

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

October 2014

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Preface

Hello to all of you!

It is difficult to think of moving into October as September has been so warm and sunny that autumn feels very distant. Bob and I were blessed to have two wonderful weeks of holiday at Le Pas Opton, with lots of rest, swimming and sunshine. In the second week I was privileged to have some very inspiring Bible teaching and worship, thank you

Steve, and all the lovely people we met.

The church did have two great harvest services, one in the west and one in the east! and I am so grateful to everyone who decorated the churches and contributed to the services. We of course also have to mention the two harvest suppers. Good food, good company and entertainment, thank you all so much, especially Jo and her team and Polly and her team. A very successful set of celebrations that were both enjoyable and full of fellowship, praise and worship.

In October we will have the contrast of planning the great celebration of our Patronal Festival of All Saints and our service for All Souls when we set aside time to specifically honour and remember those who have died. As Christians we still feel pain and grief when a loved one dies, but we have the hope given to us, through the sacrifice of Jesus, of eternal life. We receive this promise of salvation through God's grace and mercy.

Our lives as Christians are always full of these contrasts. Becoming a Christian does not mean that life will always be a bed of roses, despite the promises of some preachers, that's just not Biblical let alone realistic! What being a Christian does offer though is the knowledge that God will always help us and be with us however far we fall. We praise and worship our beneficent creator God, but we also, like the Psalmists, express our despair, our anger, our grief and our need for forgiveness. Because Christ was both human and divine God has shared our experiences and understands and because He has known us since before we were born that understanding and love is deeper than anyone else's.

Now for the Vicarage update. Bob is well rested and pleased I made him take a break, so he is now keen to get going again. The upstairs at the front is beginning to take shape as the stud work and plaster boarding gets under way. There is a slight hold up in some areas as we are waiting to hear from the Mairie re our permission for some roof windows. Our major disappointment is that the skip ordered didn't turn up so our front garden is still full of rubbish. We have decided to take it over to the other garden gradually by the wheelbarrow load to start the new car park. We would really love to get the front walls painted and the garden tidy before the weather turns. I have even been promised a useable bath in the fairly near future!

God bless you all,

Caroline

OCTOBER into NOVEMBER 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]

5/10/2014	HC	LCP	Trinity 16
1 st Lesson: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20		Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 [Psalm 19]	Gospel: St Matthew 21: 33-46
12/10/2014	HC	PDS	Trinity 17
1 st Lesson: Exodus 32: 1-14		Epistle: Philippians 4: 1-9 [Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23]	Gospel: St Matthew 22: 1-14
19/10/2014	HC	LCA	Trinity 18
1 st Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23		Epistle: 1Thessalonians 1: 1-10 [Psalm 99]	Gospel: St Matthew 22: 15-22
26/10/2014	HC	PDS	Last Sunday after Trinity
1 st Lesson: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12		Epistle: 1Thessalonians 2:1-8 [Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17]	Gospel: St Matthew 22:34-46
2/11/2014	HC	LCP	All Saints Sunday – Patronal
1 st Lesson: Revelation 7: 9-17		Epistle: 1John 3: 1-3 [Psalm 34: 1-10]	Gospel: St Matthew 5: 1-12

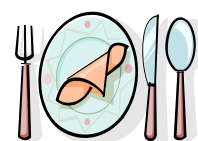
2/11/2014 A Memorial Service will also be held on the 2nd November at 3pm at LCP.
It is to commemorate all of our loved ones who have died

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



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).

Dates for your Diary



23rd October, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds. For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34 70

And looking ahead:

2nd November, Sunday 10am: Protestants de Vendée en Fête, at St Hilaire de Riez (See poster attached to October Grapevine, ASV website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr or contact Revd Caroline for more details)

7th November, Friday, 6pm: Quiz at Puy de Serre Salle

11th November, Tuesday, 2.30pm: Memorial Service at the Halifax Bomber Memorial, Angles

15th November, Saturday, 10am: Bazaar at Puy de Serre Salle

10th December, Wednesday: ASV Christmas Lunch at JPs, St Pierre du Chemin



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!

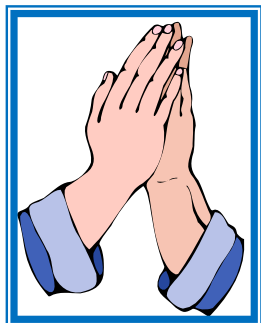
Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Bill and Carole will collect your gifts and pass them on to Resto du Coeur in Coulonges-sur-Autize



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

www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

Page Two



Names on our Prayer List.....

Please continue to pray for **Peter Hutchinson** who is now very frail. The good news is that he is somewhat better now and has been managing to walk a little.

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



Our October Filling Station meeting

will take place on Tuesday 7th in La Roche sur Yon.

Hilary Latham, our invitee and speaker, was a biology teacher in schools and colleges for 15 years. She is the wife of Don Latham and they have two children and three grandchildren. She is an anointed Bible teacher and has made a particular study of 'end times'. As an author she has written a course manual and book called 'Towards Christian Maturity' - which has been used by a number of churches in this country and more widely in Africa.

We are living in exciting and challenging times which are clearly predicted in Bible prophecy. Hilary will be speaking on 'signs of the times.'

Why not join us for refreshments, from 7pm onwards?

**I'Escale RIVOLI, 61 Boulevard Rivoli,
La Roche sur Yon**

All welcome, quality teaching, wheelchair access, ample parking...

For more info: liz.jond@wanadoo.fr

<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>



Wardens' Notes

It seems only a very short time since we were saying "School's out!" but now we are saying "School's back!" and a whole new season has begun. It's Harvest time already and we have celebrated this with two lovely services at La Chapelle Palluau and Puy de Serre, as well as two Harvest Suppers.

The Harvest supper at Palluau was the first one to be held in the West. It was a super evening, a wonderful supper and impromptu entertainment which opened our eyes to the talents of some of our congregation! Well done and many thanks to Jo & Brian Collinson and Hester & Colin Grimshaw for their hard work in organising this event, it was a really enjoyable evening.



Our Harvest Supper at Puy de Serre follows the same pattern as last year so we have another enjoyable evening to come.



The good news this month is that Caroline and Bob are now installed in "The Vicarage" which is a tribute to the hard work put in by Bob & James. They have worked so hard and the house is delightful. We had our first Council Meeting there on the 1st September and it felt good to be there.

Unfortunately the money for the renovation work has not reached our target of 10,000 euros so we would like to repeat our plea for help with this.

Sunday Club is looking for someone to help, so if anyone is interested in joining our very special group please have a word with me, Barbara.

We are also in need of volunteers to be welcomers at Puy de Serre. If you feel able to take on this role or would like more information about it, then please talk to Joan or Caroline.



Since Alan has retired from playing the organ at La Chapelle Achard and La Chapelle Palluau, we urgently need someone to take his place. Are you a musician hiding your light under a bushel? Do you know someone who could possibly help out? Please let Caroline or Barbara know.



Don't forget to keep an eye on the website to stay up to date!

Barbara and Joan



[In order to view ALL the photos taken at our 2 Harvest Festivals and Suppers, it is possible to go to the website, www.allsaintsvendee.fr, and view them in the Photo Gallery. Jacqui]

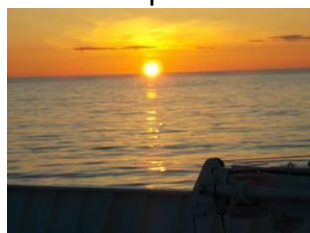
Letter from the Editor

Bonkers for conkers?

Have you noticed that Summer suddenly feels old? The freshness and vibrancy of trees, gardens and fields has given way to dryness and leaves are beginning to turn colour on some of our trees. It has been an abundant harvest for many farmers and gardeners. Those wonderful bright yellow fields of sunflowers now stand forlorn, the petals having gone and the weight of the ripening seeds forcing the flower heads to look down. It is only when they are completely black that they will be harvested...

The Autumn equinox is upon us. The Sun will be directly over the Equator and begin to journey even further South to give the southern hemisphere its Summer. Conversely, of course, the northern hemisphere will slip into Autumn and then Winter. The word equinox comes from the Latin meaning `equal night` because daytime and nighttime are about the same length. At the North Pole, so I believe, this equinox marks the transition from 24 hours of daylight to 24 hours of darkness.

The Autumn equinox takes place this year on the 23rd September and it is an incredible thought that on this day, The Sun rises everywhere on Earth [except at the Poles] at about 6am and sets at about 6pm. I find it all quite difficult to get my head round!



Earlier this year I happened to be in Iceland just before the Summer solstice [from the Latin `sun` and `stop`], the time when the Sun reaches its most northerly point before tracking southwards again. I was lucky enough to see the `midnight sun` and it was absolutely magical...

Such wonders of our world have long fascinated us even from prehistoric times. It is hard to believe three months have passed since I took this photo at midnight. The sea was calm, the light gave everything and everyone an incredibly warm glow and on my way to bed, a pod of dolphins popped up and played tag for me for several minutes... Wonderful memories.

Back to the present and thoughts about October! You may be interested to know that in the French Republican calendar, in use from 1793-1805, the 22nd September, the Autumn equinox of 1792, marked the first day of the first French republic. The French monarchy had been abolished the previous day and the First Republic proclaimed...

October is the start of Autumn for us. The harvest is in and it is time to prepare our gardens to cope with Winter ahead – but let's hope we have time for a game of conkers as well!

The World Conker Championships take place this coming month near Oundle in Northamptonshire. Thousands of spectators will watch teams from all over the world compete with each other until one winner comes through the rounds to be crowned with conkers! A fine charity fund-raising event... If you happen to be in Northamptonshire on the 12th October then go along to watch the fun. I'm sure we all have tips learned in childhood on how to play, how to win but especially on how to harden your conkers! Anyone for a game?!



Have fun this month and remember that conkers on your window sills keep spiders away!

Joan Stewart

This is a letter from Charlotte who is a member of the congregation of The English-Speaking Church of the Valley of the Loire (Escoval) in Ranton. (86)



Hello all

I'm sorry to say I won't be among you on Sunday 21st September (*at Ranton*) but I will be with you in (slightly sweaty) spirit and hope you will pause to think of me. I will be running the "Tours 20k" that morning, and three weeks later the "Royal Parks half marathon" (21k), in support of Braintrust, the Brain Cancer people.

As those who know me best will attest, running is not my natural environment ... and two big challenges in a short space of time is slightly terrifying, but I have been pounding the roads around our little corner of the Loire Valley for a few months now and hope to honour the charity and the hours I've put in with a gracious limp over the finish line.

If anyone feels able to sponsor me for Braintrust I would be enormously grateful (completely secure online donations through <https://www.justgiving.com/Charlotte-Field/>) and if not your financial support, I greatly appreciate your moral support, please do spare me a prayer on the day, along with all those who are battling brain cancer.

Thank you for reading this.

With love, Charlotte (mum of the Field Fab Four - Louis, Sam, Madeleine and Oscar)
charlotte@loirevalleyretreat.com

Don't forget the Fair/Fête/Bazaar!

15th November, 2014

Suddenly, it's getting very close!

Now is the time to tell all your friends about it...
We would love to see everyone there



Have you been making things for the Craft Stall?
Have you looked out unwanted jewellery and gifts?
Have you found those [full!] Bottles for the tombola?
And put the dates in your diary to make those cakes!

[If you have items for the bazaar or are able to help or support in any way, then please contact Maggie on 02 51 29 00 75, Marian on 02 51 27 64 67. Jenny on 0549069790 or Peter on 02 51 94 32 84]

ASV CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 10th December

at

JB's

St Pierre du Chemin



PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

[Prices and menu to follow very soon]

Christmas Carol Sing-along - Questionnaire.



Have you filled in your form yet?

It was at the end of last month's Grapevine and is available to download on the website at www.allsaintsvendee.fr



It is important to list your favourite carols for Stuart and Jacqui, so that they can be included in our evening Carol Service this December

If you cannot find the form then please list them on a piece of paper and return it to them at church or by email before the end of October.

The service will include as many "overall favourites" as possible.

I know they are looking forward to hearing from you.

Stuart and Jacqui Stainton-James
sjfamily66@hotmail.com

The ASV Website is there for YOU!!

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

You'll find:

STOP PRESS messages,

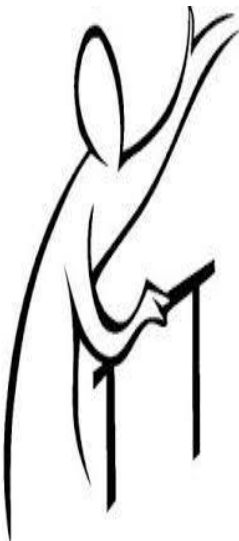
SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

PHOTO GALLERY of the VICARAGE RENOVATION WORK (Before & After)
and RECENT EVENTS (Harvest)

as well as previous editions of THE GRAPEVINE.

So, it's one more way to stay in touch!

Jacqui Stainton-James - (Website Co-ordinator)



Concern for the state of the world:

May we just have a short silence to think of people who are ill; and also the developing situation in the Middle East where so many innocent people are suffering and dying.

Dear Father, we thank you for the wonderful beauty of your world.
In this upside-down world, we deplore war and the terrible weapons and ideologies that divide people and nations.

We thank you for your peace that passes all understanding.

We pray for people for whom life is a problem, for some, even a nightmare.
We pray for all who work for the relief of those in need, who nurse and support the sick and injured.
And for those who give generously of their time, their assets.

We thank you for your amazing grace, your Holy Spirit that supports and guides.
We deplore that 3million people in England work a 40 hour week for less than a living wage.
Help the Church to help release the man, many people in England and elsewhere who are held in slavery with nothing but the bleakest futures.

We thank you for the wonderful contributions that Christians are making, in England and France, to feed the hungry.
The night time journeys in Niort and London and other towns to feed those who sleep and sometimes die whilst sleeping rough in the streets.

We thank you, Father, for the generosity of the Christians in Parthenay, Ranton and Puy de Serre who give so generously to help many families who have so little. We thank you Lord that, in committing our lives, body and soul, to you, that you have equipped us to fight the good fight with confidence and without fear.

Help us not to look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness and hope.

A part of the deal is that we must read our bibles and pray every day. When we pray Lord, we know that you hear us. We know that the Holy Spirit will lead us.

In the ever constant battle between good and evil, the Holy Spirit versus the Kalashnikov for all eternity, there is just no competition.

And all the people shouted `Amen` and `Praise the Lord`...

Amen



Please send your contributions and letters for the November issue to:
"The Grapevine" Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th October
Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at:
sjfamily66@hotmail.com



With so many folk celebrating wedding anniversaries this summer, printed below is the poem which Irene and Ken shared with the congregation at their 50th Anniversary Service. Many members of that congregation have since asked for copies:



The Art of a Good Marriage– by Wilferd Arlan Peterson

*Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.
A good marriage must be created.
In the Art of Marriage the little things are the big things.....*

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted:
the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,
it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,
but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation
and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.
It is cultivating flexibility, patience,
understanding and a sense of humour.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal,
dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner

It is discovering what marriage can be, at its best.