

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

March 2014

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Preface



Dear Friends,

Hello to you all, as we begin the third month of 2014 and hopefully emerge from winter. According to the Church of England lectionary we spend most of March working through Lent. Traditionally a time of giving up chocolate and wine and other naughty but nice things, but with an even older tradition of preparation. Candidates for Baptism spent this time preparing for the important choice they were about to make, and in many Dioceses there are still baptisms and confirmations on Easter Sunday. When I was training in Salisbury the Bishop at the time held these services as part of the Dawn Eucharist which started with a bonfire in the close and then moved into the Cathedral where most of the congregation were sprayed by his enthusiastic waving of a branch of rosemary wetted in the font after the baptisms. At the end of the service the congregation moved into the cloisters for champagne and hot cross buns. Champagne was not good for those of us who had had to maintain an overnight vigil!

Deacon Keith Fournier writes “I look forward to Lent. It is a time of spiritual housecleaning, taking inventory, emptying myself and progressing in the life of faith by discovering who I can become in Jesus Christ, for the sake of others. It is an invitation to enter into the desert with the Lord and there, to do battle with the world, the flesh and the devil.” Later he continues “We do not hear enough of a fundamental truth of the Christian faith; the Lord desires our human flourishing and happiness. He wants us to be free.....living in the Lord will make us happy; not only in the life to come, but beginning now.”

So, we start the day before Lent by eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, emptying the house of rich food, and then the first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, often marked by a special service of penitence when attendees are marked by ashes made from the burning of the palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday. This ashing is a reminder of human mortality, and a sign of mourning and repentance to God. This dates from ancient times and is recorded as part of Jewish tradition, Daniel 9:3 for instance; “I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.” I have found this to be a very moving service both as parishioner and Priest.

I hope that you will find much to enjoy in March, spring arriving in all its glory, and times of going without and taking up; self discipline may not be a popular term these days, but it is a part of what Lent is about. Whether you decide to give up wine or to increase your charitable giving; to reduce your television time or increase your Bible study, may God bless you from his abundance.

Caroline

MARCH into APRIL 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]

2/3/2014	HC	Sunday next before Lent	LCP
1 st Lesson: Exodus 24: 12-end		Epistle: 2Peter 1: 16-end [Psalm 2]	Gospel: St Matthew 17: 1-9
9/3/2014	HC	First Sunday of Lent	PDS
1 st Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17&3:1-7		Epistle: Romans 5: 12-19 [Psalm 32]	Gospel: St Matthew 4: 1-11
16/3/2014	HC	Lent 2	LCP
1 st Lesson: Genesis 12: 1-4a		Epistle: Romans 4:1-5&13-17 [Psalm 121]	Gospel: St John 3:1-17
23/3/2014	HC	Lent 3	PDS
1 st Lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7		Epistle: Romans 5: 1-11 [Psalm 95]	Gospel: St John 4:5-42
30/3/2014	HC	Lent 4 – Mothering Sunday	Le Fenouiller [please see below]*
1 st Lesson: Exodus 2:1-10		Epistle: Colossians 3: 12-17 [Psalm 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4]	Gospel: St John 19: 25-27
6/4/2014	HC	Lent 5 – Passion Sunday	LCP
1 st Lesson: Ezekiel 37: 1-14		Epistle: Romans 8: 6-11 [Psalm 130]	Gospel: St John 11: 1-45

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

**As both of our churches in the west are unavailable, we have been offered the use of a room at the holiday camp le Pas Opton, 1335 Route du Pas Opton 85800 le Fenouiller for this 5th Sunday Service*



*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,
followed by a Bring & Share Lunch
Everyone is welcome to join us – even if you have not brought anything
There is always enough to go round!*



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

Are you looking for DATES FOR YOUR DIARY? It's now on the last page...



ASV Website News

It is now possible to view sermons and talks from those church services you may have missed. Where possible I have published Talks and Sermons on the website at: www.allsaintsvendee.fr, under "Notices" then scroll down to "Sermons you may have missed".

So, if you are unwell or away from home, it's another way to keep in touch!

And..... It is now possible to view photos of the Service of Institution in the Gallery.

Jacqui Stainton-James - (website co-ordinator)



Names on our Prayer List.....

Through the coming days, please remember especially in your prayers:

Geoffrey Colman: Geoffrey is now very frail and has been in hospital but is expected home soon. Please pray for Janet as she continues to support him.

Peter Hutchinson: Peter is recovering well now. His treatment continues.

John Matthews: John's hospital treatment continues. Please also remember Barbara in your prayers as she supports him throughout this difficult time.

Ian Wallace: Ian continues to explore his vocation for the ministry. Your prayerful support in this will be appreciated.

Celia Houghton: Celia is somewhat isolated in a care home in England but there is a possibility that her family may soon be able to be near to her.

Sadly, the **Reverend Tom Goode** died suddenly on 16th February.
His funeral took place on 22nd February at Arçay church.
`Rest in peace thou good and faithful servant`
He will be sorely missed

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.

Tel: 02 51 61 05 04



ASV Electoral Roll

An Electoral Roll for ASV has to be prepared every six years. This was last done in 2013. In between complete revisions of the Roll the Electoral Roll Officer has a duty to make amendments, as necessary, and present the revised roll at the AGM. There is a strict timetable for this revision. It must be completed not less than 15 days and not more than 28 days before the AGM. Once the revision is made the Roll is "frozen" until after the AGM has taken place. This year's AGM will take place on the 12th April so I will be revising the roll between the 15th March and the 28th March. If anyone wishes to be added (or removed) from this Roll please contact me as soon as possible. Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from me or one of the Wardens.

Chris Green, Electoral Roll Officer
(greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk)



Notes from our Church Wardens

At the time of writing, it just does not seem possible that it is less than a month since Caroline's institution and licensing. What a lovely Service it was, led by the Archdeacon of France, Father Ian Naylor. We are so happy that we were also joined by other local members of the clergy, including the priests of the Roman Catholic churches that we 'borrow'. It was also good to renew acquaintance with Father Gareth, based in Dinard, Brittany and with Revd Hazel Door from Poitou-Charentes. I suppose these are our closest Anglican neighbours. You may remember that three members of our congregation were confirmed in Dinard last year and there is the opportunity again this year, as a Confirmation Service is being

held in Dinard in May. Please contact Caroline or either of the Churchwardens if you interested in availing yourself of this opportunity.

I think it's true to say that Caroline has hit the ground running! Her style is 'inclusive' and she has been forging links with all Christian groups in the area, as well as leading Church Council and Ministry team meetings. Busy, busy, busy... Unable to stand the cold in the gite they were using as a temporary home, they have now moved to St Marsault to somewhere warm and cosy – and now have a permanent telephone and Internet connection as well.

You will see elsewhere in Grapevine that we are going to have a series of 'Lent Lunches'. These are Caroline's initiative and we are very grateful to all those who have offered to host one. They are spaced out throughout our area, so there should be one taking place near you, which I hope you will be able to attend. The aim is straightforward – to enjoy a simple lunch of soup and bread with friends and to give the money you would have spent on a more elaborate meal to charity. The charity we are supporting this time is 'Restos du Coeur', which Grapevine readers will be very aware of. Appropriately, they run food banks for those who are in desperate need.

Look out for the next Quiz, on the 4th April – this, too, will be a 'Lent Lunch', or should I say, 'Lent Supper'! And our AGM will take place on the 12th April at Les Essarts, so please book the date in your diary.

All best wishes

Barbara and Joan

Collecte célébration oecuménique Puy de Serre 19 janvier

[Collection taken at the Ecumenical Service at Puy de Serre on 19th January](#)

Chers amis,

la collecte a été de 210,30 euros, que j'envoie aujourd'hui à la Fédération Protestante de France; notre don doit servir à secourir des chrétiens Egyptiens, à l'occasion de la Journée Mondiale de Prière qui aura lieu en France le 7 mars.

Dans la confiance que Dieu rendra fécond ce geste de partage qu nos Eglises font en commun.

René Claude guibert

Dear friends,

The collection was 210.30 euros, which I sent today to the Protestant Federation of France; our donation to be used to rescue Egyptian Christians, on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer to be held in France on March 7.

Trusting that God will make fruitful this joint gesture of sharing by our churches.

René Claude guibert



LENT LUNCHES



Come and join us
for a soup lunch

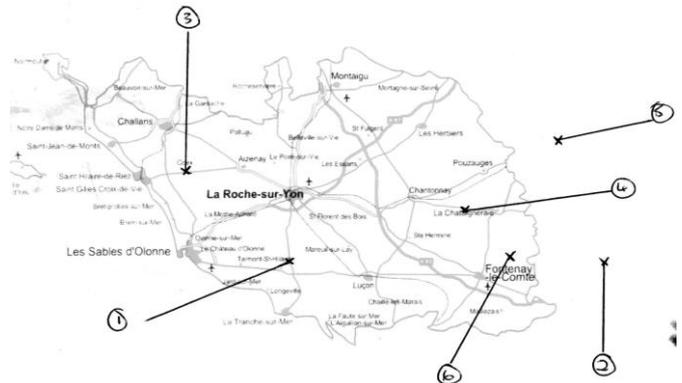
*Donations will be forwarded to
Resto du Coeur
Plus raffle*

Organised by All Saints Vendée

Dates and hosts are

7 Mar Lynn Talbot
14 Mar Carole Stocking
20 Mar Jo Collinson
26 Mar Jean Mylod
2 April Caroline Sackley
4 April Quiz night

Moutiers les Mauxfaits
La Chapelle Thireuil
Coex
Mouilleron en Pareds
La Foret sur Sevre
Puy de Serre



These events will normally be 1200 - 1400 except for the quiz night which will start, as usual, at 1800
For more information, please contact Polly Ward. Tel: 02 51 51 64 29



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!

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

Restos de Coeur

Thank you all for your generosity, both in the wonderful contributions that have been made to Restos and the words of encouragement that you give to Carole and me. So many people have said that they are pleased to be able to contribute and I do believe that many Christian people really want to be actively expressing their love for our Lord in a positive way About 65 years ago in my home town of Wolverhampton was a group whose motto was "Prayer without action is of no value and action without prayer is a waste of time" The vicarage always seemed to be packed with homeless people and the vicar always seemed to be dressed in robes that bore the marks of physical work. He seemed to work the clock round every day and every 6 months or so would collapse from overwork and be spirited away for a few weeks to return, to work himself into exhaustion once again. The church also ran a small farm with a few animals where deprived and poor children were taken to visit so that they could see and feel the animals and become tactile with them.

Some of our Christian colleagues have expressed, to me, their feeling think mental and physical illness is a put-on. I do invite them to put pen to paper and enlighten our church through The Grapevine.

I love my church. I love the people I meet in church and I have met many people because of my meagre involvement in Restos.

I am encouraged by the Archbishop, the Bishops and clergy who speak out about the moral breakdown of our society. I am heartened that 3 churches working together, Puy de Serre, Parthenay and Ranton can make a really worthwhile contribution.

I feel uncomfortable in a church that seems to be so comfortable.

Letter from The Editor

Spring forward!



Today is one of those Winter days with bright sunshine and showers that hold a promise of Spring. It would be nice to get out in the garden again to prepare the soil and tidy away the damage wrought by the wind and rain of the past few weeks, but the ground is still sodden. When the sun is out, there is real warmth in it, so Spring must be on the way to tempt us away from our cosy log fires. So much time to sew and knit and read can begin to pall!

In ancient Rome, March was the first month of the year, the beginning of Spring. Named for Mars, well-known as the god of war, this god was also connected to agriculture, his responsibility being the rebirth of the land.

In many ancient traditions, a straw figure representing Winter would be killed off in a duel with Spring, or the effigy was burned, or thrown off a cliff... A re-enactment of the yearly cycle, reminding the onlookers that warmth and growth are about to return. Indeed, daffodils are already blooming in my garden, along with snowdrops and crocuses. At least, the temperatures this Winter have not been too severe.

I am reminded that friends told me this week of a neighbouring French farmer who assured them that Winter was over as he had seen the wild geese flying north. Let`s hope so!

Many of you will have noticed that Easter is late this year. The first Sunday of Lent is the 9th March, which means that Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent is on the 5th. We know that Lent lasts for forty days, commemorating the forty days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert before starting his public ministry and, because in most Western traditions Sundays are not counted as part of Lent, then the period from Ash Wednesday until Easter does add up to 40 days.

Lent is traditionally a time for fasting and austerity, and is preceded by Mardi Gras, Pancake Day, a time for feasting and celebration and Carnivals. However, here in the Vendee, the Coex carnival takes place at mid-Lent, mi-careme. This is a time to relax the strict rules of Lent and is a celebration not to be missed. [Look out for it!] In the UK this same Sunday is celebrated as Mothering Sunday. Again, it relaxes the dietary rules of Lent as it became a tradition for those in service to have a day off to visit their mothers. Often the housekeeper or cook would allow the maids to bake a [simnel] cake to take home for their mother. This is why Mothering Sunday was also known as 'Refreshment Sunday', Simnel Sunday or `Pudding Pie Sunday`.

Sometimes they would pick flowers as a gift, too. So, whether you are eating simnel cake or picking a bunch of Spring flowers, enjoy mid-Lent, the 30th March, this year!

Joan Stewart

PS

Don`t forget to put your clocks forward one hour on the night of 29th-30th March!





House of Bishops on Same Sex Marriage

Posted: 15 Feb 2014 03:30 AM PST



On 13 March, same-sex marriage will become legal in England and Wales. Last Thursday 13 February, the bishops of the Church of England met to discuss this to set out our thinking before the first such marriages take place. We prepared a pastoral letter which the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have sent today to the clergy and people of the Church of England. It accompanies an appendix which is a statement of pastoral guidance on same-sex marriage.

4 main areas are addressed in the letter and appendix:

Marriage

The Church's understanding of marriage is not altered. The bishops stated: "we are all in agreement that the Christian understanding and doctrine of marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman remains unchanged".

Effect on the Church

It is not legally possible for same sex couples to be married by Church of England clergy or in Church of England churches. Canon law defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. Despite the new legislation, Canon Law remains part of the law of England.

Implications for those who worship with us

Lay people in same sex marriages will be welcome in our congregations, have access to the sacraments, can have their children baptised and receive pastoral support, but services of blessing are not to be provided following a same sex marriage.

Clergy and ordinands

Clergy of the Church of England should not enter into same sex marriages and anyone in a same-sex marriage will not be ordained as deacon, priest or bishop.

But some might ask, what about the Church of England in Europe?

We in the Diocese in Europe have lived for a number of years with the reality of same-sex marriage in many of the countries where we serve, in Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden, for instance, (even though in very few countries are our clergy legally permitted to conduct marriages). So this letter and the statement of pastoral guidance is of relevance to us as well. It will also be useful for our own clergy and people who may need to set out the position of the Church of England on these matters to our ecumenical partners.

Of course while English Canon Law is not *law* in Europe, our clergy do take the Declaration of Assent in which they affirm loyalty to (among other historic formularies) *The Book of Common Prayer* which teaches that marriage is between a man and a woman.

I know that the letter and appendix may come as a disappointment to some in our Churches. It is important to note that while the Church's doctrine of marriage remains the same, so does our commitment to welcoming all lay people fully into the life of our Church and fellowship, regardless of sexual orientation, civil partnership, or marital status.

The text of the letter and the statement is reproduced below:

15 February 2014

To the Clergy and People of the Church of England

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We write as fellow disciples of Jesus Christ who are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. Our vocation as disciples of Christ in God's world is to hold out the offer of life in all its fullness. God delights always to give good gifts to his children.

The gospel of the love of God made known to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest of these gifts. The call of the gospel demands that we all listen, speak and act with integrity, self discipline and grace, acknowledging that as yet our knowledge and understanding are partial.

As members of the Body of Christ we are aware that there will be a range of responses across the Church of England to the introduction of same sex marriage. As bishops we have reflected and prayed together about these developments. As our statement of 27th January indicated, we are not all in agreement about every aspect of the

Church's response. However we are all in agreement that the Christian understanding and doctrine of marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman remains unchanged.

We are conscious that within both Church and society there are men and women seeking to live faithfully in covenanted same sex relationships. As we said in our response to the consultation prior to the same sex marriage legislation, "the proposition that same sex relationships can embody crucial social virtues is not in dispute. Same sex relationships often embody genuine mutuality and fidelity...., two of the virtues which the Book of Common Prayer uses to commend marriage. The Church of England seeks to see those virtues maximised in society".

We have already committed ourselves to a process of facilitated conversations across the whole Church of England in the light of the Pilling Report. These conversations will involve ecumenical and interfaith partners and particularly the wider Anglican Communion to whom we rejoice to be bound by our inheritance of faith and mutual affection. They will include profound reflection on the meaning, interpretation and application of scripture to which we all seek to be faithful. They will involve particular attention to the lived experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. We believe that Christian understandings of sexuality have a vital contribution to make in our society's conversation about human flourishing.

The introduction of same sex marriage in our country is a new reality and has consequences for the life and discipline of the Church of England. We seek to model a distinctive and generous witness to Jesus Christ in our pastoral guidance to the Church at this time which is set out in the Appendix to this letter.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all people in all times and situations. We continue to seek God's grace and the prayers of the whole Church as we seek to proclaim that faith afresh in this generation.

Justin Cantuar + Sentamu Eboracensis

On behalf of the House of Bishops of the Church of England

* * * * *



Come and be spiritually filled at your local Filling Station meeting!

Our Biblical mandate is from Psalm 114: 8

'Who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.'

We see the 'pools' described here as places of deep spiritual refreshment for the existing church, bringing water into the hard dry areas. The 'hard rock into springs' represents the new spiritual life that occurs through evangelism.

We meet on Tuesdays, one evening per month and offer high quality teaching, contemporary sung worship and prayer ministry.

One of our fundamental principles is to promote Christian unity. In Psalm 133: 1, we read:

**'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.'**

Why not join us for an informal gathering to share and celebrate our faith in God, in a simple, authentic way, at

La Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre, la Roche sur Yon
7pm for refreshments for a 7.30pm start.

Join us at the launch meeting
on Tuesday 11th March 2014

Our guest speaker will be Reverend Nick Crawley

Nick is responsible for all Filling Station meetings in the South West of England & South Wales. Nick's ministry focuses on teaching the Bible and discipling individuals. He regularly leads seminars at the New Wine summer conferences and gave the main stage Bible Readings in 2007. He also leads Crossnet an Anglican Community for discipleship and mission based in Bristol. He led a large church in Zimbabwe for six years and has been on several missions abroad. He is deeply committed to the joint ministries of the "Word and the Spirit" and is a respected teacher of scripture.

Other dates for the diary ...  8th April, 6th May, 10th June, 8th July 2014

For more info: liz.jond@wanadoo.fr [www: thefillingstation.org.uk](http://www.thefillingstation.org.uk)

Dates for your Diary



7th March, Friday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at Moutiers les Mauxfaits [Please see below]
14th March, Friday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at La Chapelle Thireuil [Please see below]
20th March, Thursday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at Coex [Please see below]
26th March, Wednesday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at Mouilleron en Pareds [Please see below]
27th March, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds. For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 0251 00 34



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Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

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

And looking ahead:

2nd April, Tuesday, 12 noon, Lent Lunch at La Foret sur Sevre {Please see below}
4th April, Friday, 6pm, Quiz Night, Puy de Serre combined with Lent Lunch
12th April, Saturday, 2pm, AGM. Les Essarts
26th April, Saturday, Marian and Richard's famous Coffee Morning, with so much more than coffee! Start looking out those white elephants, clear out your bookshelves and plant interesting things. Nearer the time, make a cake, perhaps?

Don't forget that Diary Updates are available on our Website:

www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

This letter received from Revd Gareth Randall following the Institution Service which took place on 30th January.



St Bartholomew's Church, Dinard



Just a week ago, I was in La Vendée and for me it was a special time – an invitation to the Installation of your new priest-in-charge, the Revd Caroline Sackley.

I was staying with Barbara and Robin and they made me feel at home. Freddie, their dog, helped. Thursday morning, while Freddie was left at home to chew a marrow bone, we set off to pick up the Archdeacon, The Venerable Ian Naylor. There was a lunch in the Salle Polyvalente courtesy of Super U and then to church to set up and to rehearse. The ceremony was impressive – how wonderful to see so many folk, not least several catholic priests and the Revd Hazel Door. The joy at last of installing your new priest was tangible. For me, it was good to meet Caroline in person, to see her smile and sense her sense of purpose and vision for the future of All Saints' Church in La Vendée. It was good, too, to meet Bob and see how much he is there for her. Afterwards, refreshments back at the Salle Polyvalente rendered supper unnecessary!

As I drove back up to Brittany the following day, I had the sense that your church had a bright future with a safe pair of hands at the wheel.

Father Gareth



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Web site www.stbarts-dinard.org.uk



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

