

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*"To know and to share Jesus Christ"*

# The Grapevine

April 2014

## CONTACTS:

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## Preface

Dear Friends,

Welcome to you all to April's Grapevine. March has been positively spring-like and as we hurtle towards Easter it's easy to be busy. Getting gardens ready, spring cleaning (?), even trips out may mean that we need to remind ourselves to "stop and smell the roses". God has created a beautiful world for our delight, let's enjoy it and find time to praise and thank him.

I have been reflecting about change and how it can lead to growth, but change can be painful. Sometimes we know the pain will be worth the gain, most mothers understand this, sometimes we have to trust that the growth will be worth the pain because we don't know what the outcome will be. Jesus himself used analogy of the seed needing to die for growth to take place (John 12:24). Our life as Christians can't be static, we have never got it right, we still need to grow, we are not ready to stop changing, exploring and learning, old age or busyness is not an excuse!

Bob found a conker seedling the other day, out of the one split had come the roots going down and the tree shoot going up. We need roots in our lives for strength and nourishment and shoots going up, reaching out, growing, feeding, giving back to the world we live in.

There are many things that help us grow and nourish our bodies, minds and souls. I pray that some of those things will be found by you in God's Word and his love and in the communal sharing that is part of our lives as members of All Saints Vendée.

Growing and learning together, sharing God's love with others, and having fun along the way is what we should be all about and it can enrich our lives. There are things advertised here, some of which may take you out of your comfort zone, but remember about growth! If there is nothing near you, or you feel that something is needed in your part of the Vendee please contact me. We can then discuss it and look at practicalities.

The other thing that is important with this Parish is the need to consider help with travelling, please ask for help if you want to attend something but can't travel there alone, and please ask around if you are someone who enjoys driving to see if anyone needs a lift.

I would like to thank everyone who has hosted our Lent lunches, we have had some delicious soups and great company, and also all of you who have supported them, we are raising a very good amount of money for Resto de Coeur. Who said Lent had to be miserable!

May God bless you this Easter and always.

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Caroline

## APRIL into MAY CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

All Services start at 11am except where indicated

[We have also included the Psalms for each week, as they may inform your own reading at home]

**6/4/2014 HC Lent 5 – Passion Sunday LCP**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Ezekiel 37: 1-14      Epistle: Romans 8: 6-11      Gospel: St John 11: 1-45  
[Psalm 130]

**13/4/2014 HC Palm Sunday PDS**

Liturgy of the Palms:

St Matthew 21: 1-11      [Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29]

Liturgy of the Passion:

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a      Epistle: Philippians 2: 5-11      Gospel: St Matthew 26: 14-27  
[Psalm 31: 9-16]

**18/4/2014 Good Friday**

11am Reflective Service at LCP  
3pm Joint Service at PDS

**20/4/2014 HC Easter Day**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43      Epistle: Colossians 3: 1-4      Gospel: St John: 20: 1-18  
[Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24]

**27/4/2014 HC Easter 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2: 14a + 22-32      Epistle: 1 Peter 1: 3-9      Gospel: St John 20: 19-31  
[Psalm 16]

**4/5/2014 HC Easter 3**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2: 14a+ 36-41      Epistle: 1 Peter 1: 17-23      Gospel: St Luke 24: 13-35  
[Psalm 116: 1-3+13-10-17]

LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau,  
MW=Morning Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship); BCP=Book of Common Prayer



*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,*

*followed by a Bring & Share Lunch*

*Everyone is welcome to join us - even if you have not brought anything*

*There is always enough to go round!*



(Unfortunately, when there is a service on the fifth Sunday in the month, the hall is not available).



*Are you waiting to be confirmed?*

*Are you wanting to be confirmed?*

*Are you thinking about being confirmed?*

*If so, please contact Caroline as soon as possible.*



*A Service of Confirmation will be taking place on  
Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
at Dinard, Brittany*

# Dates for your Diary



- 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Tuesday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at La Forêt sur Sèvre {Please see below}  
4<sup>th</sup> April, Friday, 6pm, Quiz Night, Puy de Serre combined with Lent Lunch Supper.  
For more details, please contact Polly on 02 51 51 64 29  
12<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday, 2.15pm, AGM. Les Essarts  
25<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds.  
For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34  
26<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday, Marian and Richard's "Famous" Coffee Morning, with so much more than coffee! Start looking out those white elephants, clear out your bookshelves and plant interesting things. Time to make a cake, perhaps? [Please see below]



## A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!

Don't forget your gifts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Resto du Coeur in Coulonnes.

And looking ahead:

10<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday, Parish 'Awayday' More details to follow. Watch this space!

Don't forget that Diary Updates are available on our Website:  
[www.AllSaintsVendee.fr](http://www.AllSaintsVendee.fr)



## Names on our Prayer List.....

Through the coming days, please remember especially in your prayers:

**Geoffrey Colman:** Geoffrey is now very frail . Please pray for him and for Janet as she continues to support him.

**Peter Hutchinson:** Peter is recovering well now. His treatment continues.

**John Matthews:** John's treatment is continuing well. Please also remember Barbara in your prayers as she supports him throughout this difficult time.

**Ian Wallace:** Ian continues to explore his vocation for the ministry. Your prayerful support in this will be appreciated.

**Celia Houghton:** Celia is somewhat isolated in a care home in England but her family may soon be close by.

**Sally Pearson:** After being hospitalised due to peritonitis, Sally is now recovering well.

**In Loving Memory of  
Anthony Thomas Ryall Goode  
10 Dec 1942 - 16 Feb 2014**

It was very sad news indeed to hear of the tragic death of Tom Goode on the 16th February just a week after he and Ticia had been to a Communion Service at Puy de Serre. Tom will be remembered fondly by the congregation at Puy de Serre as he helped considerably when our Pastoral Area was formed and took many services to assist Brian Davies. He then helped out when he could during the interregnum. He was a very quiet man but an excellent preacher, speaking without notes but always keeping to his theme without deviation and holding the full attention of the congregation. I acted as Worship Leader with him on several occasions and it was a pleasure to plan the service together and share worship. Despite the distance and early start, more than 20 of present and former members of Puy de Serre were able to attend his funeral service at Arçay, Vienne on the 22 Feb 2014. The service was taken by a former colleague The Venerable Robin Turner CB DL and there were many warm tributes and references to his work as an RAF Chaplain - in fact he was also an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen. His two sons also paid an emotional tribute to their father and his two young grandchildren also assisted with prayers. At the end of the funeral service booklet there were badges of four organisations, each with a reference to a part of Tom's life. They were :-

Educated by : Manchester Grammar School  
Inspired by: Exeter College Oxford  
Moved by: RAF Chaplains' Branch  
Elated/Frustrated by: Manchester United

**May he rest in Peace.**

Doug Green

*From Ticia Goode and family...*



Ticia Goode would like to thank all those who so generously contributed to Tom's retiring collection at his funeral on the 22nd February or who have sent donations direct to The Bursar, Exeter College, Oxford or to Ticia herself.

The sum at present has reached £400.00. A marvellous total. Ticia is going to deliver the cheque directly to Exeter College next month when she is back in England. After discussions with the College and the present Chaplain, the money donated will go to replenishing the Chapel hymn books. Tom himself sang in the College Choir and three other Oxford choirs when up, so she feels this to be a fitting and lasting tribute to him.

Ticia has been overwhelmed by the number of cards, letters and emails received and thanks you all for your kind words and memories of him.

Blessings to you, from Mark, Paul and Ticia.

**Our Prayer Co-ordinator is David Pearson. Please let him have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers. ☎ 02 51 61 05 04 ✉ david.sally@orange.fr**

*"Thank you all for your continuing prayers"*

***You may sometimes hear of members or friends of our congregations who are not wanting to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.***

***In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.***

***Tel: 02 51 61 05 04***

*Please come along to our....*

**ALL SAINTS, VENDÉE  
A G M  
SATURDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
2.15pm, LES ESSARTS**

*This will be held on the 12th April at 2.15pm in the same hall as last year at Les Essarts, which is roughly in the middle of our congregations. Please try to come.*

*Everyone is entitled to attend but only those on the electoral roll may vote in the elections and on any other motions.*

*We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this, the most important meeting of the year.*



***Marian and Richard's "Famous" Coffee Morning***



***26<sup>th</sup> April  
10am – 12 noon***



*Everyone welcome at: 15 rue de la Curé, Thiré*

Come for coffee, no charge,  
On Saturday, 26<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 at  
Fifteen Rue de la Cure, Thiré, with  
Free entrance; Books, Tombola, White-  
Elephant, Raffle and of course,  
Eats and Coffee.

Many flowers plants should be available  
Or you can choose from the,  
Range of vegetables plants  
Nick-nacks and much more.  
It's the 26<sup>th</sup> remember, put it in your diary  
NOW, .... 10.00 hr – 12.00 hr

*All donations welcome, preferably  
beforehand.*

*Please  
Phone 02 51 27 64 67 or  
email: richard.rackham@cegetel.net  
if you need directions*



KEEP  
CALM  
I'M A  
CHURCH  
WARDEN

## Notes from our Church Wardens

What a lovely start to March we have had, it's hard to believe that it is only the third month of the year.

This year, at Caroline's suggestion, we are also enjoying a new venture with the Lent Lunches. By the time of writing, we have had two, thanks to Lynn Talbot and Carole & Bill Stocking and there are four more to come. Thanks to all those who are hosting these lunches, they are really enjoyable occasions and raising money for Restos de Coeur at the same time.

April is the month for our Annual General Meeting and this year it is on Saturday 12th at 2.15p.m. in the Parish Room in Les Essarts. We have the meeting there as it is a central point for all three churches so we hope that it will encourage as many of you as possible to attend. This is also your opportunity to ask any questions or put forward suggestions to the Council. We hope to see you there.

We would also like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

*Barbara and Joan*



*Thank you, Caroline, for this seasonal inspiration...*

*One of my favourite poems is written by Joy Cowley.  
I believe it is from "Psalms for the Road" but I can't give all the correct  
copyright information as I have not got the book here....*

### Springtime Jesus

You, springtime Jesus,  
just as I'd settled down for winter,  
    you broke into my heart  
and danced your love right across it  
    in a mad excess of giving.  
    Just as I'd got comfortable  
        with bare branches and unfeeling,  
just as my world was neatly black and white,  
    there you were,  
        kicking up the flowers  
            all over the place.

Springtime Jesus,  
I tried to find a way to tell you  
    that there were places  
where you could or could not dance.  
I wanted to guide you on my paths  
    and have you sign the visitors book:  
but you laughed right through my words  
    and sang to me your melting song,  
causing sap to fire the branches,  
    causing the flames of buds  
        to flicker into green bonfires,  
causing a windquake of blossom,  
causing burstings, searings, breakings,  
    causing growth-pain,  
        causing life.

Springtime Jesus,  
the fullness of life can be frightening  
    and I'm lacking in courage.  
It isn't easy to live with a heart  
    that's wide open to invasion.  
Teach me, Jesus, how to move with you,  
    step for step, in your love dance.  
Touch my fears with your melting song.  
    Gift me with your laughter,  
        and, in the mystery of your Springtime,  
show me the truth of the blossoming cross.

*Only two more Lent lunches to go!*



## LENT LUNCHES

**It's your last chance to come and join us  
for a soup lunch**



**Donations will be forwarded to Restos du Coeur  
Plus raffle**

**Organised by All Saints Vendée**

**Remaining dates are:**

**2 April    Caroline Sackley  
La Forêt sur Sèvre**

**4 April    Quiz night Lent Supper  
Puy de Serre**



**These events will normally be 1200 - 1400  
except for the quiz night which will start, as  
usual, at 1800**

For more information, please contact Polly Ward. Tel: 02 51 51 64 29

## Letter from The Editor

### ‘April showers bring May flowers...’

April is a most remarkable month. After all, look at all the traditions and beliefs associated with it: April Fools day, Daffodil Sunday, St George’s Day, the first cuckoo, the return of the swallow and, this year, Easter will be celebrated in April, too. Indeed, the Anglo-Saxons called it ‘Eostre monath’, giving rise to our word ‘Easter’.

No one knows for certain how the month got its name but it may well have been derived from the Latin ‘aperire’ which means ‘to open’. After all, buds are opening everywhere we look at the moment and soon the earth will be newly dressed in foliage.

It is appropriate, then, to celebrate the resurrection of Christ at this time of year, for we are remembering that he gave us the opportunity of new life – and we are reminded of this as we see new life appearing all around us.

At last, it’s really Spring! I know that because I can cover ten daisies with my foot! British tradition tells us that this is a sure way to tell if Spring has arrived.

As usual at this time of year, I find it exciting to see the sequence of Spring flowers appearing in the hedgerows. Suddenly pale primroses appeared and deep blue pulmonaria and this week I saw the first cowslips – to be closely followed by bright green euphorbia and fuchsia pink spears of wild orchids, and so on.. So beautiful!

A close friend of mine was not sure about coming to live in France as she would miss that oh so British phenomenon of bluebell woods. How delighted she was to find that they are alive and well here, too. This is the month that she will be taking fragrant walks in Secondigny or Mervent – and that intense blue will soon be adorning the hedgerows, too.



It was Emily Brontë who penned some words appropriate to her:

‘The Bluebell is the sweetest flower  
That waves in summer air:  
Its blossoms have the mightiest power  
To soothe my spirit’s care.’

However, bluebells are known as fairy flowers and folklore contains strong warnings about them, so be careful! Anyone who wanders into a ring of bluebells will fall under fairy enchantment and be spirited away. And it is fatal to hear the bluebells actually ringing.

These dire threats probably came about because the bluebell is very toxic, hence its use in bookbinding in olden days to prevent attack from insects. It is not all doom and gloom, though. A wreath of bluebells will ensure the wearer will tell the truth and, if you can turn one of the flowers inside out without tearing it, you will win the one you love...

So, enjoy the season! And don’t eat any bluebells!

To all my Scottish readers, I should point out that I have been talking about the wild hyacinth or English bluebell – and not the bluebells of Scotland!

*Joan Stewart*



## A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



Don't forget your gifts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Resto du Coeur in Coulonges.

### **RESTOS DU COEUR, THE RESTAURANTS OF THE HEART "A DOLLAR A DAY"**

The volunteers of Restos du Coeur are delighted by the generosity of so many people at Puy de Serre, Parthenay and Ranton, who give so kindly and are in no doubt as to the difference it makes.

The news is good, very good:

When we first became involved , Restos gave out food once a fortnight. Now they distribute food every Wednesday and plan to operate every week throughout the year whereas previously they functioned only during the winter months. In planning this wonderful extension to the work they do; we are part of the equation.

Thank you Lord that we have this blessing to be able to serve you and others.

We have probably all seen people collecting food for the hungry, outside the supermarkets a couple of weeks ago. In Coulonges alone 1.5 tonnes of food and toiletries etc was collected. Serving the Lord is a big job ! Some of the people who find themselves having to rely on hand-outs are there because of broken marriages where a single parent is left with young children to feed on less than 5 euros per day. Some cases are where young children are themselves carers for disabled parents.

Illness.....depression.....no work.

How can we criticize people who go to bed hungry each night. A dollar a day for everything.

Watching English TV and reading English newspapers, one can see that there are the same problems there except that in France there are 1,000,000 more people unemployed than there are in Britain.

I am motivated by the poor and hungry. I long to express my Christianity. Could some of us meet together and read the Sermon on the Mount and together understand poverty. Poverty of Faith. Poverty of Health and Mind. Are We, as a church, Poor ? Who Cares and Who Doesn't ?

*Bill Stocking*

p.s. Carole has been asked by Restos du Coeur to add:  
"Please, no more winter clothes as they have no space for storage"



## Come and be spiritually filled at your local Filling Station meeting!

Our Biblical mandate is from Psalm 114: 8

**'Who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.'**

We see the ‘pools’ described here as places of deep spiritual refreshment for the existing church, bringing water into the hard, dry areas. The ‘hard rock into springs’ represents the new spiritual life that occurs through evangelism.

We meet on Tuesdays, one evening per month and offer high quality teaching, contemporary sung worship and prayer ministry.

**One of our fundamental principles is to promote Christian unity.**

In Psalm 133: 1, we read:

**'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!  
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.'**

Why not join us for an informal gathering to share and celebrate our faith in God, in a simple, authentic way?

**We meet at La Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre, la Roche/Yon  
at 7pm for refreshments, for a 7.30pm start.**

*Join us at the next meeting on  
Tuesday 8th April 2014  
Our guest speaker will be Anne Elmer*

Originally from the north of England Anne and her husband Malgwyn have lived for the last 30 years in France where they run a small Christian publishing company. They have 3 children and 11 grandchildren. Anne is the author of the bestselling book, “Transported by the Lion of Judah” and her heart is to see the church as the living “body of Christ”, and each individual Christian living up to their potential in Him.

Other dates for the diary ...  6th May, 10th June, 8th July 2014

For more info: [liz.jond@wanadoo.fr](mailto:liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)  
<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com/>

## *Letters to the Editor*

*An interesting suggestion from Carole Stocking...*

Dear Joan,

We were discussing recently what interesting lives some members of our congregations have led. Things we sometimes only hear of at funerals!

I remember that in the Grapevine there have been potted autobiographies of new council members and I thought that it might be something you could introduce by other regular members giving us their life histories in a short article. You could perhaps stipulate the number of words used. Perhaps you could ask someone each month. What do you think ? I know you are always looking for good ideas.

*Carole*

*Over to you, dear Readers! Any volunteers or suggestions?*

*Ed.*



### **ASV Website News**

It is now possible to view sermons and talks from those church services you may have missed. Where possible I have published Talks and Sermons on the website at: [www.allsaINTsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaINTsvendee.fr), under "Notices" then scroll down to "Sermons you may have missed".

So, if you are unwell or away from home, it's another way to keep in touch!

*Jacqui Stainton-James - (website co-ordinator)*



**Please send your contributions and letters for the May issue to:  
"The Grapevine" Editor at: [jpsmorandiere@free.fr](mailto:jpsmorandiere@free.fr) before 15<sup>th</sup> April.**

*Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at:  
[sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)*

