

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

April 2012

CONTACTS:

Priest: Position vacant at the moment

Church Wardens : Doug Green: Phone no: 0549 72 18 46 e-mail:greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Barbara Kenyon: Phone no: 0251 40 51 59 e-mail: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Readers: Robin Kenyon: Phone no: 0251 40 51 59 e-mail: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

John Matthews: Phone no: 0549 75 29 71 e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.allsmaintsvendee.fr

PREFACE

Dear Friends,

One more step along the road I go,
One more step along the road I go,
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with You`.

We thought of this familiar school hymn on Mothering Sunday or Refreshment Sunday. A pause, a breathing space in the middle of Lent – ready to start off on the final stretch to lead us through Passiontide - to Good Friday and eventually to the triumph of Easter Day.

The travelling does not stop: the events of the evening of Easter Day, with the two disciples, downhearted and dejected, going back to their village of Emmaus, seven miles to the west of Jerusalem – a story taken up on our Lent course. They recognise the `stranger` when He takes and blesses the bread at the evening meal and shares it with them. They see Him no more, but, having seen Him, they straight away return on the trek back to Jerusalem, with the sun rising slowly as they reach the city. So for us it must be `from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with You`, for there is a lot of travelling for us to do in the month ahead.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough..`

On the 21st it is ASV's fifth birthday. This is our church and a week later, on the afternoon of Saturday, 28th April, at 14.30 is our Annual General Meeting – we all are, or ought to be, involved. The meeting consists of three parts: [i] the Vestry meeting to elect Churchwardens; [ii] election of Church Council and representatives, by those on the electoral roll, and [iii] the General Meeting or Open Forum, when all those involved with ASV can have their say and ask questions – and, more importantly, offer the essential help in running ASV. Each one has something to contribute, some skill no matter how small, to enable us to be the Body of Christ in the Vendee and Deux Sevres. The greater the difficulty, the greater the need. Each and every one has a part to play. Your church needs you!

We started with a hymn quote – so to end:

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
And cast away our crown?
Not so! In God's deep counsel
Some better thing is stored,
We will maintain, unflinching,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.`

Yours in His name

Herbie

APRIL into MAY CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

01/04/2012	Palm Sunday, next before Easter	11.00 am	LCP HC(CW)
	1 st . Lesson: Isa. 50: 4-9a	Epistle: Phil. 2: 5-11	Gospel: Mark 14: 1-15: 47
06/04/2012	Good Friday	3.00 pm	PdS Good Friday Devotions - in English & French
	1 st .Lesson: Isa. 52: 12-53	Epistle: Heb. 10: 12-22	Gospel: Mark 14 & 15
08/04/2012	Easter Day*	11.00 am	PdS HC(CW)
	1 st . Lesson: Isa. 25:6-9	Epistle: Acts 10: 34-43	Gospel: Mark 16: 1-6
15/04/2012	Easter 1	11.00 am	LCA HC(CW)
	1 st . Lesson: Acts 4: 32-35	Epistle: 1 John 1: 1-2:2	Gospel: John 20: 19-end
22/04/2012	Easter 2	11.00 am	PdS HC(CW)
	1 st . Lesson: Acts 3:12-19	Epistle: 1 John 3: 1-7	Gospel: Luke 24: 36b-48
29/04/2012	Easter 3	11.00am	LCA HC(BCP)
	1 st . Lesson: Gen. 45: 3-10	Epistle: 1 Pet. 2: 11-17	Gospel: John 16: 16-22
06/05/2012	Easter 4	11.00 am	LCA WW
	1 st . Lesson: Acts 8: 26-40	Epistle: 1 John 4: 7-21	Gospel: John 15: 1-8
13/05/2012	Rogation Sunday (Easter 5)	11.00 am	Pd HC(CW)
	1 st . Lesson: Acts 10: 44-48	Epistle: 1 John 5:1-6	Gospel: John 15: 9-17

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

***BAPTISM**

A triple baptism is taking place at the Easter day service at Puy de Serre. (8th April.) Lynn Talbot, (who regularly attends the 'Home Worship group') has decided she would like to dedicate herself and her children, Daniel, Anna and James, to God! It will be a joy to join with her, and be part of this service. We praise God for His calling.

Chris Taylor



*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).

*[Advance notice: Please note that the hall will not be available for lunch following services
 on the 27th May and the 24th June]*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- 1st April, Sunday, Home Worship Group**, 11am at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin: 0251 507559, or email Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr
- 2nd April, Monday, Prayer Group**, 8pm at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin
- 21st April, Saturday, Coffee Morning**, 10am at Marian and Richard Rackham's in Thiré. Please see details below.
- 26th April, Thursday, Ladies Circle**. For further details, please contact Joan Stewart on: 0251 00 34 70
- 28th April, Saturday, Annual General Meeting**, 2.30pm in the Hall opposite the Church in Les Essarts.
- 11th May, Friday, Quiz evening** – advance notice! Further details from Polly Ward on 0251 51 64 29
- 17th May, Thursday [Ascension Day], Walk**. 2.30pm at La Tardiere 'plan d'eau', followed by tea and cakes.

For more details, please contact John Matthews on 0549 75 29 71

Don't forget that Diary Updates are available on our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr



Names on our Prayer List.....

Desmond Vine – will be undergoing further treatment through the coming weeks. Please also remember Elizabeth in your prayers.

Colin Phipps and **Katherine** – Colin is very poorly and continues to have regular transfusions, although the frequency has been reduced.

Jean Mylod - who continues to recover very well from hip replacement surgery. Please also remember Mike in your prayers.

Pat Kent – who is receiving a second course of chemotherapy treatment. Please also remember Geoff in your prayers.

Christine Armstrong – who is awaiting test results.

Sadly, **Rachel Hutchinson**, a member of the Puy de Serre congregation, died in hospital on Sunday morning, 18th March. Her funeral service took place the following Thursday at Puy de Serre Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, **Peter**.

Please let Dawn, our Prayer Co-ordinator, have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers. ☎ 0240 33 12 21, or ✉ dawn.collinson@wanadoo.fr.

“Thank you all for your continuing prayers”

Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator is **Pat Kent**. Please let Pat have details of those who are ill, in hospital, or have other pastoral needs, as soon as possible. She will then forward information to the Prayer Co-ordinator. Pat’s phone number is: ☎ 0549 72 27 72 and email: ✉ Geoffrey.Kent@wanadoo.fr

MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

We thank the Lord for this ministry. It is a privilege to pray for the needs of ourselves and others.

If you would like to join with us in this, please talk / email Chris & Julie Taylor ,
(Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr).

We meet on the first Monday evening of each month, at 20.00 chez nous!

Chris Taylor

Bereavement Course

For some time now the subject of how we might better be able to support those around us who are bereaved, including producing perhaps some helpful leaflets, has been discussed within the Church Council after several people asked that it should be considered. We found a course called 'Living with Loss' recommended to us by Michael Hepper. It is produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and its broad aims are: 'to teach and train small groups of people, to help them understand better the process of bereavement. They in turn should be better able to help the bereaved, either (i) informally through their day to day contacts, or, (ii) as recognized bereavement visitors acting on behalf of the church'.

The course consists of six sessions which a group of ten of us, mainly on the ASV Church Council, have worked through. We are now in the process of looking at what we have achieved and are hoping to produce some helpful documents.

If anyone would like to know more about the course, or would like to offer any thoughts on taking this forward, please contact me, Maggie Jelley. My 'phone number is 0549 80 13 42 and email is chris.jelley@sfr.fr

Maggie Jelley

Notes from Doug Green, Church Warden

New Priest / Locum.

The Archdeacon is still to hold discussions to try to find a creative way forward to find a new priest and I have written to him expressing the hope that these discussions can take place soon. You will recall that your Church Council have met and put forward suggestions to help with these discussions and the ASV Church Profile has been re-written in a style which we think will give a more positive view of the post in the Vendee.

As far as Locum cover is concerned we now have a commitment from a priest who can come for July and August and another priest for Sept.-November.

Communications Officer

Nobody has answered my plea for someone to take on this post completely and so I repeat it again. We do need someone who will be the focus for all information about our church and forthcoming events etc. and to communicate this to the congregations, outside bodies, local press, free magazines etc. Please think carefully if you could do this job and let me know.

Confirmation

We have received a request from a new contact in our church that she would like to be Confirmed. We are very pleased with this request and before we start with the preparation course, is there anyone else who would like to explore confirmation and join the course? It is important to see confirmation as a part of your journey in faith in Christ and not in isolation. This is a good way to explore your faith with others who are thinking about confirmation and is a safe place to ask any questions.

Safeguarding Officer

It is required that a Safeguarding Officer is appointed by the Church Council to be responsible on its behalf for implementing the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. Very many thanks must go to Christine Anderson who has undertaken this position for the past 5 years but now wishes to "hand over the baton" at the AGM. Christine has done a huge amount of research into the policy and documents required and will be able to hand these over to her successor. Again thanks to Christine but we are now seeking a successor - is this a position you could fill? I am sure Christine will be able to give full information to anyone interested and will help in anyway she can with the hand over.

Annual General Meeting - 28th April 2012

The AGM will be held on the 28th April at 14.30 in the same hall as last year at Les Essarts. The hall is opposite the front of the Church up a flight of steps and we will try to put out some signs to highlight the location. Please make a note of this date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing as many as possible at this, the most important meeting of the year where reports are presented and information is given on the work undertaken for the Church. Everyone on the Electoral Roll is entitled to attend and vote on the elections and any other motions, and there will be an Open Forum after the AGM for all the congregations to attend and ask questions. There will be a vacancy for a Churchwarden, and several council members. This is your church and we need people to fill these vacancies and move forward. Remember, without Wardens and a Council there can be no church. Please do not be afraid to come forward for any of these posts. No previous experience is necessary, honest! It is surprising how quickly you "grow into" a job and everyone around you is willing to help. It is not a huge commitment - please ask the wardens or any council member if you need more information.

Doug Green

SIGNS OF SPRING

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 today 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 Bronte 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. [Apparently, Elizabethans, who called the bluebell ‘jacinth’, interestingly, also used the crushed bulbs to provide starch for the ruffs on collars and sleeves and, before that, in ancient times, the white sticky sap from the stems and leaves was used to attached

the flight feathers to arrows – so bluebells proved useful, too!]

Not all folklore is quite so bad, 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 the bluebells!

Joan Stewart

PS 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!

Coffee Morning Everyone welcome at : 15 rue de la Cure, Thire 0251276467

Come for coffee, no charge,
On Saturday, 21st April 2012 at
Fifteen Rue de la Cure, Thiré, with
Free entrance; Books, Tombola, White-
Elephant, Raffle and of course,
Eats and Coffee.

Many flower plants should be available,
Or you can choose from the,
Range of vegetable plants
Nick-nacks and much more.
It’s the 21st remember, put it in your diary
NOW, 10.00hs
Good to see you there.

All donations welcome, preferably beforehand. Please phone or email if you need directions

Marian and Richard Rackham

'HOME WORSHIP GROUP'

Our 'Home Worship Group' continues to grow! It has doubled in its first year to about 30 now, if everyone turns up! It's informal, lively and faith building. If you, or anyone you know, would like to come along to an uplifting meeting, we would love to see you.

Our next meeting is on Sunday 1st April at 11.00.

Chris Taylor

Rachel Hutchinson 1928 – 2012

Those of us who have seen Rachel becoming more and more frail in recent years, may not have realised quite what a remarkable lady she was and what an interesting life she had led.

Rachel was a journalist, training in Malta, then working first in London where she rose to become a Senior Sub-editor of the magazine 'Women's Illustrated'. She then went to Kenya to work during the Mau Mau uprising and travelled widely in Kenya, Uganda and what was Southern Rhodesia.

Returning to the UK, she then moved to the north of England and became the Women's Editor on the 'Newcastle Journal'. It was then that she met and married Peter, a family doctor and became involved in his practice. Having a strong sense of social justice, a reflection of her personal faith, she wrote a book welcomed thus: 'at last, a doctor's wife speaks out about the conflict between the sort of care GP's wish to give their patients and the care the NHS forces them to give'.

A warm, welcoming personality, a woman of deep spirituality and firm convictions, Rachel was widely read and always interesting to talk with.

She will be missed.

We have received the following message from Tony and Sylvia Bushell:

We are moving to England on May 22nd and will be buying an apartment or small terraced house and therefore have excess items we want to try and sell

For Sale – at 11 rue de l'Eglise, Fontaines, 85200 tel. 02 51 51 01 57:

Caravan pliant 3 person 950€(see 'le bon coin' under Pays de la Loire, Vendee, caravanning, 20 mars.) (no reasonable offer refused)

Writing Bureau with two little drawers, 4 bigger and drop-down writing door with little drawers and dividers inside. 20€o.n.o

Round extendible dining table with four chairs would seat 6. 30€

Computer corner desk. 20€

Tall Fridge. 25€4'8" tall by 22" deep. 4 shelves and door compartments and 2 veg boxes with glass shelf over

Steam cleaner. 5€

3 Bikes 5€for the three. (need attention but too good to throw)

Parasol with stand. 10€

Single metal bed base. Fairly new. 15€

5 bedside cabinets. 3€each.

Pine desk (needs sanding). With 1 drawer. 10€o.n.o

Chain saw electric 20€

All the above must go before the 11 May.

Renault Scenic 1999 Control Technique renewed 15 march 2012. 900€

(Need the car till the 22 May) must be collected from Niort

Pugh's News

Electricity is a little nearer to coming into the hospital. Telegraph poles are now up in the village and the first ones have gone up in the hospital grounds. There is much excitement everywhere but not many people realize how much costs will rise in order to have the hospital and staff houses made ready for the power and, of course, bills for electricity will arrive at the end of each month. There have been strikes in the big hospitals in Dar Es Salaam where the doctors and other staff have not been paid by the government. The School of Nursing is also overdrawn, partly because a number of students have not been able to pay their fees for a number of reasons – such as illness within their families.

On the good news front, [at least partly good, partly bad] - After five weeks of dry weather there were two incredible tropical storms with hailstones as big as sugar cubes – which fascinated the students as they rushed out to eat it! Sadly the almost ripe corn was flattened and much damage was done to buildings, luckily no-one was injured. Many people immediately pulled up the damaged corn and put in fresh kernels of maize into the wet and warm soil. Needless to say all the rain harvesting tanks were full and the river has at last a little water running down the centre.

Recently a team of five from St. Lukes Hospital in Houston came to help as part of a scheme to link Anglican hospitals in the west with needy hospitals in the third world. One of the doctors was an obstetrician and gynaecologist, and the other a family doctor. They worked very hard in the operating theatre carrying out caesarean deliveries and bowel surgery, amongst other operations. They have promised to send medical equipment as part of a container currently being filled in the States for several hospitals in Tanzania.

Mair has spent many hours typing out student reports, each 60 pages long – she thinks she may try for an office job in UK, but fancies taking a touch typing course first! Electricity is so unreliable at the moment that it was necessary to go to Morogoro to finish typing the reports – the students can't go on holiday until they are done.

Good news about the Land Rover – it is now ready to be collected from the garage, so John and Mair say they will be able to hand it back to the hospital in good condition, fully paid for before they leave. They wish to thank everyone who has played a part in that.

Praise God for:

Much needed rain and the continued warm weather

The safe arrival and departure of the team from St. Lukes and all they achieved in such a short space of time.

For the safe return of the second year students

For Bethany's small but positive steps following her brain haemorrhage.

Please pray for:

The mum of Liz who was working in the orphanage with Ute, she is poorly with kidney failure.

For Wilmit and her tiny girl (1.1kg) on the baby unit, and a change of heart for some staff who still refuse to help all patients equally.

A young man who visited the hospital last week with a view to helping in the School of Nursing – he is a nurse teacher currently working in the police force.

Pat Martin

Stop Press...from a message just received by Pat:

John and Mair are definitely leaving Tanzania on 25th March and they are overjoyed that Willard Mrase, the young tutor who worked with them at the beginning of their time in Berega, has said that he will return at the end of his Degree in Nursing Education in August. Mama Florence will hold the fort in the meantime.

John and Mair would like to conclude their time in Berega with an appeal for their elderly parish priest Canon Jeremiah Malachela who is having to retire after 35 yrs in the Anglican Church in Tanzania without a pension or anywhere to live. At the present time he even supplements his wages by selling milk from a couple of cows.

There will be a retiring collection at the end of the service on Sunday 25th March if anyone would like to help this needy priest.

John and Mair would like to thank everyone who has supported them financially and in prayer. They are looking forward to seeing us at some stage though they are not planning to do a grand tour at present!"

*We have also received the following information
from 'L' Association Louange cote ouest` :*

BILINGUAL CHRISTIAN EVENTS AT BREM SUR MER

Organized by 'L' Association Louange cote ouest '

For more information and brochures contact
Colin & Sue Enticknap - tel: 02 51 90 20 55 (office hours)
email: louangecoteouest@yahoo.fr
website: www.louangecoteouest.com

April 14, 2012

Praise Day Led by : Bruno Lafitte
and Helene Goussebayle
All the event is bilingual

Teaching & Workshop
" Dancing with Flags"

La Salle des Fêtes du Brandais
rue du Brandais
85470 Brem-sur-mer

10H - 12H Praise
14H - 17H Workshop

*Free to participate but you can make a
donation to the expenses of
Louange Côte Ouest.*

20H - 22H Concert

Adults €7.00
13 to 25 years €5.00
(Under 13 free)

29 April 8:00 p.m.

An Evening with Pastor John Klein
Freedom in Christ: The anointing that destroys
the yoke

Salle des Quatre Vents
(next to the Tourist Office)
Rue de l'Océan
85470 Brem sur Mer

The entire event is bilingual

Free to participate with donations to help with
the expenses of John Klein.
Event organized by the association Louange
Côte Ouest.



**Please send your contributions and letters for the May issue to:
"The Grapevine" Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th April**
*Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at:
sfamily66@hotmail.com*

