

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

March 2012

CONTACTS:

Priest: Position vacant at the moment

Church Wardens : Doug Green: Phone no: 0549 72 18 46 e-mail:greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk
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Readers: Robin Kenyon: Phone no: 0251 40 51 59 e-mail: bandrkenyon@orange.fr
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PREFACE



Dear Friends,

March this year fits within the forty days of Lent – which goes from the 22nd February, Ash Wednesday, through to Palm Sunday on the 1st April and the start of Holy Week. This is not a very thrilling prospect as we look forward to the Passion and the Crucifixion.

This period should be one of preparation and discipline, and this year we have a very special Lent study course – a pilgrimage. We hope that you will be able to join us within one of the three main groups and, with your group, be able to follow it together. For many this will not be possible, but you can still join in. The details of the course are available from Doug, Lucia and Chris [see last month's Grapevine], so why not make the effort to study it at home, preferably at the same time as the groups are meeting, so that the sense of shared fellowship is not lost.

There are brief gaps in this rather sombre and challenging month; for those of Celtic origin, we have the celebration of both Saint David [March 1st] and Saint Patrick [March 17th]. And, in mid Lent, we have Mothering Sunday, when our liturgical colour is modified from Lenten purple to a less severe pink, especially to commemorate the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Our Lord. In the UK, there are many traditions for both Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday.

This Mothering Sunday, at La Chapelle Achard, we will keep two of the customs – the giving of bunches of flowers to the mothers and in the sharing of Simnel cake after the service. In days past, when family life was strong and the then teenagers were sent away from home to learn their trade, it was the custom for them to be given permission to return home on Mothering Sunday. They would pick bunches of wild flowers on the way and bring a cake to show the renewed unity of the family, just as the small marzipan balls on the Simnel cake show the unity of Christ with his apostles.

Yours in His name

Herbie

MARCH into APRIL CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

04/03/2012	Lent 2	11.00 am	LCP WW
1 st Lesson: Isa.51: 1-11	Epistle: Gal 3: 1-9, 23-29		
11/03/2012	Lent 3	11.00 am	PdS HC(CW)
1 st Lesson: Exod. 20: 1-17	Epistle: 1 Cor. 1: 18-25		Gospel: John 2: 13-22
18/03/2012 Mothering Sunday	Lent 4	11.00 am	LCA HC (CW)
1 st Lesson: Exod. 2: 1-10	Epistle: 2 Cor. 1: 3-7		Gospel: Luke 2: 33-35
25/03/2012	Lent 5	11.00 am	PdS HC (CW)
1 st Lesson: Jer. 31: 31-34	Epistle: Heb. 5: 5-10		Gospel: John 12: 20-33
01/04/2012 Palm Sunday		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	Special Liturgy		
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: 1-8

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*



*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...

- 2nd March, Friday `World Day of Prayer` Service, 3pm in Vouvant Church. For more details, please contact Polly Ward on 02 51 51 64 29
- 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
- 16th March, Friday, Quiz, 5.30pm to ensure 6pm start at Puy de Serre Parish Room. For more details, please contact Polly Ward on 02 51 51 64 29
- 22nd March, Thursday, Ladies Circle, 2.30 pm at La Morandiere, Mouilleron-en-Pareds. For further details, please contact Joan Stewart on: 0251 00 34 70

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



Names on our Prayer List.....

Graham Salt – who is now at home recovering from surgery.

Desmond Vine – following his operation, he is continuing to have regular treatment. Please also remember Elizabeth in your prayers.

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 – that she will remain warm and comfortable in her new surroundings and will have conversation and companionship.

Jean Mylod - who is now recovering very well from hip replacement surgery.

Pat Kent – who has just begun further chemotherapy treatment.

Sadly, **Claire Ricketts**, the daughter of Neville Dilkes, passed away at the end of January. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, both here and in the UK.



We have received the following letter from Jo Collinson:

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. On the day that I went into hospital I felt that support as something really physical, almost overwhelming in fact. With Christ and the congregation of ASV on my side, as well as my own family and friends, I felt truly loved.

I am now back to my normal, smiley self with all the treatment finished, and with grateful thanks to all the nurses and Doctors at the CHD in La Roche.

Jo Collinson



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

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 your Church Council have met and put forward suggestions to help with these discussions. We have also re-written the ASV Church Profile in a style which we think will give a more positive view of the post in the Vendee.

As far as a Locum is concerned we now have a commitment for a priest who can come for Sept.-November (thanks to Herbie) 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 2-3 months here - 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. Your Council did not take this decision lightly; fully equipped property is not readily available for rent and normal French rentals are typically for 3 years at a higher cost. 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.

Stop Press - Locum priests - Robin and Barbara Kenyon have been in discussions with a priest they knew in the UK and he has agreed to come as our locum for 2 months in the summer. This means we now have cover for 5 months from July to November. We will continue our search for the other months alongside our search for a permanent priest. - Doug

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.

Notices at Church Services

Our thanks to Barbara Kenyon who produced Notice Sheets for each church service but, after a discussion at the last Ministry Team meeting, it is felt that these Notice Sheets are not as effective as spoken notices at Church Services. These notices will now be given out after the final hymn. Remember, this is a supplement to information in Grapevine and on the Website www.allsaintsvendee.fr. Please make a note of important dates on your calendars.

"Stop Press" News.

With the recent poor weather conditions the decision was taken to cancel the services at LCP and PDS. This information was put on the Website in the "Stop Press" section and, in the case of PDS, an e-mail was sent to all on the "Grapevine" circulation list. Thank you Peter and Jacqui. The website will be used for all such "Stop Press" news so please look here as often as possible.

Setting up the Hall at Puy de Serre.

We now have another couple who have joined this rota but there is still room for any others who are able to join. 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 - 28th April 2012

Preliminary notice that this will be held on the 28th April at 14.30 in the same hall as last year at Les Essarts, which is roughly in the middle of our congregations. 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. 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. The Electoral Roll Officer's position will also become vacant after the AGM - any volunteers please? There is one person who will do this job if nobody else comes forward (my wife!) but I would like another volunteer please.

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.

Doug Green

Our Electoral Roll 2012 is.....

1. The register of electors of the Anglican Church of All Saints Vendée. It is, therefore, the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Church Meeting on the 28th of April 2012, where elections will take place for:
 - the Churchwardens
 - the Church Council and
 - the Church's representatives on the Archdeaconry Synod.
2. The total number on the Roll determines the number of Church Council members and the number of representatives on the Archdeaconry Synod.
3. Further, any person entitled to attend the Annual Church Meeting may raise any question of general Church interest.
4. The annual revision of the Electoral Roll:

is done by the Electoral Roll Officer before the AGM every year, with the following timetable:

The current roll is displayed on the notice board for a period of 14 days; after this the revision is made – not more than 28 days, and not less than 15 days before the AGM.

Should you wish to add an entry, simply obtain an application form from one of the Churchwardens and return it to Electoral Roll Officer, or call me on 0251 34 36 25 to receive an application by email or post.

The revised roll is then displayed for 14 days, before the AGM in order that inaccuracies can be notified and corrected.

The Electoral Roll *Extract*, that can be made available to the congregation, only contains names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. The additional information requested of you will not be disclosed to any third party.

John Golding
Electoral Roll Officer

Pugh's News

Looking back over the work of the School of Nursing at Berega, John is now able to see the second year students turning into more thoughtful nurses. He thanks God for Mama Florence who has been a tower of strength, in spite of her tiny stature, and knows that he could not have done the work without her help and support. The new intake of students has a much higher standard of English and shows more enthusiasm than the first group did initially.

There is now a second classroom and the foundations have been laid for a computer room. Now having 'provisional training school status', the School of Nursing at Berega has two years to prove that they can attain the required level to become a fully-fledged training institute.

In the Baby Unit over thirty premature babies survived and went home during 2010/11, and while Mair was in the UK before Christmas the team worked well and managed to help five mothers and their babies. Thanks to money donated by churches and individuals in the UK and France many things have improved. There is good news, too, about the land-rover! It turns out that the spares bought are for the land-rover after all but a further trip into Dodoma had to be made (6hrs round trip)!

The exam week for the second-year students went like clockwork – once the examiner arrived, after her bus was three hours late! Everyone passed except one who would have to do a single re-sit. It was four gruelling days, everyone fortified by food and drinks by Firida, the home help. John and Florence planned placements in the village clinics for the second-year students, which involved a great deal of paper work getting official permission. Sending students off for their residential visits is a marathon! What each student needs in the way of food and necessities for a 4 week stay has to be worked out. There are government guidelines as to how much food they will be needing e.g. 2.5kg rice per person per week, 1kg sugar per week [!?] etc., as well as providing them with a charcoal burner, kerosene and pots and pans, not to mention mattresses, bedding and clothing.

John and Mair will not be renewing their contract with International Teams and the diocese of Morogoro but they have promised to stay until the exams are over. No new tutors have applied to work at Berega so it has been arranged for tutors to come over from Morogoro to fill the gap. Mama Florence is too old to take on any more responsibility. The young tutor Willard, who used to be with them, has finished his course and is coming to see them in March; hopefully he will return to teach. The students were stunned when they heard the news of John and Mair leaving. John imagines that people there are used to visitors coming and going and will continue as before once they have left.

John and Mair would like us to pray for:

Rain, they still haven't had any and the maize crops look as if they are suffering

Bethany and her family in UK

Ute and the children as they wait still for their adoptions to go through in Germany.

Themselves, for new work in Europe. They know that at 60 John is getting old for work as a lecturer – even though he is very good at it!

John and Mair praise God for:

The way the students have settled into their village placements in the least hospitable places – like sleeping in neglected storerooms!

Continued strength during the heat.

The 'almost' arrival of electricity in Berega. The telegraph poles are now being put throughout the village. The difference it will make to life in the village is simply incalculable.

Pat Martin

*Did you know that Bishop David has a blog entitled
'Eurobishop' ?*

Here are a couple of recent extracts:

General Synod Gives Approval to the First Reading of Diocese in Europe Measure

Posted: 07 Feb 2012 05:10 AM PST



This morning, the General Synod passed, by overwhelming majority, the first reading of the draft *Diocese in Europe Measure*. There was clearly strong support for this legislation which will help to bring this diocese into line with the other 43 in the Church of England with regard to being eligible to receive funds from the Church Commissioners. A key part of the proposed measure reads:

That the Church Commissioners may, from time to time, pay, out of their general fund, such sums as they think fit for the purpose of the development of the mission of the Diocese in Europe.

A revision committee will now prepare the measure for final approval at another session of the Synod. Members of the diocese will know what good news this is, and we thank all who have supported the measure to this stage.

Cooperation with women bishops is not entirely new to the Diocese in Europe

Posted: 07 Feb 2012 02:05 AM PST

The Church of England General Synod continues its process with regard to women in the episcopate this week. There is a range of opinion in our diocese about women bishops, as in the other 43 dioceses of the Church of England. But it is interesting to note (and perhaps this is a distinction from the other 43), that we already have routine collaboration and good working relations with women bishops. I am referring, of course, to such bishops already consecrated in some of the Lutheran Churches which have signed the Porvoo Agreement.



One example is in Helsinki. The Bishop of Helsinki (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) is the Rt Revd Irja Askola. Like her predecessor, Bishop Eero Huovinen, she is providing vital support and encouragement to the Anglican Church in Finland's chaplaincy of St Nicholas in Helsinki. We are grateful for funding from Finnish parishes in her diocese, as well as support from the Headquarters of the Finnish Church, which provides essential support for our own ministry. I was recently able to visit her to thank her for her Church's ongoing, and tangible, commitment, and for her role as bishop which serves to make this possible. Bishop Irja is an experienced ecumenist having given significant leadership in the Conference of European Churches and in her own country. She maintains particularly warm relations with the Orthodox Church in Finland, which, although a much smaller body, is also an official national church.



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

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

