

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

May 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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Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr



PREFACE

Dear Friends,

Another month, a month that, apart from the weekend, is filled with the season of Easter – a season, not just a single day, a season of joyful celebration, or it should be. Though, for us, this may not always be obvious. Vestments and altar colours remain white, the ‘Gloria in excelsis’ is back after the Lenten season and alleluias impregnate our worship and our hymns. There are those, like us, who are unable to follow in public the full force of the events of Holy Week because we have no church of our own. However, we shared in the joint Good Friday liturgy. On Easter Day, in the early morning, the tall Easter candle would have been brought into church: ‘The Light of Christ’, proclaiming the Resurrection and would have been placed alongside the altar to be lit at all services throughout the forty days. This Easter we had our three Baptisms. The candles that the children received were lit from the tall Easter or Paschal candle as they start on their journey to take ‘the light of Christ’ out into the world. We all renewed our own baptismal promises.

‘Jesus bids us shine,
You in your small corner
And I in mine’.

So, to us, in this Easter season. The gospel for the second Sunday of Easter comes from the final part of St John’s gospel and two things stand out. The first is the initial commission to the disciples which is meant also for us: ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ The second is the story of Thomas, ‘doubting Thomas’, who at first refused to believe but, on seeing Jesus, could only capitulate. ‘My Lord and my God’. We can see much of Thomas in ourselves. Legend has it that, during this period, Jesus had told Thomas that he wanted him to go to India. Thomas had replied that he would go anywhere, but in no way would he go to India! The evidence shows that the St Thome community of Goa, an area of South India, was founded by Thomas. This reminds one of the story Jesus told about two sons, the one who said no, that he was too busy, but still went to do what his father had asked him to do; the other said yes, but never got round to doing it!

What tasks does Jesus give us to do here in the Vendee? As you all know by now, I find the answer in the words of the old traditional hymns with which I have grown up, so:

‘Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.
Onward, therefore, pilgrim brothers,
Onward with the cross our aid;
Bear its shame and fight its battles
‘til we rest beneath its shade.’

Jesus said to the disciples ‘Peace be with you.’ ‘As the Father sent me, So am I sending you.’

Yours in His name

Herbie

MAY into JUNE CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

06/05/2012 Easter 4	11.00 am	LCP HC (CW)
1 st . Lesson: Acts 8: 26-40	Epistle: 1 John 4: 7-21	Gospel: John 15: 1-8
13/05/2012 Rogation Sunday (Easter 5)	11.00 am	PdS HC (CW)
1 st . Lesson: Acts 10: 44-48	Epistle: 1 John 5: 1-6	Gospel: John 15: 9-17
20/05/2012 The Sunday after Ascension Day	11:00 am	LCA HC (CW)
1 st . Lesson: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Epistle: 1 John 5: 9-13	Gospel: John 17:6-19
27/05/2012 Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	11:00 am	PdS HC (CW)
1 st . Lesson: Acts 2: 1-21	Epistle: Romans 8: 22-27	Gospel: John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
03/06/2012 Trinity Sunday	11:00 am	LCP WW
1 st .Lesson: Isaiah 6: 1-8	Epistle: Romans 8: 12-17	Gospel: John 3: 1-17
10/06/2012 Trinity 1	11:00 am	PdS HC (CW)
1 st . Lesson: Genesis 3: 8-15	Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4: 13- 5: 1	Gospel: Mark 3: 20-3

*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
 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).

*[Please note that the hall will not be available for lunch following services
 on the 27th May and the 24th June]*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- 6th May, Sunday, Home Worship Group,** 11am at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin: 0251 507559, or email Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr
- 7th May, Monday, Prayer Group,** 8pm at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin
- 11th May, Friday, Quiz evening** – Please see details and entry form at the end of Grapevine. Any questions? Call Polly Ward on 0251 51 64 29
- 17th May, Thursday [Ascension Day], Walk.** 2.30pm at La Tardiere `plan d'eau`, followed by tea and cakes. For more details, please contact John Matthews on 0549 75 29 71
- 24th May, Thursday, Ladies Circle.** 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

'HOME WORSHIP GROUP'

Informal, lively, and faith building! If you, or anyone you know, would like to come along to an uplifting meeting, we would love to see you. Our next meeting is on Sunday 6th May at 11.00.



Names on our Prayer List.....

Desmond Vine – will be undergoing further treatment through the coming weeks. Please also remember Elizabeth in your prayers.

Colin Phipps and **Katherine** – Colin is very poorly and continues to have regular transfusions, although the frequency has been reduced.

Jean Mylod - who continues to recover very well from hip replacement surgery. Please also remember Mike in your prayers.

Pat Kent – who is receiving a second course of chemotherapy treatment. Please also remember Geoff in your prayers.

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



Why and Wherefore?: The Lectionary

Each month we publish the readings for each Sunday; these are for what our Lectionary the `Principal Service`. These readings are used by churches all over the Anglican world and by other churches worldwide. In Australia, where I was working a few years ago, these readings were used by all the mainline churches and were published in the Saturday and weekend newspapers. So, as we hear these readings from the Bible we can and need to think of our fellow Christians, hearing these self-same readings across the whole world. `The voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away`!

Why do we publish them in the Grapevine?

[i] those reading in church **need** to know, as only a few of us have copies of the `Churchbook and Desk Diary` in which they are published.

[ii] for those who wish, especially those with hearing difficulties, to read them at home before the service.

[iii] for those not able to get to church, to share with those in church, ideally at the same time.

Herbie Floate



Church Card Sales

The project to raise funds by selling cards, from which the Church benefits by receiving half the sale price, commenced on 11th March 2012 and by 15th April the Church had benefitted by €99.50. It is intended to offer cards produced from photographs of nature subjects on the same terms in the near future. We believe that the cards are good value and would ask that buyers buy liberally remembering that half of every euro spent goes into church funds.

Peter Mills



MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING.

Matt 18:19-20 : “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

If you would like to join with us in prayer, please talk/email Chris & Julie Taylor , (Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr). We meet on the first Monday evening of each month, at 20.00 chez nous!



NUTS IN MAY?

`mars venteux et avril pluvieux,
Font mai gai et gracieux`.

*`March winds and April showers
Bring forth May flowers`.*



It is surprising how many old adages our two countries share with each other. I felt this one is particularly important at the moment, as we are having the winds and showers we should have had earlier in the year, **now** – and both at the same time! We need to look forward – and May is a beautiful month to look forward to.

We have had the blossom of the fruit trees and now we shall have some wonderful fragrances from such plants as lilac, peonies and, of course, the lily of the valley. I am sure I have mentioned before that May 1st is `muguet day` when, traditionally, you give your neighbours and friends a little bouquet of muguet, to bring them luck. Apparently a stem of muguet that has thirteen little bells on it is particularly auspicious, so look out for one!

You know, looking at the verse above, I am wondering whether I should have spelled May with a small `m`, for the hedgerows are full of may blossom. You know the old nursery rhyme:

`Here we come gathering nuts in May
Nuts in May, nuts in May.
Here we come gathering nuts in May
On a cold and frosty morning`

Did you find it puzzling? I certainly did. You just can't gather nuts in May! In August or September maybe... I do agree that there is a small risk of frost – not hard to believe after the cold winds and blustery showers of recent weeks – so that's possible, but nuts in May...! Well, apparently, it shouldn't be `nuts in May`, but `knots of may`. `Knots of may` being the little bunches in which it grows on the bush – used to decorate Maypoles and May garlands in many old traditions.

Girls, don't forget to rush out first thing in the morning on May Day, to wash your face in the dew – essential if you are to keep that beautiful complexion, freckle and spot free!

Joan Stewart



Pugh's News

John and Mair are now enjoying seeing family and friends in England after experiencing a touching leaving 'do' by the student nurses who had composed and recited a poem entitled 'Goodbye Beloved Tutors'. Afterwards they were invited to each plant a tree in front of the classroom with a plaque saying 'This tree was planted on March 22nd 2012 by John Pugh, first Principal of School of Nursing at Berega'. John and Mair continue to be in touch with the hospital. They were able to leave money in the Luca Fund which has already been useful. Longer term plans include the possibility of visiting mission hospitals in Africa who are keen to learn about setting up schools of nursing. They have already been invited by four hospitals to visit and offer advice and support.

If anyone would like to contribute to the fund for these visits John and Mair can be contacted on **pughnews@hotmail.com** when suitable arrangements can be made.

John and Mair will be over to their home in west France by 12th May and would welcome anyone who would like to visit them there. They hope to be seeing us at All Saints in the Vendee before long.

Pat Martin

Notes from Doug Green, Church Warden

Archdeaconry of France - Bishop's Announcement

The Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Rowell has announced the retirement of two Archdeacons. One of these is the Archdeacon of France, the Venerable Ken Letts who will stand down on June 30th. 2012. There has started already a process whereby four free-standing archdeacons will be appointed but this will take a little time - at least until 2014. In the meantime the Bishop has made temporary appointments. The Reverend Ian Naylor, currently Chaplain of St Andrew's Pau has agreed to serve as Acting Archdeacon of France. He will work with the Area Dean of France, the Reverend Canon Trevor Whitfield. The other area affected is the Archdeaconry of North-West Europe and Canon Meurig Williams has agreed to be Acting Archdeacon, working with the Area Deans of The Netherlands and of Belgium.

New Priest / Locum.

I am still waiting to hear about any discussions to try to find a creative way forward to find a new priest and I have written, on more than one occasion, expressing the hope that these discussions can take place soon. You will recall that your Church Council has met and put forward suggestions to help with these discussions and the ASV Church Profile has been re-written in a style which we think will give a more positive view of the post in the Vendee.

As far as Locum cover is concerned, you are aware that we have two priests covering from July to November. I am now pleased to report that a retired RAF Chaplain has indicated that he will be able to come from December for at least three months. I am sure you will give these priests a warm welcome when they arrive.

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.

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.

Safeguarding Officer

It is required that a Safeguarding Officer is appointed by the Church Council to be responsible on its behalf for implementing the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. Very many thanks must go to Christine Anderson who has undertaken this position for the past 5 years and I am pleased that Jo Collinson has come forward and indicated that she is willing to be appointed - many thanks Jo.

Welcomers and Intercessions at PDS

When Chris and I were drawing up the rota for May to August 2012 it became clear we need more Welcomers and Intercessors at Puy de Serre. We are sure there are more people who could help - volunteers please.

Jubilee Messages to The Queen

As announced after services, Bishop Geoffrey has written a thank you letter to the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. We have been invited to add our own signatures or personal messages. These have to be sent to London by the 4th. May for binding into a book so please see one of the Wardens quickly if you have not already added your own personal message or signature and wish to do so. If you wish to e-mail me a message I will "cut and paste" it electronically onto a headed sheet.

Doug Green

QUIZ

FRIDAY 11 MAY 2012

START 1800

(Salle will be open from 1730 for registration and apero)

SALLE AT PUY DE SERRE

TEAMS OF 4 - 6 CONTESTANTS

PRICE €10.00 each

(includes apero, 2 course meal and half-time quiz)

Bring your own drinks and glasses

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO:

POLLY WARD 10 RUE DES ECUS, 85390 MOUILLERON EN PAREDS

POLLY.WARD@ALICEADSL.FR 02 51 51 64 29

TEAM NAME

CONTACT NAME

PHONE OR EMAIL

NUMBER IN TEAM

MEALS REQUIRED:

CHICKEN CURRY + RICE + DESSERT

LASAGNE + SALAD + DESSERT

If there are problems with these options please contact Polly to arrange alternative



SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING EVENTS

Polly is in the process of organising a programme of events for the whole year. She hopes to have this available in time for the AGM.

If you have some good ideas and wish to organise something yourself, please get in touch with Polly. She has the expertise and experience – and can help.



**Please send your contributions and letters for the June issue to:
“The Grapevine” Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th May**

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

