

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

December 2015

CONTACTS:

Priest: Reverend Caroline Sackley:

Vicarage: 27, rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

Phone no: 02 51 46 39 51 mobile: 06 73 94 40 01

e-mail addresses: revcarosack1@gmail.com and allsaintsvendee@gmail.com

In Revd Caroline's absence and/or in case of emergency, please contact any of the following:

Church Wardens: Barbara Kenyon: Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Doug Green: 05 49 72 18 46, email: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Reader: John Matthews: Phone no: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr



Preface



Hello everyone and welcome to December's Grapevine. Advent Sunday marks the end of my second year here and it's been a busy and interesting year. I have missed some of the events lately but hopefully will be seeing you all through December as I slowly return to work.

We have to start Christmas celebrations early in order to be able to cover all the geographical areas and for those of you who will be away. It's not ideal as we lose the chance for Advent preparation and celebration. We lose the chance to wait, to repent, to ensure we are as ready as possible to meet our Lord. Christmas is so busy, so full of worldly things and the Christmas story is so well known, so familiar that is easy to miss the great significance of this event.

God came down to earth, taking human form so that we can be reconciled to God, what love, what a gift that is. Impossible for us to truly comprehend. Sometimes the stillness of Advent can help us to reflect on this. As with Lent there are many books available to help us in this, to set some time aside from our busyness, to contemplate what is about to happen. I have a selection if anyone wants to borrow one and they are readily available at Internet suppliers near you!

There will be many opportunities to enjoy familiar carols with us, to eat mince pies and celebrate and of course there are our two Christmas meals, a lunch and a dinner and we hope as many of you as possible can join us at one or another or both. This is a busy time but it is also a time for fellowship and socialising so it will be lovely if as many of us as possible meet up. Please see later in the magazine for all the details.

May God bless you all this Christmas and always,

Caroline

DECEMBER 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]

December 6th	11.00am 4.00pm	LCP PDS	Lessons and Carols Christingle Service	2nd in Advent
December 13th	11am	PDS	Lessons and Carols	3rd in Advent
December 20th Micah 5:2-5a	11am	LCA <i>[Psalm 80: 1-7]</i>	HC Hebrews 10:5-10	4th in Advent Luke 1:39-55
December 24th Isaiah 52:7-10	11am 4pm	LCP PDS <i>[Psalm 98]</i>	HC HC Hebrews 1:1-12	Christmas Eve John 1:1-14

(There may be last-minute changes to the readings so please check with Revd Caroline or the Worship Leader if you are a Reader)

*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 always available).



 **Sunday Club** 

**Sunday Club takes place at Puy de Serre.
If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m.
They will be most welcome.**

Barbara

*[Please contact Barbara if you require more information:
Phone 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr]*

FORWARD PLANNING FOR DECEMBER

*This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible.
If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.*

Responsibility (Organiser)	6th December 11am LCP Lessons & Carols / 4pm PDS Christingle	13th December 11am PDS Lessons & Carols	20th December 11am LCA HC	24th December 11am LCA HC / 4pm PDS HC	27th December PDS NO SERVICE
Welcomers (Polly Ward)					
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		David & Pat/ Ken & Jean			
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)		Jenny			
Musicians +/-Organist (Polly Ward)	Stuart / Stuart	Stuart	Simon	Simon / Stuart	
Readers (Polly Ward)	*				

***** Looking forward to Christmas, **we need volunteers to read at the service of Lessons and Carols to be held at La Chapelle Palluau** on Sunday Dec 6th. If you would like to volunteer, please give your name to Polly

CHRISTINGLE

On December 6th we will be holding a Christingle service at 4pm in the afternoon at PDS. Although Christingle services have been taking place in England for 47 years, the idea of the Christingle actually began in Marienborn, Germany in 1747. At a children's service, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus.

He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. This was a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon. At the end of the service, whilst the children held their candles, the bishop said the prayer, 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become.'

In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adapted Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Christ, the light of the world, celebrated by the lighting of the Christingle candles.

This is a lovely service for children and adults alike and we hope you are able to come. A collection will be taken for the work of the Children's Society, an amazing charity that works in collaboration with churches and aims to give children and young people the greatest possible chance in life.

Chris Green.



Dates for your Diary



- 2nd December Wednesday 7 for 7.30pm start. **Faites le Plein** (See page 8 for details)
- 6th December Sunday, 4pm Christingle at Puy de Serre (See page 3 for details)
- 7th December Mondayand every following Monday 2.30pm **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking. Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85 (See page 10 for details)
- 10th December Thursday 2.30pm **COËX HOMEGROUP**. Contact Suzanne (See page 5 for details)
- 12th December Saturday 8pm Eglise St Martin "Gospel pour Noël" Choir at Brem-sur-Mer (See page 16 for details)
- 15th December Tuesday 7pm **Bi-lingual Service of Carols & Lessons** Puy De Serre
- 16th December Wednesday **Parish Christmas Lunch** 12 noon at L'Auberge du Donjon, Bazoges. Contact Mike Mylod BEFORE 2nd December please (See page 4 and website for details)
- 17th December Thursday **Ladies Circle** 11.00am



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



*Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.
(See Bill's Christmas Letter)*

For more details and updates of all these events, please visit our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

CHRISTMAS
LUNCH



Wednesday 16th December at 12 noon at L'Auberge du Donjon, Bazoges.

24 euro per person including drinks and gratuities.

Menu and Booking Forms from Mike Mylod
by 2nd December please

02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
and the website (www.allsaintsvendee.fr)



See website

Names on our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers:

- Paul Brechet and Anne

- Tony Carlton and Maggie

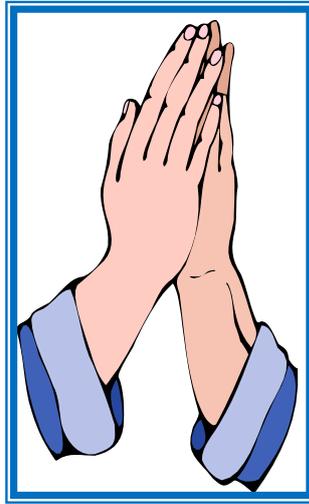
- Pat (and Roy) Darley.

- Joëlle Gosselin and Bernard

- Peter Hutchinson

- Lorna Inglis and family

(Lorna is the daughter of Marian and Richard Rackham)



- Jean Mylod and Mike

- Caroline and Bob Sackley

- Elizabeth Vine

- Tamsin Webb and her husband.

(Tamsin is the daughter of Jack and Val Goadby)

And please continue to remember all those whom we know and whose names do not appear here, who are in need of prayerful support at this time.

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 do not want to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.

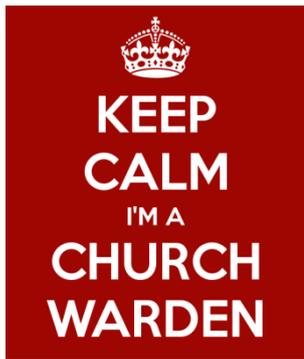
In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.



COËX HOME GROUP

All are welcome to the next meeting at 2.30pm on Thursday 10th December 2015, Chez Suzanne, 109 La Maigrière, 85220 COËX, where we shall continue our study of the BOOK OF ACTS. If you would like to come and need directions, please call Suzanne on: 0244366290 or email: SiSuPatter@neuf.fr.

SEE YOU THERE!



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

CHRISTMAS CARDS - At the last Council meeting the subject of Christmas Cards was discussed. Last year an idea was put forward which, unfortunately, was too late to implement. The idea is that ASV church members do NOT send Christmas cards to each other but donate the money saved to charity.

The idea is a very straightforward one. The cost of cards and postage is mounting all the time and the needs of charity organisations is a better use of the considerable sums of money we now spend on cards, often sent to people whom, in many cases, we will see during the Christmas season.

Your Council agreed to adopt this idea so council members will NOT be sending cards to other ASV church members from now on and we invite everyone to adopt this idea also. We are leaving it to individuals to send the money saved to a charity of their choice, or, if they wish we will collect the money for the Bishop's Advent Appeal which this year is for the migrant crisis in Greece (see elsewhere in Grapevine).

Please support and invite your friends and neighbours to our planned events, the Christingle service on December 6th, the lessons and Carols services and the Bi-lingual Christmas event being organised by John Matthews on December 15th at PDS

We send our best wishes at the start of the new Christian year - Advent – the time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

Doug and Barbara

Do you **pay** French taxes?



If so, did you know that for every 100 euros that you give to our Church the taxman will reduce your tax bill by 60 euros thus a 100 euro donation will only cost you 40 euros (and you will be able to increase your donation!!!)

You simply need to make your donation in a recordable manner.

You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount on your tax return (no need to send proof, just keep your certificate in case you are asked for it) and the taxman will reduce your tax bill by a figure equal to 60% of your donations.

Donations to the vicarage renovation can also qualify for tax relief if made through A S V.

Start planned giving now and let the taxman help our Church!

Contact..... Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
or..... Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

.....**To find out how easy it is!!!**

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Bishop in Europe:
The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2015

At Christmas time, we remember that the infant Jesus was a migrant - born away from home in Bethlehem and then fleeing with his family from Herod's persecution to safety in Egypt.

Today, migration is 'the big issue' across Europe. But whilst every country is talking about migration, some countries are affected more than others, and amongst the most affected is Greece.

It is therefore without hesitation that in my appeal for Advent 2015 I encourage us to respond to the needs of migrants arriving in Greece. The attached documents eloquently set out what is envisaged.

There are two projects. One is the 'Lighthouse' project aiming to bring relief to migrants arriving on the island of Lesbos. Because of its proximity to Turkey, this is the island which has been receiving the highest arrival rate and where the conditions seem to be amongst the worst. 'Lighthouse' is a new non-profit organisation set up to meet some critical and acute needs.

The other project relates to our long term support for Apostoli, the Greek Orthodox diaconal organisation providing assistance to refugees in Athens, and also on the islands of Chios, Samos and Kos.

Funds will be allocated to the two projects as seems right when the money is ready for distribution in 2016.

As usual, we invite each chaplaincy to make its own arrangements for collection of money towards the Bishop's Appeal and then for the local church treasurer to forward collections to the diocesan office.

This is a very practical way in which the whole diocese can contribute towards the needs of some of the most vulnerable people on our continent. Please do encourage your people to give generously.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

Rue Capitaine Crespel 47 box 49, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +3222137480; E-Mail: bishop.europe@churchofengland.org,

Diocesan web site: www.europe.anglican.org/

Charity Commission registration number: 250186



You are warmly invited to our next
"Faites le Plein" meeting
which will be held in La Roche sur Yon on
Wednesday 2nd December.

We are pleased to welcome as a speaker,
Laurent Gay.

Previously a drug addict, from the age of 12,
he then became a dealer, Laurent was a member of a gang in the suburbs of Paris.
God revealed Himself to Laurent in a prison cell.
Laurent has a very interesting testimony to share.
He is now happily married with a family and lives in the Vendée.

The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments followed at 7.30pm by a time of sung
worship,
then Laurent will speak to us.

Anyone who would like personal prayer ministry, offered by a qualified team
can receive that at the end of the meeting.

The meeting is held at the
Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre
(the entrance to this site is opposite the Boulangerie Potier which has a red frontage,
through the large gateway, into the car park).
Look out for the "Faites le Plein" signs directing you towards the restaurant.

Hope that you may join us !
Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team.
liz.jond@wanadoo.fr

Exterior view of -



The Vicarage
27, rue de Malvoisine
85110 St Vincent Sterlanges

Dear All, as Treasurer of All Saints Vendée and on behalf of the PCC, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have, thus far, generously donated to the Vicarage Fund.

As most of you will know, in the summer of 2014 we, as a church, bought a house. The house is to be the home (the Vicarage) for the Priest in Charge of All Saints Vendée. At this present moment that person is the

Rev Caroline Sackley who shares the Vicarage with her husband Bob. The house bought was in much need of renovation and because of all the wonderful skills Bob, and their son James have, and, of course, with input from Caroline, they have done an incredible job renovating and decorating the house to make it a 'home' not only for themselves but also for those who will follow. I must also mention that all of the hard work that has been accomplished, has been done 'free of charge' and it is amazing. We are so very grateful.



*BEDROOM
AFTER*



*BEDROOM
BEFORE*

I, therefore, would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking Bob, James and Caroline for their hard work and for their faithfulness in seeing the job through to the end.

At present, the cost of the renovations (materials, etc – **please note that there are no labour costs involved**) amount to 18,001 euros, of which 11,744 euros have been received in gifts, making a shortfall to-date, of 6,257 euros. Please also be aware that there will be other costs in the near future, which will involve the exterior of the property, eg paving and car parking.

Therefore, along with sharing this information I should like to say that, if the Lord puts on your heart to give financial support to this project, there are several ways in which to do this.

You can -

send a cheque, made payable to The Congregations of All Saints Vendée, to me, Mrs Suzanne Patterson, 109 La Maigrière, 85220 COËX; or

put cash or cheque, made payable to The Congregations of All Saints Vendée, in a sealed envelope marked Vicarage Fund, and pass it to Caroline or a church warden (Barbara Kenyon/Doug Green); or

if you give monthly by direct debit, you can also donate by a virement. If you choose this route, please mark on the virement that it is for the Vicarage Fund.

Thank you to all and may you know the peace and joy of this Christmas time as we remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ. “He shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Suzanne Patterson – on behalf of ASV PCC

Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP



We have recently finished an interesting and enjoyable study of JOHN'S GOSPEL and are now studying MATTHEW AND BECOMING A DISCIPLE.

We meet each Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at our house at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79).

Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Please give us a ring if you would like to join us and we will give you directions to the house if you don't already know where we are.

Carole and Bill Stocking.



Autumn Bazaar Sale & Raffle

On the 17th October this year we held an Autumn Bazaar at Chapelle Palluau. Despite a poor turn-out, we did quite well financially, but do have a lot of things that you might like to see, all of which will be available for you to buy on the 22nd November after the service at Puy de Serre.

There will also be a great opportunity to buy a ticket to win the Ladies Vendée Fellowship Quilt, which will be drawn on the 26th November during the next ladies meeting.

The proceeds of the Quilt Raffle will go to Resto de Cour and the proceeds of the Bazaar Sale will be given to All Saints Vendée.

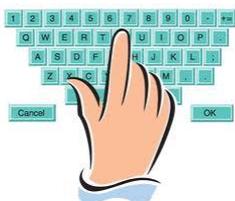
Jennifer Wilkinson

I hope you have enjoyed this December edition of "Grapevine".

*Thank you to all the Contributors and
I look forward to hearing from you next time*

SO.....

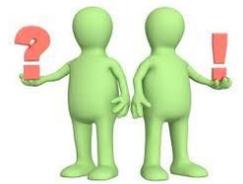
**send your contributions and comments
for the January "Grapevine" to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th December, please**



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



Questions and Answers



These are YOUR pages.....

Once again, my thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine" so, read on, and see what you can discover:

***Here you will find:
Halifax Crash site photos [with more on the website],
An Invitation to Carol Singers from Dave, Charlotte and Jill,
"Gospel pour Noël" poster - Choir at Brem-sur-Mer on 12th December
and editorials from Jo, Gareth, Bill and Mike.***

*Send your questions...and answers....and comments
to me, Jacqui, at : sjfamily66@hotmail.com*



*and now.....
Stuart joins me in wishing you joy in your home
and peace in your world
at Christmastime and always.
From Jacqui & Stuart*

Médecins Sans Frontières

Exactly a year ago our gorgeous little grandson, Jephté, arrived at Nantes airport following a long flight from the Central African Republic. Our son and his wife had had a difficult few weeks as the country, at that time, was very unstable and dangerous. He is now a very healthy and lively two year old, which I cannot be said for all the thousands of children in that benighted country. A recent newsletter from Médecins sans Frontières mentioned the fact that there is only one doctor for 55,000 people, compared to 300 in France, and that malnutrition and malaria is rife. Jephté was fortunate to survive the malaria he suffered as a baby, and that was due to the efforts of Médecins sans Frontières. Is there anywhere in the world where they cannot be found, doing so much to bring good health, not just for children, but for adults too.

They need every centime we can afford to give to enable them to continue to do, what I consider to be, Gods work here on earth. So, thankyou to everyone who collects all the small change that nobody really wants, as it can do so much good. The congregations at LCP and LCA have so far raised almost 500euro so..... keep on giving!!



Jo Collinson

HALIFAX BOMBER CRASH SITE 11TH NOVEMBER.

Once again the short Act of Remembrance was held at the crash site of a Halifax bomber at Angles in the Vendée at 2.30 pm followed by a short service at the cemetery where the airmen are buried in a dedicated plot.



A Tower of London Poppy was placed on the grave

Please view the website GALLERIES for more photos taken 11th November

DREAMING

'I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS, JUST LIKE THE ONES I USED TO KNOW...'

So sang Bing Crosby, a memory of the radio playing in our end terrace house in London some sixty years ago – a vision of the ideal Christmas then and perhaps now. So my question to you as you gear up to celebrate yet another Christmas is 'What, in your eyes, would constitute the ideal 'Noël' now you're here in France?'

Well, for me, it's easy to say good food, good drink, good company. To eat, drink and be merry is one of the gifts of being alive, enjoying a good life. To be at table with those we love, who mirror our love, is a true joy. But as Christians, the reason for the season is rooted in the birth of a child – the Son of God, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin in a stable of an inn in Bethlehem over two millennia ago. A story of angels, shepherds, wise men, of no room in the inn and a baby truly lying in a manger.

Christmas is about presents: about choosing the right present for someone we love; about wrapping it with love and seeing their smile when it's opened. The heart of Christmas is the Incarnation, the Word made flesh, the presence of God with us - Emmanuel. The real presence of God in our lives is the best Christmas present. But are we going to unwrap it ?



Gareth Randall, Priest-in-charge, St Bartholomew's Dinard





A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



Joyeux Noel, dear Friends,

As we come to the end of the year, it is good to report another successful time. We have all worked to bring food and good clothing to hungry families. As we have worked through the year, the range of goods that we have contributed has steadily increased, as has the quantity in all areas.

Once or twice, after Harvest Festivals, our car has been overloaded and we have had to struggle to reach the top of the hill. Many times, I thought that Carole would have to get out and push !!!!!!!!

We have contributed considerable sums of money and I think we have donated more than 5000 euros. Several members of the Craft Creation group that meet in L'Absie have knitted lots of little hats for premature babies, pretty woollen hats for cancer patients who have lost their hair and some are now knitting muffs adorned with pretty ribbons, buttons, lace etc for Alzheimer patients.

Thank you ladies, who meet regularly at Joan Stewart's, for the beautiful patchwork quilt that has been raffled to raise money.

Thank you to Vee Houghton in England, who with a group of friends, made lots of beautiful Christmas decorations and gift tags that we have been selling to raise more money.

Local ladies, who may not be church goers, have made excellent contributions. The world is packed full of good people, giving to those less fortunate than themselves.

Once more Father Christmas will be preparing for his Christmas Eve deliveries and we have a bedroom filling up with toys for Restos youngsters. I shall be sorry to see them go. Beautiful crafted dolls and a giant stuffed leopard.

Praise the Lord for his many many blessings.

Extra extra thanks to Polly at Puy de Serre and Geoff at Parthenay who tirelessly co-ordinate the generosity of a number of churches. They, like a growing number of people couldn't do more.

As I write, the news of the attacks in Paris is breaking. We must remember our French friends and stand firmly for what is right under all circumstances.

Our prayers and support for France and all its good people must be without flinching. Pray dear friends and trust in the Lord.

Thank you Lord for your many blessings.

A Merry Christmas to everyone

Bill

Hi everyone



Carol singing....

is still very much on and we have been getting together a programme in both French and English. Thanks to all those who have already said they would like to sing and it's not too late if you hear of anyone else. We will send out the list of songs and words at the beginning of next week.

Here are the dates and venues. We realise not everyone will be able to make all of them - we'll check at rehearsals to see who can make which dates

8th December 3pm Le Breuil Bernard over 60s group (they don't want a huge choir and just a few songs)

11th December 3pm Le Breuil Bernard primary school (ditto and we will be singing with the kids)

16th December 7.30pm St Vincent Sterlanges Bar (near Chantonay) and Fish and Chip venue (and Caroline Sackley's village) - good turnout please

17th December 10.30am Cup (Liz Jond's tea shoppe in La Roche sur Yon) - good turnout required - we will be singing to a HUGE audience of passersby) in the middle of La Roche!!

19th December 6.30pm Le Breuil Bernard at Dave and Hilary's house - all the village are being invited so good turnout please

We are open to other suggestions for venues

We will be printing the words out for people to join in and this is also an opportunity to announce the gospel without falling foul of French regulations!

Rehearsals

We are only singing well-known carols in both languages (French ones are mostly to already-known English tunes). We will sing the same songs at each venue. However, we do need to have a couple of practices! We do have some singers who work during the day so we have tried to cater for everyone. Car-sharing totally possible for those who don't want to drive at night. We realise that not everyone will be able to come to all rehearsals but two would be good! These will be

Wednesday 25th Nov 3pm Dave and Hilary Pilcher's house, 4 place de l'Eglise, 79320 Le Breuil Bernard.

Friday 27th Nov 7pm Tim and Jill Johnson's house, La Jaubretière, 85110 St Germain de Prinçay (light supper provided)

Monday 30th Nov 4pm Dave and Hilary Pilcher's house, 4 place de l'Eglise, 79320 Le Breuil Bernard

Friday 5th Dec 7pm Tim and Jill Johnson's house, La Jaubretière, 85110 St Germain de Prinçay (light supper provided)

Thanks again for being part of this. Please pass it on to anyone we have forgotten or want to join in.....

With every blessing

Dave, Charlotte and Jill

(For more information, please contact Polly Ward)

and, finally, this from Michael Knight.....

Cranky Old Man.....

What do you see nurses?What do you see?
What are you thinking . . . when you're looking at me?

A cranky old man,not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice . . 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice . . .the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feedingThe long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?. .Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse .you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.

I'm a small child of Ten . .with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another

A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.

A groom soon at Twentymy heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vowsthat I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, nowI have young of my own.
Who need me to guide . . . And a secure happy home.

A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons . . .have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside me . . to see I don't mourn.

At Fifty, once more,Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years . . . And the love that I've known.

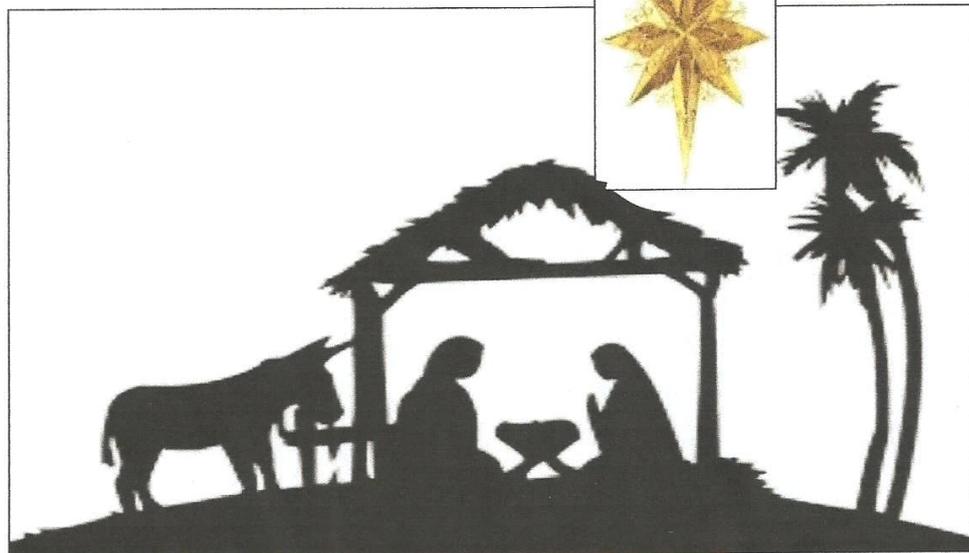
I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone . . . where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass . A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact . . . that nothing can last.

So open your eyes, people . . . open and see.
Not a cranky old man .
Look closer
see
ME!!

[Note from Jacqui. Here is the story behind this poem:

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in an Australian country town, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, when the nurses were going through his meagre possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Melbourne. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country and appearing in magazines for Mental Health. And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet. www.nurseland.net]





La Chorale "Gospel Reminders"

Chant

Gospel pour Noël

12 Décembre 20h00

Eglise St. Martin

Brem sur Mer

Entrée gratuite avec participation

L'Association Louange Côte Ouest 09 83 24 20 55