

# Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*"To know and to share Jesus Christ"*

## *The Grapevine*

June 2015

### CONTACTS:

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### Preface

It's difficult to believe that it is June already and that so much has happened in the last twelve months. As I am writing this Bob is working on the house, he's decorating at the moment and he and James are planning to replace the kitchen while Beccy and I are on holiday again at Le Pas Opton. For me that is a real delight, spending time with her, in a place she enjoys so much, and being able to attend Bible Study and worship that I have no responsibility for, but it is an exhausting time as she has my attention all the time and likes to keep busy!

In Liturgical terms we will have entered the season of Trinity, having celebrated Ascension Day and Pentecost in May. Interestingly my Lectionary states that the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost are 'observed as days of prayer and preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit' and that can be quite a challenge depending on your views about the works of the Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday is on the 31<sup>st</sup> May this year and we have no service booked, so it seemed right to talk about the Holy Trinity here, although many substantial books have been written on the subject, so this is only scratching the surface with my limited knowledge! I think the Trinity is another of the challenges of our faith as we struggle with language and intellect to understand the concept of three separate beings in one.

I have seen visual aids such as pretzels, clovers and plaits used to help convey the message, three distinct parts yet one whole.

In worship we worship a Trinitarian God 'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit' and there are times, rare though they may be, that we really feel the presence of God and so we cannot help but thank him for all he has achieved through Jesus, knowing that we are using the power of the Spirit to communicate at such depths. The Spirit helps takes us into a deeper understanding of God, his work and word.

I have described in a sermon the Trinity as a circle of love, of love being continually given and received, one to another. This is not an original idea, but I have absorbed it, and have no memory of where it is from. Christopher Cocksworth argues that God's Spirit belongs to his being and is found at the heart, the centre, the depth of God's inner life; and that from this depth of God the Spirit comes to us in our depths and reveals the mystery of who God really is and who he has shown himself to be in the Christ who was crucified.

In our time it has been widely articulated that God the Father is a difficult image for some. The Bible however uses both Father and Mother to describe God and it was accepted that God is genderless, we create titles in our attempts to articulate our faith. Although it upset many people one of the things that 'The Shack' did was to present God as a coloured female.

Discussing Jesus as both human and divine, was not a problem it seems for the earliest believers or Paul (Frances Young) as Jesus revealed the one true God. But it still remains difficult for us to understand. He was fully human whilst on earth, he suffered hunger, tiredness, pain, it is demonstrated clearly in his cry from the cross 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46) and yet he was one with God and present at the start of creation (John 1:1).

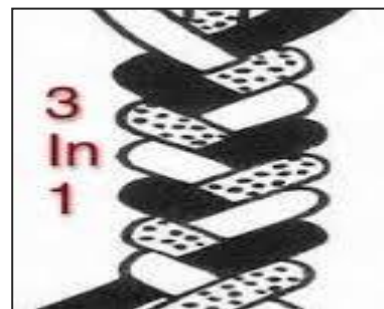
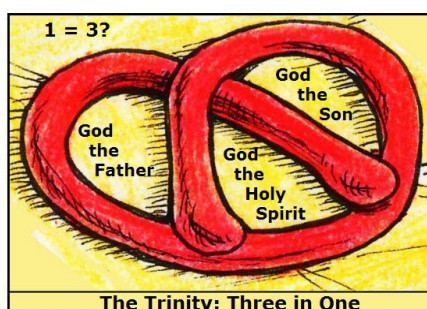
The Spirit of God is mentioned many times in the Old Testament, what is different in the New Testament is the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers. This is because of Christ, his love for God and for us, the Spirit is given as friend, helper, guide and empowerer; 'And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high'.

Both the Spirit and the Word, are with God, seen as present at creation and salvation (Basil of Caesarea) and that the divine is not divisible into parts united by substance, activity and will but with a different manner of being.

The Trinity is a mystery, God is a mystery, and that is a tension we feel sometimes when trying to explain our faith to another. At the end, all I am left with is love. God is love, he loves us and invites us to love him. This doesn't mean that life will always be good or easy, but it does mean that we have a love that will always be with us. We are able to join in that circle of love given and received, moving from one to another as we are continually filled with love and give it out.

God Bless,

*Caroline*



## JUNE into JULY 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]*

<b>7/6/2015</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> after Trinity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: <i>Genesis 3:8-15</i>		Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 [Psalm 130]	Gospel: Mark 3:20-end
<b>14/6/2015</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> after Trinity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: <i>Ezekiel 17:22-end,</i>		Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 [Psalm 20]	Gospel: St Mark 4 26-34
<b>21/6/2015</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>LCA</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: <i>Job 38:1-11</i>		Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Gospel: St Mark 4:35-end
<b>21/6/2015</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>PDS</b>	
	Deuteronomy 11:1-15		Acts 27: 1-12
		[Psalm 133]	
<b>28/6/2015</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: <i>Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23,24,</i>		Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:7-end	Gospel: Mark 5.21-end
		[Psalm 130]	
<b>5/7/2015</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: <i>Ezekiel 2:1-5</i>		Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 [Psalm 48]	Gospel: St Mark 6: 1-13

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;

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### 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).



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## *Dates for your Diary*



**3<sup>rd</sup> June, Wednesday. Faites le Plein. 7pm for 7.30pm start  
at Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre, La Roche sur Yon**

**9<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday, Treasure Hunt**

Please see below

**25<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle** at Mouilleron en Pareds.

For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34 70

**26th June, Friday, 5.30pm for 6pm: Quiz** at Puy de Serre. For more information contact Polly Ward.



## *A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!*



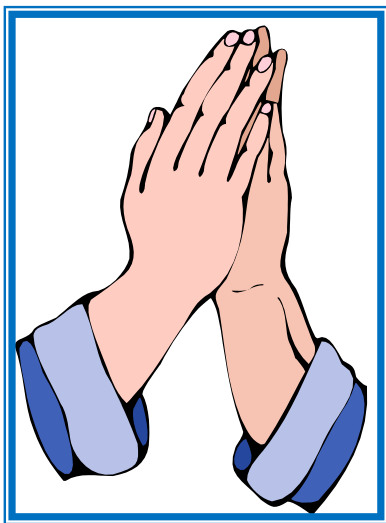
*Don't forget your gifts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.*

*Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in Coulonges.*

For more details of these Events, please visit our Website: **[www.AllSaintsVendee.fr](http://www.AllSaintsVendee.fr)**

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

Please remember in your prayers :



- **Peter Hutchinson** who is still in hospital
- **Jean Mylod** and Mike
- **Paul Brechet** and Anne
- **Tony Calton** and Maggie
- **Pat Darley** and Roy
- **Joëlle Gosseline** and Bernard
- **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 are not wanting to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.*

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

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### ASV Membership List

**This is a second request to everyone who attends a service at any of the ASV Churches.**

Thank you to the people who have already filled in the form at the end of the last edition of Grapevine. Regrettably, though, it was very few people !

**PLEASE will EVERYONE** who has not given me their details for the Membership list try to do so as soon as possible so I can complete the list. As I said last month, it needs everyone to give me their details so that I can check them and update as necessary. It is surprising the number of changes in the few responses I have had so far.

The form can be found at the end of the May edition, page 8 which you can access through the website [www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr) . The form can be returned to me by email, post, by hand or via one of the wardens. Alternatively, you can just send me the required information typed on an email.

Many thanks

Chris Green, La Vialiere, 79240 Largeasse. [greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk)



## Letter from the Editor

### Blooming hedgerows!



I love seeing the hedgerows at this time of year as I'm driving around. I look to see what fresh wonders the earth has produced. My eye was caught recently by trailing arms of wild pink roses. I love their beauty and simplicity. My mind went off into a reverie...how can we call these sweet flowers `dog roses`? Is it a term of disparagement? They are unimportant when compared to the large, blousy, cultivated varieties? In olden days, the roots have apparently been used to make a poultice to apply to wounds sustained from a rabid dog. Maybe this is the reason. My favourite, though, is the suggestion that the wild rose blooms when Sirius, the dog star, [part of Canis Major] is in the sky...

Appreciated throughout the centuries, this is the rose whose stylised form has been used in heraldry – the Tudor rose, the white rose of York, the red of Lancaster... It beautifies the hedgerows right through until winter with its large glossy red fruits, the rosehips...

A traditional folk belief tells us that, once the elder is in flower, then it is summer and, as I sit in the garden, I can see those fragrant flower heads just beginning to open. `Flaming` June is upon us, a wonderful month for gardeners but also for tennis fans who will be looking forward to Wimbledon! And what better way to celebrate the summer than with a strawberry tea [ although the strawberry season here appears to be coming to an end]!

The month of June has long been celebrated. Throughout Europe pagan fires marked the summer solstice, the turning of the year. Here in France this tradition continues on June 24<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of Saint John the Baptist - `les feux de Saint Jean`. It was thought, too, that June was the best month for weddings and the best month to gather honey. June's full moon is often referred to as the `rose moon` or the `honey moon`.

For many of us, it is a good time to get out and explore the beautiful area in which we have chosen to live and to enjoy the warmth of the sun – before the crowds of summer visitors arrive. Go on, profitez-en!

*Joan Stewart*

*P.S.*

*As many of you know, I have been looking to stand down as Editor for some time. That time has now come!*

*Jacqui and I feel we have completed what we set out to do some six years ago, creating a `magazine` rather than a pew sheet.*

*We believe that it is time for someone else to put their `stamp` on it.*

*Good luck to the new Editor!*

*Joan*





Some of you may have seen “An Island Parish” set in the Falklands which this week showed the Vicar hoovering the church, although I think I remember him saying that he was being paid! The work of a Vicar includes much of this from dusting and sweeping to moving chairs, cleaning toilets and washing up, and then of course there is the churchyard! In churches in the UK this all goes on in the background along with printing service sheets and signing forms. We are all told at Ordination that once a Deacon always a Deacon and so we were to serve others, even when we became Bishops. Some things I never did, although some Vicars do, was play the organ and of course I never led the singing or contributed to the choir. All of this is a preamble to asking for your help.

We need some big tasks doing and some much smaller ones, and even if you are unable to volunteer for anything **you can pray**, that is vital for the life of the Church. We need you to pray that people will come forward to help, we need you to pray that we will be light to a dark world, that we will be able to live the lives God has planned for us and that all our activities will be to his glory and serve his will. We need prayer for wisdom and discernment, for strength and protection and that we will grow in love for God and each other.

The act of worship is a participative one, it's not something that can be done for you, and we are all there to help each other praise and worship God. In the same way the communal life of the church, both fund raising and socialising as well as fellowship and bible study all need participants and organisers if we are to be a living resource to others, an example of Christian living. Being a church that is alive requires the whole community to be involved in some way or another, and if we are not alive, well you know the answer to that, and unfortunately Churches are closing all over the place. We want, need and are commanded to be a place that is attractive to others, that encourages others in their journey of faith and spreads the love and light of God.

#### **Tasks required:**

**Editor for Grapevine.** This requires someone who can gather in all the material, arrange it and send it to Jacqui to produce or even produce it themselves if possible. There is no need to write anything but able to nag your Vicar for her contribution on time is vital!

**Co-ordinator for Social Activities.** Someone who can lead a small team to help plan and facilitate social events throughout the parish. Please understand this doesn't necessarily mean doing them all.

**Coffee makers.** All the churches need people who are willing to go on a rota to make coffee after the services. This act of hospitality is a vital ingredient in the life of our parish and is something that most people could contribute to. The more there are the less frequent are the times on the rota.

At **Puy de Serre** people are needed to volunteer to **set up the Salle for lunch**. There are tables and chairs to be moved so some degree of fitness is required! This is done before the service and usually everybody helps to tidy up at the end.

**Contributions to the service.** We need people who are willing to: welcome and distribute service books, read the lessons, lead the intercessions, help with the chalice, set up the altar and become Congregational Worship Leaders. Training will be given where appropriate.

**Musicians.** We desperately need organists, pianists, guitarists, any musician in fact! There are also occasional times when a soloist could be used.

#### **PLEASE GIVE THESE REQUESTS YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION**

The more people who volunteer the less onerous the burden, and be assured if I think of anything else I will be requesting it, and you never know that job may just have your name written on it!

*Caroline*



# 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 56 (joseph.mylod @ wanadoo.fr)  
Or Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

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

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## Ecumenical Work 2015

**January** – Day of Prayer for Christian Unity Puy de Serre and La Roche sur Yon (Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, French and English)

**March** – Women's World Day of Prayer (Jour Mondial de Prières) service at Joan's and at Les Essarts where Barbara and I were invited to take part.

**April** – Good Friday services at LCP and a jointly prepared service at PDS. Retreat Day organised by 'Action des Catholiques Femmes' at Camping du Port Bourgenay. Jean Luc and Babeth did a presentation about life in our local prisons and the effects that imprisonment has on both the inmates and their families, and how they can be helped both inside and when they leave, how a spiritual life can help. In small groups we discussed how we can be imprisoned in our own lives. After lunch we again worked in small groups and finished the day with a Eucharist. I was warmly welcomed by all, although I was also met with amazement and many questions about my life as a Priest as I was introduced to the conference at the beginning.

**May** – 'Entente Evangélique Protestante de Vendée' meeting in La Roche sur Yon. The meeting includes many protestant denominations working here in the Vendée. There is a time of prayer and Bible study (Ecclesiastes), then we shared news about our churches, projects etc. The Vendée is losing both James Lowe and Michel Paret who won't be replaced for at least a year, but a new Pastor is arriving at Mouchamps, it is his first post. There was much talk about the divisions at national level.

Meeting in Paris May 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the work of reviving the 'Reuilly Agreement' which is about renewing work with Protestant Churches in France.

I have also been invited to take part in Ecumenical meetings in Chantonnay which includes both Catholics and Protestants.

**Our work with Faites le Plein continues**

*Caroline*



## Applications for entry have closed!



The Treasure Hunt will take place on the afternoon of **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – but it is now too late to apply as we have the maximum number of cars.

We hope you managed to get your application in on time. See you there!

Marian and Richard RACKHAM, Tel. 02 51 27 64 67  
[richard.rackham@cegetel.net](mailto:richard.rackham@cegetel.net) [richard.rackham2@gmail.com](mailto:richard.rackham2@gmail.com)

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## Autour de Fontenay-le-Comte

### Thiré

### Coffee Morning : partage et solidarité à l'anglicane

Samedi 2 mai, Richard et Marian Rackham ouvraient leur maison, à Thiré, pour un Coffee Morning.

Richard est secrétaire du concile paroissial de l'église anglicane et référent pour le canton de Sainte-Hermine. Tous les ans, est organisé un Coffee Morning dans l'esprit des ventes de charité anglo-saxonnes. Ils reçoivent leurs invités autour d'une tasse de café et de petits gâteaux.

Différents stands permettent d'acheter des plantes pour le jardin, des livres et des bibelots. Il n'y a pas de prix imposés, chacun donnant ce qu'il veut. On peut aussi gagner divers objets grâce aux tombolas organisées par les bénévoles.

Les bénéfices couvrent les frais de leur sacristie à Saint-Vincent-Sterlange, une partie des fonds étant reversée à des œuvres caritatives (Médecins du Monde...). Cette année, 200 personnes sont venues chez Richard et Marian, et 1 800 € ont été recueillis.

Coffee Morning est également un événement permettant aux Anglais et aux Français de se rencontrer et de mieux se connaître.

#### L'église anglicane

En 1527, le roi d'Angleterre, Henri VIII, qui n'a pas eu d'héritier mâle, demande au pape Clément VII l'annulation de son mariage avec Catherine d'Aragon. Devant le refus définitif du pape trois ans plus tard, il se proclame chef suprême de l'église et du clergé d'Angleterre et rompt toute re-



Richard Rackham, Marian Rackham et Caroline Sacley vendant des fleurs de jardin.

lation diplomatique avec Rome. Ainsi naît la religion anglicane. Ce n'est pas une religion protestante, mais plutôt un trait d'union entre catholiques et protestants.

#### L'immigration britannique

Dans les années 1990-2000, environ 1 000 familles britanniques se sont installées en Vendée dont une

dizaine à Thiré. La plupart étant de jeunes retraités attirés par un taux de change avantageux livre-euro, le différentiel de prix de l'immobilier et la qualité du système de santé français. Ils ont souvent restauré avec soin et beaucoup de goût de vieilles mai-

sons. Pour pratiquer leur culte, ils ont racheté et restauré en commun une

vieille maison à Saint-Vincent-Sterlange afin de loger leur prêtre, Caroline Sacley, et avoir un lieu de rencontre.

Pour leurs messes dominicales, ils ont passé un accord avec l'évêque de Luçon afin d'utiliser alternativement les églises de La Chapelle-Palluau, Puy-de-Serre et La Chapelle-Achard.

Ouest-France  
Lundi 11 mai 2015

**Look at the wonderful coverage our local paper gave to Marian & Richard's Coffee Morning and All Saints Vendée**



# **SYNOD 2015**

## **L'Abaye de Saint Jacut de la Mer**



The theme of this year's Synod was "The History and Theology of Marriage". It was designed so that we would understand the context of the current 'facilitated conversations' that are happening amongst delegates from all the Dioceses of the Church of England around the issue of same sex relationships. Each day there were three services, Morning Prayer, Eucharist and Evening prayer and there were opportunities over meals and coffee to meet with other delegates and catch up on news. Bishop Robert was present for part of the time and it was a delight to meet him and hear him speak and preach. It was also a time for me to return to my Anglican roots, to talk with other priests as I am much

more isolated here without any other priests, to worship without having to lead and to hear some excellent speakers. It was a very full timetable so good use was made of the time there.

There were two sessions by the Reverend Canon Dr Charlotte Methuen, a lecturer in Church History at Glasgow University, looking at the history and theology which were very interesting and informative, with discussion about Biblical references, liturgies through the ages, theologians and their opinions and social history. It was interesting to be reminded that the romantic view of marriage started in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century but was really emphasised from the 1950s onwards. We were also reminded that the same word does not mean the same to different people as each version of marriage is shaped by our experience, tradition and history. It was also emphasised that Old Testament marriages were rarely monogamous nor faithful on the man's part. In the books of the Pentateuch marriageable women were the property of their father and were given in marriage to benefit the father. It was suggested that the New Testament writings about relationships also need to be read both in the context of the culture and the context of the rest of the whole of that text. On Friday we moved on to the Reformation and the rejecting celibacy as the best way of serving God. Luther however said that marriage was not a sacrament as non-Christians marry. Christians have in fact taken over a pagan act. It is about this time that marriage becomes a public act done before witnesses and in 1549 a service is part of the Book of Common Prayer. It was in 1753 that an Act of Parliament was passed that required a public ceremony in the Church of England, unless you were a Jew or a Catholic. Legally, Church doctrine and liturgically we covered up until the present day and looked at the vast differences in social culture and scientific advances that had occurred in the last 50 years and how they were impacting on both society and the church.

Each morning there was also a Bible study lead this year by the Reverend Canon Dr Simon Taylor, who is the Chancellor of Derby Cathedral and the Continuing Ministerial Development Officer for the Diocese of Derby. Still on the theme of relationships on Thursday morning we studied the 'Song of Songs' an erotic love poem attributed to King Solomon who had over 700 wives and concubines. He also talked of passages from Leviticus and moved into the New Testament especially Paul's letters. In Friday's session we looked at the paucity of Biblical references to marriage, especially monogamous or 'good' marriages. But the Bible does use marriage as a way of expressing God's love. Paul is well known for his views on celibacy and marriage. Marriage is for those who lack self-discipline or who are already married before they become Christians. Celibacy for women was a liberating option in the early church and for centuries afterwards as it freed them of subordination and the dangers of child birth. We were left with questions about marriage, same sex relationships, Jesus' love for the unclean, and how the church should/could respond to the cultural pressures of today to accept same sex marriage.

There was a time for meeting by Houses, the House of Laity meeting was chaired by Mrs Kate Giry-Deloison and the House of Clergy meeting by the Archdeacon. Here there were elections to the Synod committee and other business. Another session covered the proposal for the ecumenical sharing of Morning and Evening Prayer and Monseigneur Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse and the Reverend canon Matthew Harrison Co-Chairman of French ARC were present. The liturgies for these two services have become very similar over the years and we will be encouraged to use them with our Catholic friends. Another session looked at the appointing process for priests and detailed the steps required in different situations and the legal issues.

Finally the last session tied everything together with talk about ecumenical history and present work in France, the Church of England, the Diocese of Europe and how we would resource the future. These suggestions were made that as we walk together in faith we can build a common purpose: knowing ourselves to be children of God, loving God and our neighbour, sharing the good news, generate a sense of shared direction, provide a focus of all that we do. This can be achieved by: building up the body of Christ, deepening faith and practise in prayer and worship, teaching the faith, nurturing children and new disciples, sharing with other churches the evangelisation of Europe, proclaiming the Good News, valuing and sustaining a culture of invitation, welcome and hospitality, seeking opportunities for growth, striving for a just society and sustainable environment, defending the poor, the disadvantaged and those in need, promoting the discipline and culture of safeguarding, combatting slavery, challenging the comfortable. Working for reconciliation; starting at home, locally, in the church at all levels, among nations, ethnicities and religions, by valuing European solidarity. This could be resourced by good stewardship, encouraging and supporting the vocations of all the baptised, increased recruitment, resourcing and retention of clergy, well- structured Arch deaneries.

*Caroline*



### **Synod of Whitby 664 A.D.**

A Synod is a council formally convened to discuss ecclesiastical affairs and the one held at Whitby in 664 A.D. was an important step in the formation of the Church of England.

At the time the land of the Angles was populated by Christians from both the Celtic church and the Roman church. Followers of the Roman church were mainly in the south whilst the north of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales followed the Celtic church. Differences arose as the Celtic church observed Easter at a different time from the rest of Europe and when King Oswy of Northumbria who followed the Celtic church married Queen Eanfled who followed the Roman church problems arose when he was celebrating Easter and she was still fasting for Lent!

The King decided to call a Synod to discuss the matter and this was held at Streanoeshalch, or Whitby, in 664. After much discussion it was decided that the date for Easter would follow the system used by the Roman church which was used by all European Christians. This Synod marked the beginning of the Church of England. Another interesting decision of this Synod was which tonsure (haircut) monks were to have!

*Barbara Kenyon, (Church Warden)*



## **Urgent request!**

***A sit on mower is urgently needed for the 'Vicarage ' garden.  
Does anyone know of one needing a new home please? Our neighbours  
use a little robot mower, one of those keeps it really trim!***

***Seriously, we do need help with this, so would appreciate you keeping your ears open.***

***Thank you!***

*Caroline*





**'Faites le Plein' !**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**From 7pm for a 7.30pm start**

**All welcome at**

the Maison du Diocèse,

62 rue Maréchal Joffre, La Roche sur Yon

In the large restaurant at the back of the parking area, on the right hand side

Please join us for a time of contemporary sung worship and listen to our guest speaker while enjoying refreshments.

You'll be made very welcome, even if you're a newcomer.

**The guest speaker for June will be Pete Winmill.**

Pete Winmill enjoys the opportunity to encourage and equip God's church to be welcoming and accessible to all people, especially those who are often marginalised by society and even the church. With a background in aeronautical and telephone engineering, Pete has not always had this passion. As a part-time church leader, full-time husband to Christine, Dad to Rob and Andy, as well as Grandad to 5 adorable little people, Pete's wake-up call came some 13 or so years ago when he applied to join Prospects, the Christian charity that works with and for people with learning disabilities. Pete heads up the charity's ministry division, which involves working with churches, the charity's care homes and clients across the UK, as well as festivals such as Spring Harvest and the Keswick Convention. His story is one that may well challenge you too.

**We look forward to meeting and greeting you !**

Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team

For more info: [liz.jond@wanadoo.fr](mailto:liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)

<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>

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*An enormous*



Marian and Richard extend an enormous **THANK YOU** to everyone, far too numerous to name personally, for the support for the non-annual Coffee Morning held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015. It is believed that about 200 people braved the elements, the pouring rain and inconvenience of limited parking to help raise the wonderful total of 2075€, far beyond anyone's expectations. Both Church members and non members, helpers, contributors, customers, French and British all played their part and we thank God for you all.

*Marian and Richard*





## *A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!*



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

Here is a letter to Polly from Pierre Grit, the Food Bank co-ordinator in Coulonges. It was in French, so thank you Carole for translating it:

Dear Madame Polly,

We have been very sensitive on behalf of the beneficiaries of Restos du Coeur of Coulonges sur L'Autize of your donation of 720 euros for their benefit.

This money will allow us to improve our help for each family by purchasing supplementary commodities from local businesses who also support us throughout the year.

We thank you and your members for your generosity towards needy families.

Yours Sincerely

Pierre Grit  
Restos Coulonges.

### **Bill writes:**

Well done Polly. Well done everyone who helped to raise this gift. Well done all who donate with good quality clothes and bedding and of course, the food that we all donate. So vital if your family is on the breadline. I do honestly and earnestly believe that all that is given to the poor people is right and there is great need..

Everyone who is helped by Restos is recommended by responsible outside agencies and is then interviewed by a responsible Restos volunteer and then the food is allocated on a points basis according to need. One person who is made redundant means more and more people are living from hand to mouth through no fault of their own. Relationships break down.....a partner leaves, disappears, leaving a family with no money or assistance to feed perhaps 4 hungry mouths.

There are always people, some regular church goers, others not, who have the opinion that anyone who finds themselves in this situation, has only themselves to blame. I can only say that for most of our lives Carole and I, both working full time, had a mortgage we couldn't afford and 3 children we couldn't afford and occasionally we ran out of money. It is appalling that in England a rich country in the 21st Century, 5,000,000 people have to use food banks, many of them working hard in regular occupations but on less than a living wage. Even worse the nearly a million people on zero hour contracts. We have a friend, who, when living in England on a WI committee argued against the prospective payment for a cleaning lady of the minimum wage. Our friend said that unless the lady was paid the "living" wage, she would resign from the WI. She won her argument!

It is disgraceful that Phillip Green a very wealthy owner of many ladies dress shops such as Dorothy Perkins and Next etc etc is reputed to have said that it is disgraceful that his cleaning lady pays more tax than himself.

One or two Bishops spoke and preached about the conditions of the poor some time ago but all seems quiet now.

Thanks Polly for all you do. Love you lots. You should have a medal.

Thank you everyone who gives so generously.

Thank you Lord for all the blessings you bestow upon us.

Long may it all continue.

Bill

## STOP PRESS

I have today learned from our contact with Restos du Coeur that most of their food banks in France have difficulty in meeting the needs of their clients.

But...the help of our Anglican churches means that we are making a difference in Coulonges and helping to fill the gap in the needs of the hungry families for which they are most grateful.

Bill

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## Forward Movement and Momentum

I am God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps and I await the readiness of my bride, the church. In the time of her bridal preparations, she sleeps; many of my people sleep.

So I am sounding out the call to wake up! To you who sleep, to you who feel caught in a rut and in a place of comfort – wake up! The alarm is sounding - .get ready!

This is not the time for the 'same old same old', this is not the time to remain doing what you have been doing for many years at the rate that you have been doing it. It's time to advance, it's time to move.

See what I have set before you, see what I am putting into your hands and see the opportunities I am opening for you.

It's time to wake up and gain forward movement and momentum. I will have my spotless bride, she will be ready, so it's time to prepare the way. Wake up!

### Revelation 19:7-9

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

### Ephesians 5:14

For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

Caroline

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**Please send your contributions and letters for the July issue to:**  
**"The Grapevine" sjfamily66@hotmail.com before 15<sup>th</sup> June please**  
Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at:  
sjfamily66@hotmail.com

