our contemporaries: through artistic ex-

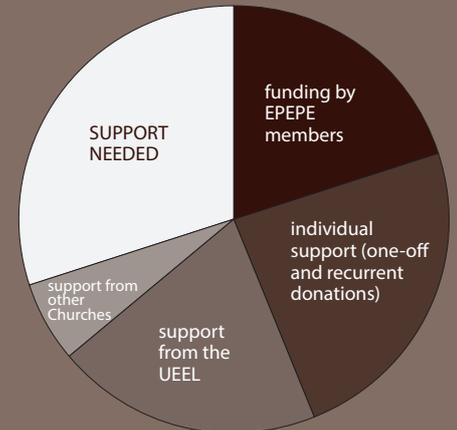
pression, playful and convivial workshops, Bible stories, solidarity and attention.... But I have also hoped to help the Church progress and reinvent itself so as to become accessible to all.

My ministry has always been somewhat unclassical as I have

dedicated myself to revitalize (in the South East of France at Saint Jean du Gard or in the North East at Sarrebourg) and to plant Churches (in the center of France at Châteaudun). This experience has led me quite naturally to plan to join «l'Eglise Protestante Evangélique des Portes de l'Eure» today, and to take up the challenge of Church planting with the team there.

### Our needs

The budget for the Church planting project is approximately 5000 euros per month to cover all costs (the salary and housing for the pastor, the church building, the actions to be undertaken...).



Part of this budget is covered by donations from EPEPE members, and part by the Union. Friends and churches are also committed to supporting us, but regular external support is essential to sustain this budget.

### Support

To support this project, you can make a one-time donation or a regular donation :

- on the HelloAsso website: contact details on [www.epepe.fr/soutien](http://www.epepe.fr/soutien)

- by transfer to the bank account of the EPEPE

IBAN :  
FR19 2004 1010 1410 4225 2L03 579

BIC : PSSTRPPROU                      BANK: LA POSTE

- by cheque payable to «Eglise Protestante Evangélique des Portes de l'Eure».

You can also and especially support us through prayer! Thank you to all those who already support us!

In France, all donations made are eligible for a tax reduction equal to 66% of the total payments in the limit of 20% of your household's taxable income.

