

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*“To know and to share Jesus Christ”*

*The Grapevine*

November 2011

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](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)

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PREFACE



Michael writes:



It has been good for Eileen and I to share in the fellowship of All Saints there last two months. We have been involved in locum ministry to English speaking churches abroad for the last 15 years but this is the first time we have been asked to minister

to such a widely scattered membership.

We have been impressed by the distances that folk are prepared to travel in order to worship together. We have found the bring and share lunch after Sunday worship to be a valuable time in getting to know many of you and these times obviously are a great help and encouragement to the congregation too.

We are sad to be leaving in the knowledge that you do not yet have a long term pastoral leader in view.

Although we are from such diverse Christian backgrounds, in the Epistle to the Ephesians we read that:

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4. 4-6)

- and a little later we read that it was Christ himself “who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph. 4. 11-13)

In other words, collectively, we are to be as Christ to the community where we find ourselves. For All Saints folk in the Vendée this will surely mean to be witnesses to the English speaking and non-churchgoing population.

I feel sure that the Lord has given you the spiritual gifts to accomplish this:

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (Eph. 4. 7)

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Eph.3 20-21)



PS: You may be interested in my web site in which I take a fresh look at our relationship to Adam and to Jesus through our DNA.

There is also a link on my site to the web site of the Red Hill Christian Centre (near Stratford upon Avon) with which I am involved.

My web address is: [www.lightandtruth.co.uk](http://www.lightandtruth.co.uk)

Michael Watkins

# NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent

06/11/11 **Trinity 20** 11:00am LCP W+W Rev. Herbie Floate  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Amos 5 vv 18-24 Epistle: 1 Thess. 4: 13-end Gospel : Matt. 25: 1-13

## Friday 11/11/11 **Armistice Day**

14.30 **Remembrance Service** [see below] **Halifax Crash Site**  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Mich. 4: 1-5 Epistle: Rom. 8: 31-end Gospel: 1 Cor.. 15: 50-end

## Remembrance Sunday

13/11/11 **Trinity 21** 11:00am PDS HC (CW) Rev. Herbie Floate  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Eccles. 51: 1-12 Epistle: 1 Cor. 15: 50-end Gospel: Matt. 25:14-30

## Sunday next before Advent

20/11/11 **Christ the King** 11:00am LCA HC (CW) Rev. Herbie Floate  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Ezek. 34: 11-16, 20-24 Epistle: Eph. 1: 15-end Gospel: Matt. 25: 31-end

## 27/11/11 **Advent Sunday**

11:00am PDS HC (CW) Rev. Herbie Floate  
1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Isa. 64: 1-9 Epistle: 1 Cor. 1: 3-9 Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37 Psalm 80 1-8

*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*

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*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!*



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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...**

**28<sup>th</sup> October, Friday, Fundraising Brunch**, at Chris Low's – 11.45am for 12.15pm. Bucks Fizz, plus full English Breakfast for a contribution of 10 euros, in aid of Church Funds.

**6<sup>th</sup> November, Sunday, Home Worship Group**, 11am at Chris and Jullie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin

**7<sup>th</sup> November, Monday, Prayer Group**, 8pm at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin

**24<sup>th</sup> November, Thursday, Ladies Circle**, 2.30pm at La Morandiere, Mouilleron-en-Pareds.

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

**30<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday, St Andrew's Day Ceilidh**, St Maurice le Girard

Music and dancing will be organised by Richard and Marian Rackham with the support and expertise of Christine and Willie Anderson. Tickets [12 euros each and include a meal and a bottle of wine per couple] are available from Jenny Salt (02 51 51 23 62)

Posters are also available (see below) and can be distributed by email if anyone would like one.

Please note that ticket sales will be limited to 70, because the dancing takes up more space.

*9<sup>th</sup> December, Friday, Final quiz of the year, 5.30pm to ensure 6pm start- same format as usual but food that you can eat and quiz at the same time to ensure that no-one is driving home too late.- round of questions relating to Christmas plus all the usual stuff - mulled wine on arrival instead of aperos.*

*14<sup>th</sup> December, Wednesday, Christmas Lunch, 12 for 12.30pm, at JB's, St Pierre du Chemin*

*20<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday, Carol Service, 7pm, at Puy de Serre, followed by mulled wine and mince pies (and any other appropriate seasonal fare) in the Salle. Offers of food would be very welcome. Please contact Polly Ward.*

## Act of Remembrance, Angles, 11<sup>th</sup> November



For several years now we have arranged to visit a crash site at Angles on November 11th. There is a memorial stone, erected by the French, at the site where a Halifax bomber crashed and several British airmen were killed. They are buried in the local cemetery in a small area maintained by the UK War Graves Commission. We will meet at the crash site, midway between Angles and Les Conches, at 14.30 to commence our act of remembrance and hear about the history of the events leading up to the crash and then on to the graves at the cemetery to complete our ceremony. Poppy crosses will be left at both sites. Please ask if you wish to come and need directions.

Peter and Sally Mills have kindly offered hospitality for refreshments after the event and we thank them, especially so soon after Sally's operation.

*Doug Green*

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## HOME WORSHIP GROUP

As you may know, we started our 'Home Worship Group' in May of this year. After a great start, which was well attended, we took our summer break. The Home Worship Group recommenced at the beginning of October. We have shared a fantastic time of worship, encouraging each other, and sharing how we feel God has been speaking to us. We are eagerly looking forward to our next meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November (the first Sunday of the month), at 11.00am. It would be wonderful to see anyone who would like to come & join us, for an informal and relaxed time of worship. Jesus welcomes everyone!

For directions to **La Brionniere, St. Pierre du Chemin, 85120**, please give **Chris & Julie Taylor** a ring on **0251 507559**, or email [Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr](mailto:Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr)

*Chris Taylor*

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## News from the ASV Council

### **The search for a new priest by the Diocese in Europe continues...**

There was a meeting of our two Bishops in early October when it was reported that the leads being followed up for possible applicants for the post of Priest-in-Charge had not produced a positive outcome. We have now received details of the new appointment timetable which is as follows:

Advertising: On website now

Closing date: 17 November

Short Listing: 21 November

Interviews: 6 December

Let us pray for a successful outcome this time...

### **Planned Giving**

As stated at the AGM in April and reported in the May Grapevine, the annual budget for 2012 comes to 23000 €. In 2010 our income was 18065 € of which approximately 40% came from planned giving (from 18 households), 40% from collections and 20% from fund raising. We receive no financial support from the Church of England (Diocese in Europe) or any other organisation.

In order to put the church finances on a firmer basis the Council wish to encourage an increase in income by people committing to making regular payments to ASV through the confidential Planned Giving scheme. A letter is to be issued in early November to our congregations explaining this matter in more detail.



to Reverend Michael Watkins.....

We have been blessed by the ministry of Michael during September and October, and on behalf of the Congregations and Council we give thanks to the Lord for bringing him and his wife, Eileen, to ASV. Thank you both for sharing this time with us.

Desmond Vine

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**Harvest Thanksgiving Service – Puy de Serre held on 9th October**

On behalf of us all, I should like to thank Barbara Matthews and her team for decorating the church so beautifully for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. It all looked really attractive, representing all aspects of the season. Thank you so much!

And thank you to all those who brought produce. The dried goods collected at the service have been passed on to the Secours Catholique organisation..... Many thanks.....

Doug



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*Names on our Prayer List.....*



**Sally Mills** – whose hip surgery on 8<sup>th</sup> October was very successful. She is now home. Please see letter from Peter below.

**Jo Collinson** – who had surgery in early October. She is now home, but awaiting results due 26<sup>th</sup> October. She says the new Women & Child unit at CHD Nantes is fantastic. She had excellent care but is still rather sore.

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

**Colin Phipps and Katherine** – Colin continues to need regular treatment.

**Colin Armstrong**, who is convalescing at home.

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

**Claire Ricketts**, (daughter of Neville Dilkes) now staying in the UK, who has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for courage and support.

**Elizabeth**, the neighbour of Jim and June West – whose treatment seems to have been very successful.

**Pat Kent**, who is continuing to receive treatment, and

**Jean Mylod** who is in great pain from a flare up of rheumatoid arthritis.

‘This message is to let you all know that Sally arrived home on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October being able to get around with the aid of a walking frame, or arm crutches which she finds difficult to use. She is confined to the house for a month apart from a visit to her surgeon.

Her physio from our village is coming to see her at home about twice a week to build up the strength of her hip and leg.

Sally thanks you for your messages of encouragement and sends her regards.’

Peter

Please let Dawn 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

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**Please send your contributions and letters for the November issue to: “The Grapevine” Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15<sup>th</sup> November.**

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





## A FLOWER FOR NOVEMBER

At the moment, we are surrounded by chrysanthemums of every colour and variety. Communal flowerbeds of every town and village sport fantastic displays of this wonderful autumn flower. How many of us have bought a couple of pots for the patio or garden to provide some rich seasonal colour? And how many of us, I wonder, have made the cardinal error of taking a pot to a French neighbour?!

Someone said to me only today how they like to go to the local churchyard just after the 1<sup>st</sup> November, All Saints Day, when, traditionally, families remember those that have died and go to clean the graves, taking pots of chrysanthemums to leave in remembrance. The cemeteries do look fantastic at that time and I find it strangely heartening to think that those who have passed on are remembered and honoured in this way.

I don't know when the chrysanthemum became the flower associated with death, here in France. After all, this is the flower that is almost revered in the Far East. Represented in Chinese art and poetry since it was first cultivated as a flowering herb, adopted by the Emperor of Japan as his official seal, there is even a 'Festival of Happiness' that celebrates this important flower. It was only the white chrysanthemum that represented grief and lamentation – understandable as white is the colour associated with death in those cultures.



Luckily, the chrysanthemum has no such connotations or taboos in our own culture. We are free to give them and receive them as pot plants or fresh flowers. To me they represent the season of Autumn – those beautiful golds, russets, pinks, browns, maroons, creams and yellows. This season is always a feast for the eyes. There is no other time of year that is so colourful. So I think the Japanese may be right about this, maybe the chrysanthemum does represent happiness.

But yes, the year is coming towards its end. So maybe this flower is appropriately associated with death, too .... What do you think?

*Joan Stewart*

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### **Confirmation of Polly Ward at Dinard, Brittany.**

On Sunday the 2nd October, Polly was confirmed at the beautiful church of St. Bartholomew at Dinard. The Confirmation Service was taken by The Right Revd Edward Holland, Honorary Bishop in Europe. Polly was formally presented to the Bishop by Reader Robin Kenyon and was one of six candidates from various churches. In the congregation to witness and support her were Barbara Kenyon, John and Barbara Matthews, Doug and Chris Green, and also Ken Ivin who has just moved into the area. It was a beautiful, sunny day and Polly and her supporters are shown after the service in the church grounds. Please pray for Polly as we did when the Bishop invited the congregation to pray for all the candidates with the prayer -



*"Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen "*

*Doug Green*

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### **CHRISTMAS DRAW**

**Don't forget to get your Christmas Draw tickets! Only 1 euro each!  
Many great prizes – and all of them handy for the Christmas season!**

**Turkey, chocolates, hamper, wine, etc., etc.....**

**Tickets available from Polly [Ward]. (02 51 51 64 29)**



**Don't miss out! Prizes will be drawn at the Ceilidh to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> November at St Maurice le Girard**



## SEPTEMBER QUIZ



On Friday 23 September 38 people in 8 teams sat down to quiz in the salle at Puy de Serre. Polly Ward and Chris Low were asking the questions and Desmond and Elizabeth Vine were sporting the rubber gloves in the kitchen! Half-way through the quiz a meal of Chicken Curry or Fish Pie was served.

After 8 rounds of questions (including a picture round on 'Batiments de France') the winners were Don Quizzote, led by Robin and Barbara Kenyon, who chose to play their joker on their highest-scoring round.

The Bright Sparks, led by Val and Jack Goadby, came second - maybe they shouldn't have chosen to play their joker on the geography round!

The next quiz is on Friday 9 December - why not come and give it a try?

*Polly Ward*

*[Thanks to Polly and her team for such an excellent evening. I don't know about you, but I found the picture round particularly difficult! Despite that, everyone had a really good time! Thank you, Polly! - Editor]*

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## PUGHS' NEWS

The school of nursing is getting ready for a new term and a new intake. Numbers were reduced when the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Tanzania decided to de-select any student who did not have a pass in English Language. A poster was put up in Dodoma and adverts placed on local radio for students and some have been coming forward, about one each week, numbers are now at 18, originally 32.

John is having to make frequent visits to Dodoma with students going on mental health placements during their training. The students have to provide all their food for the two weeks that they are there. The maize has to be bought at the market, winnowed sorted, washed then dried in the sun before eventually being milled. This all takes most of the day! The maize flour is used for making ugali (the staple food there) which looks and tastes like wallpaper paste!

Mair is still heading up the work on the Baby Unit. At the end of September she discharged twins and two single babies, and there was one baby that died. In this sad case someone had taken the spanner from the oxygen cylinder so that oxygen was in the ward but could not be used. It is quite common to find things missing, we are told.

Mair and John were not far away when they heard of the tragic ferry disaster off Zanzibar in September when 200 people lost their lives. One family suffered the loss of 32 members who had been at a wedding. Mair and John joined with others to put roses in the sea in the moonlight which was very moving.

Nel is gradually settling into life in England, being thoroughly spoilt, especially on her birthday (she was 24 yrs on 7<sup>th</sup> October).

John and Mair have encountered a new problem now. Their current resident permits expire at the end of October and the diocesan office is trying to get them extended until the end of January which will see them to the end of their contract, but the immigration office only gave them papers for 18months – and now the fee has gone up to \$500 from \$120 for a two-year period! They are trying to re-gain the extra 6months they short-changed them in the first place!

*Our prayers are asked for:*

John and Mair's difficult situation

For more tutors to come forward for the School of Nursing, especially as Mama Florence is 66 yrs old and will not be able to continue for much longer.

For help with the old generator or speedy connection to the grid – the pylons are already at the hospital gates.

*Praise for:*

Several new students for the School of Nursing

Continued improvement for Bethany after a brain haemorrhage, John and Mair's little friend in England.

For two nights of heavy rain to improve the water table.

For physical health and strength to enable John and Mair to cope with all the difficulties they encounter.

*Pat Martin*

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### Accommodation is needed:

Pasteur Michel Paret has written to us to see if we can help at a major event in November. The Reformed Church of Fontenay-le-Comte and Sud Vendée is hosting the annual regional synod of the Reformed Church (Region Ouest) from Friday afternoon November 18 until Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon.

This major church event will take place in the Lycée Bel Air of Fontenay-le-Comte and there is a need to provide housing for 140 delegates and guests. Michel is seeking hosting families within a 10-15 miles radius around Fontenay-le-Comte. Doug Green has a copy of the letter and questionnaire for potential host families to fill in (en français, of course!). It will be on a Bed and Breakfast basis for Friday and Saturday.

Please contact Doug if you can help and he will send you a copy of the letter and questionnaire.

*A letter from Linda and Ken Ivin:*

This is our story this is our song.

Those of the congregation who were at Puy de Serre when I was baptised by Brian, and to whom Linda and I owe so very much, will remember that I outlined my religious background using this famous non-conformist hymn as the basis of my then journey through life.

Later of course the journey resulted in both Linda and I taking another direction and that took us to the Church in Foussais Payré one Sunday in July 2010 and where we had made our home.

Unfortunately what should have been a very short journey at least in distance terms turned out to be somewhat arduous. In that we were unable to locate Linda's baptism in Worcestershire. Fortunately a good friend who lives in the United Kingdom, and who is a bit of a hoarder, located a photograph from the time so that intervention came from on high and the formalities for our confirmation were then complied with. Client confidentiality, or should I say pressure from Linda, restricts my commenting upon both dress mode and hair styles from that particular passage in time! I look at the photograph occasionally and just wonder!

I am sure everyone who was at Foussais will agree that the whole service, together with the later get-together, was just amazing and, coupled with lovely sunshine, it was a day that Linda and I will never ever forget.

Of course I have subsequently been dining out on Bishop David's remark, that my Christian name reflected a 'handsome one' and of course, with all due modesty, I knew that was very true but for it to be confirmed by a Bishop.....well what can I say?!

The journey has now taken us to Brittany where we have become members of St Barts. I managed to be at Dinard when the confirmation of Polly took place and that was such a wonderful day. One is able at Dinard to go to Sunday service then later stroll along the beach and have lunch in one of the many restaurants, all of which are very near to the church. In my earlier religious life it was ham sandwiches from the local Co-op after service which greeted visiting Ministers!

Times have changed. Unfortunately Linda and I are now faced with increasing family concerns and indeed from both sides of Offa's Dyke. I continue to have a 'relationship' with the law, that being something that I truly enjoy, so access to the northern ports of France does help in travelling back to the UK. Again another part of the journey.

Future demands may dictate the final destination of our journey but for the moment it is on the banks of the Rance estuary in Brittany.

Here I must, on behalf of Linda and I, say that our journey would not have been possible without the support of Brian and Pam, the whole congregation of All Saints Vendée and those very dear friends we made whilst in your midst. Our initial introduction to Foussais came about from a truly lovely letter from Gary and Diana Healey and who were good neighbours of ours for about four years. Then it went down-hill a bit when we first met Shirley who was trying to pay for postage stamps in Fontenay with her Tesco loyalty card!

Again in my bedside cabinet I have a lovely leather bound Book of Common Prayer from two dearest friends and they will know the importance we both place upon our friendship.

There are lots of people who are true friends and to whom we can never ever repay their kindnesses. To each of them and the whole congregation we send our love and best wishes.

We still retain a small house in Foussais so this journey is not yet over!

*Ken and Linda Ivin  
Langrolay sur Rance  
22490*

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Overleaf is a poster advertising the Ceilidh taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> November which you may like to print....

# Ceilidh

30 November 2011



## Included:

Traditional Dancing with Caller

3 course meal with 1 bottle of wine / couple

Half time

Mini cabaret

Christmas Raffle Draw

Tickets: Adult €12 (-18 €6)

Jenny 02 51 51 23 62

Polly 02 51 51 64 29