



Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

 *The Grapevine* 

February 2012(ii)

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.allsaintsvendee.fr



PREFACE



Dear Friends,

Another month into the inter-regnum, but, as we move into February, the nights get shorter and the days longer;
‘If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?’

February sees the final end of the Christmas season, on the 2nd with Candlemas – the presentation of Christ in the Temple. Then there is a brief gap before, on the 22nd, we are plunged into Lent. In much of Europe, especially in the South, there are great celebrations of Mardi Gras and Carnival to mark the eve of Ash Wednesday, to eat up the remains of meat preserved for the winter, before the austere regime of Lent begins. In Great Britain, we are less flamboyant, but we still keep the changeover on Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, with local customs linked to it. Have we missed out on the chance for a party? In Spain, we used to have a big chaplaincy Pancake Party each year!

On Wednesday, the mood changes, and in most English churches, [I can't speak for the Scots, Welsh and Irish] there will be a service in the evening, after work, where, using the burnt ashes of last year's palm crosses, we have a cross marked on our foreheads, to remind us of the cross placed there in water at Baptism. So, are we prepared for this Lent season, a season of fasting and discipline?

Is this enough? Going without and extra tasks are for many, in these difficult economic times, not done from choice but from necessity. The positive side of Lent may balance the former, by devoting special or extra time to Bible study or devotional reading. Here, in this Chaplaincy, we want to go further this year. You will have heard already of a special Lent course – a study course which means giving up some time each and every week for the whole of Lent. There are three co-ordinators detailed in the Grapevine. We would like people not only to follow this course themselves, but to do it in groups, either based on the three co-ordinators, or on small groups of friends and neighbours getting together – ideally in units of six to ten members.

So, it is up to you – you know where the material is! Either link to one of the three existing groups, or set up a small group of your own. It is up to you. The material is there, so why not give it a go? This would not only be Lenten discipline, but a very positive way to use this season of Lent, as we all look forward not only to the testing times of the Passion and the Crucifixion, but to the joys of Easter.

Yours in His name,

Herbie

PS *I plan to be away, back in England, from the 14th February to 15th March. My contact number in England is: 0044 1531 63 55 09 – and there is an answerphone that works!*
PPS *I now have an **additional** phone number here: 09 61 34 13 58 and an additional email address: herbert.floate@orange.fr*

FEBRUARY CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

4/2/2012	3rd Sunday before Lent	11.00 am	LCP: HC
	1 st Lesson: Isa. 40: 21-31	Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:16-23	Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
12/2/2012	2nd Sunday before Lent	11.00 am	PdS: HC (CW)
	1 st Lesson: Prov.8: 1, 22-31	Epistle: Col.1: 15-20	Gospel; John 1: 1-14
19/2/2012	Sunday next before Lent	11.00 am	LCA: WW
	1 st Lesson: 2 Kings 2: 1-12	Epistle: 2 Cor 4:3-6	Gospel: Mark 9: 2-9
26/2/2012	1st Sunday of Lent	11.00 am	PdS: HC(CW)
	1 st Lesson Gen. 9: 8-17	Epistle: 1 Pet. 3: 18-22	Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15

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



*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,
followed by a Bring & Share Lunch*



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

Everyone is welcome to join us - even if you have not brought anything - There is always enough to go round!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

[As Chris and Julie Taylor are away in February, the Sunday Home Worship group and the Monday Prayer Meeting will be postponed until March]

23rd February, Thursday, Ladies Circle, 2.30 pm at La Morandiere, Mouilleron-en-Pareds.

For further details, please contact Joan Stewart on: 0251 00 34 70

4th March, Sunday, Home Worship Group, 11am at Chris and Julie Taylor's

in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin: 0251 507559, or email Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr

5th March, Monday, Prayer Group, 8pm at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin

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

WHY AND WHEREFORE

This was asked for by members of the congregations and Dr Michael started it off with a Preface on `Liturgical Colours`. I hope to continue this with `The Lectionary`, a background to the choice of Bible readings that we publish in the Grapevine.

If there are other things that we do in church, and you are unsure of why we do them, or of why we do them in the way we do, please let me know and I shall do my best to cover them in the Grapevine. You can be sure that others feel the same way as you do!

Herbie

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Names on our Prayer List.....

Desmond Vine – following his operation, he is making progress each day, and has ongoing treatment planned. Please also remember Elizabeth in your prayers.

Sally Mills – Sally is now recovering well from her hip operation

Jo Collinson – is recovering well following her intensive course of radiotherapy.

Rachel & Peter Hutchinson - problems of ill-health and they are struggling to maintain their large property.

Colin Phipps and Katherine – Colin is very poorly and having regular transfusions. They are hoping to get back to France in spring but will have to sell the house and are very sad..

Celia – who seems to be settling into her new environment.

Jean Mylod - who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Pat Kent – who is regaining her strength between sessions of chemotherapy.

Claire Ricketts, now staying in the UK (daughter of Neville Dilkes), who is receiving treatment for cancer and is expected to spend her remaining months with her sons there. She fell recently and is in hospital with a broken a leg. Please pray for courage and support.

Desmond and Elizabeth would like to thank everyone for their prayers and expressions of concern.

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

LENT COURSE

For centuries, many Christians have celebrated Lent, as a time of personal preparation for Easter; to help understand, and apply to their own lives, what the suffering of the crucifixion and the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, mean to them.

This year, All Saints Vendée is proposing to hold a Lent Study, commencing the week of 27th February, and held for five weeks, until the end of March. We hope many of you, and maybe some of your friends who do not regularly come to church, will join us.

We will be following a Lent Course by John Birch, called ‘Toward the Sunrise’. The themes of the 5 weekly studies are as follows:-

Week 1. Map. (*Be prepared. plan the journey*)

Week 2. Map and a pair of binoculars. (*What are we looking for?*)

Week 3. Map, a pair of binoculars, plus guide book. (*Walking towards the sunset, Jesus walks with the disciples, he guides their thoughts.*)

Week 4. Map, a pair of binoculars, guide book plus snack bar. (*Walking to the sunrise; Jesus is revealed in the sharing of a meal.*)

Week 5. Map, a pair of binoculars, guide book, snack bar plus a stone. (*Destination in sight, the empty tomb is no longer a mystery, but central to the story.*)

Our home groups have used several of John Birch’s studies before, and found them very good. The course is thought-provoking, and challenging: perhaps as any attempt at personal preparation must be!

It is initially planned to have two study groups, but we can add to this if demand requires it! If you feel you might like to join in, please speak to, (or email) Doug Green, Lucia Golding, or Chris Taylor, whose contact details are below. It will be really good to meet together informally, and share with one another, the wonderful truths of the Gospel!

Doug Green greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk 0549 72 18 46

Lucia Golding lucia.golding@wanadoo.fr 0251 34 36 25

Chris Taylor christopher.taylor85@orange.fr 0251 50 75 59

Notes From Doug Green, (Church Warden)

New Priest / Locum

I have been in touch with the Diocesan Office and we are not the only ones who have been without a Priest for some time. Bishop David is to target a few Bishops in a more focused recruitment initiative and the Archdeacon of France is to hold discussions to try to find a creative solution for a way forward. Your Church Council has been invited to put forward any ideas they may have and these will be forwarded to the Archdeacon. As far as a Locum is concerned I have received a few tentative enquiries but none of these has produced a commitment for 3 months, only much shorter periods. Herbie is to give me details of someone who can come for Sept.-November but we could do with someone to cover the period before then. So, again, can I ask that everyone uses their own contacts in the UK and elsewhere to try to find someone to fill either position. As far as a locum is concerned we need someone who can commit to 3 months here (minimum) - surely there is a priest who would love to minister to us in this lovely part of France? As far as accommodation is concerned we have completed an agreement to lease a fully furnished and equipped house for a period of 12 months from April 2012. We put our trust in God that we can find a priest/ locum to live here. In the meantime, again, our thanks to Herbie Floate who is helping so much and to Geoffrey Colman and Tom Goode.

Communications Officer / notices

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. In the meantime, Barbara Kenyon has agreed to produce a Notice Sheet for each church service so please let her know if you have any information/reminders that need to be included. Remember, this is a supplement to information in Grapevine and on the Website. Have you looked at the website recently? Peter Mills has modified it incorporating his own ideas and those of Jacqui and there is now a "Stop Press" for very recent news. Please have a look at www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Setting up the Hall at Puy de Serre

My plea for more volunteers last month and the month before has produced just one person who would be willing to help if someone else could help her. I repeat my plea - please will some more people come forward - especially couples - to set up the hall before services and clear up afterwards. It is not an onerous task and coffee and the bring and share lunch are such an integral part of our fellowship on a Sunday. Has anyone found an alternative venue near to Puy de Serre at a reasonable cost for when PDS hall is unavailable? Please make enquiries if you know of anywhere nearby and let me know.

Annual General Meeting 2012

Preliminary notice that this will be held at the end of April. 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

Gung Hay Fat Choy!
['Best wishes and congratulations!
Have a prosperous and good year!']



As you may guess, I am writing this just before the 23rd January which marks the start of the Chinese New Year this year and heralds the start of the Year of the Dragon.

Chinese New Year celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It is a time for family reunions, for honouring ancestors and for thanking the gods for their blessings. It is also believed that what happens on the first day of the year may decide events for the year ahead – so I hope you said and did the right things! Oh, and I hope you thought good thoughts!

As some of you may guess, I am looking forward to celebrating with friends. Having a close friend who is Chinese ensures the day does not go unmarked.

Thinking of something to write to you all each month, can be fairly difficult. This month, I decided to see what I had written for February previously. It was a surprise to find that this is the fourth editor's piece that I have written for this particular month. I have spoken about Candlemas and weather lore and Saint Valentine and snowdrops and Pancake Day/Mardi Gras! What else is there?!

At the risk of repeating myself, most of the weather lore to do with Candlemas is pretty similar – if it is sunny, it will be followed by a period of bad weather; if the weather is awful, it will be followed by good. I've found a new one for you, though!

La veille de la Chandeleur
L'hiver se passe
Ou prend vigueur.`

Whatever the weather does in February, at least the days are noticeably lengthening and, by the end of the month, Spring will be well on the way.

And February is a long month – for 2012 is a leap year. So, all you single men, don't forget that February 29th is traditionally the day on which the girls can propose marriage to the boys. The tradition supposedly started in Ireland when St Brigid complained to St Patrick that it was not fair, that man had the prerogative in proposing marriage. St Patrick gave it due thought and agreed with her, so allowed the ladies to take the lead on this `extra` day.

Here in France, there is, apparently, a periodical called `La Bougie du Sapeur` which is published only on the 29th February – since 1980. It is based around a comic strip character, created in the 1890's originally, called Camember, a sapper, who was supposedly born on the 29th February, 1844. He entered the army officially aged 5 and so the story began

I hope Leap Year Day is a special day for you, whether you make or receive a proposal, or find `La Bougie du Sapeur` or just have a normal cosy Wednesday at home!

Joan Stewart

Comments from our readers on the last edition

*Dear Grapevine,
My thanks for the wonderful address by Dr Lockeridge. To you and to Desmond and Elizabeth for giving it to us. Wonderfully reassuring! If anyone has not read it, do so now!
Geoffrey Colman*

[We do occasionally receive comments from you, dear readers! It would be good to hear more from more of you! – Ed.]

Pugh's News

We had a letter from John and Mair dated 8th January saying that they are grateful to be back together again after more than 8 weeks of separation. Mair arrived in the blistering heat of Dar Es Salaam last Sunday, New Year's Day, after an uneventful flight, and with no problems at border control at either airport, in spite of carrying a skeleton in a box, 26kg of books, mince pies, Christmas cake, chocolates... not to mention the weighty spare parts for the Landrover! She wasn't stopped by anyone, obviously thought she was too old or innocent to be a drugs smuggler! She even got through the visa control without a visa in her passport, on the understanding that she got it stamped soon!

Mair was seen by a kidney specialist in England as she has some degree of early chronic kidney failure but which is not affecting her on a daily basis and will be followed up by regular blood tests.

Nel spent Christmas in Sheffield and returned to Scargill House ready for their New Year's house party. She has enjoyed having a rest but loves it in Yorkshire.

John worked extremely hard preparing the 2nd year students for their end of year exams. There will be an external examiner arriving for one week, the government insists that schools exchange tutors for alternate semester exams to ensure fairness.

There is a big problem with the Landrover. It seems that whilst having been given advice on what to get in for the repair of the Landrover, Mair had been given the base kit for a Range Rover which is of no use for the Landrover. It looks as if the suspension will have to be put on hold with the replacing of the engine a priority.

There is good news about little Bethany in England. She has now been moved to a special rehabilitation centre at Tadworth Hospital where she was greeted with a room kitted out in pink and where the staff are wonderfully caring. Her sisters have already made friends in the unit and there is a Christian family living nearby with an open door if they should need it. The parents, Al and Sarah, will take it in turns to stay near Bethany.

John and Mair praise God for:

- Their getting back safely together again;
- Mair's general good health at the moment;
- Lots and lots of rain with crops growing before our eyes.

Our prayers are asked for:

- Mair and John, as they wait for new tutors to be appointed;
- Bethany and all the team surrounding her;
- Pendo, a student who approaches her exams with problems since her appendectomy.

Pat Martin

Here is a message from Pam and Brian, who have recently moved:

Here are our new contact details. I would appreciate it if you could circulate them to everyone, with the invitation to all our friends in the Vendée to visit us if ever they are in the area (though preferably not all at the same time!):

La Petite Maison,
Le Bourg Fontaines,
24320 Champagne et Fontaines,
Dordogne.

Phone: 05 53 91 19 90; e-mail. briandpam1@hotmail.co.uk

Please pass on our love and blessings to all at ASV. We hold you in our daily prayers,

Brian and Pam.



**Please send your contributions and letters for the March issue to:
"The Grapevine" Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th February**

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

