

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

September 2014

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Preface

From the Vicarage!

27, rue de Malvoisine,
85110 St Vincent Sterlanges

Hello Everyone,

Time for the end of the holidays has arrived so quickly, and the year is about ready to change seasons again. The mornings are already misty and damper. But this means the time to celebrate the abundance that God blesses us with is upon us. We have a bring and share Harvest Supper at La Chapelle Palluau on the 5th of September and a special Holy Communion Service there on Sunday, 7th September. The Puy de Serre Service is on Sunday the 14th and their Harvest Supper is on the 19th. We would welcome gifts for both services. "You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he might bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen the man's heart." Psalm 104: 14-15. Even the poorest amongst us has much to be grateful for compared to others, so come, let us praise The Lord with a joyful noise and give him thanks.

Thanks, profound thanks are also due to the many people who have been so generous in their financial giving and their help towards the Vicarage. We have been so blessed by you all and touched deeply by your generosity. We pray that this place will be a blessing to the whole Parish and a sign of our commitment to the work of God here in the Vendée for years to come. There is a place on the website with photographs and a diary of the works. I cannot express enough my gratitude and love for Bob and James who have given their time, energy and expertise to transform the building into a well loved home.

We have also had the wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God as three couples at Puy de Serre celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries during our services. Our love and congratulations go to Marion and Richard, Margaret and John, Irene and Ken, with our wishes for many more happy times.

These last few weeks my head has been full of that wonderful hymn " O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder" many of you will be pleased that the refrain " then sings my soul" is true, the singing takes place silently, but it does seem to be such a time for praise and thanksgiving that it can only be right and proper that we give thanks where it is due, to our wonderful, powerful and loving God.

God bless

Caroline

Page One

SEPTEMBER into OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

All Services start at 11am except where indicated

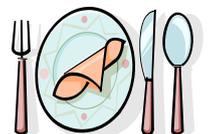
[We have also included the Psalms for each week, as they may inform your own reading at home]

<p>7/9/2014 1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:7-18</p>	<p>HC</p>	<p>LCP Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 [Psalm 65]</p>	<p>Harvest Thanksgiving Gospel: St Luke 12: 16-30</p>
<p>14/9/2014 1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:7-18</p>	<p>HC</p>	<p>PDS Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 [Psalm 65]</p>	<p>Harvest Thanksgiving Gospel: St Luke 12: 16-30</p>
<p>21/9/2014 1st Lesson: Exodus 16: 2-15</p>	<p>MW</p>	<p>LCA Epistle: Philippians 1: 21-30 [Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45]</p>	<p>Trinity 14 Gospel: St Matthew 20: 1-16</p>
<p>28/9/2014 ..1st Lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7</p>	<p>HC</p>	<p>PDS Epistle: Philippians 2: 1-13 [Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16]</p>	<p>Trinity 15 Gospel: St Matthew 21: 23-32</p>
<p>5/10/2014 ..1st Lesson: Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20</p>	<p>MW</p>	<p>LCP Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 [Psalm 19]</p>	<p>Trinity 16 Gospel: St Matthew 21: 33-46</p>

*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).

How would you have reacted to this situation?



"Cartoon" published in THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH August 10 2014

Dates for your Diary



- 5th September, Friday, 6pm: Harvest Supper at La Chapelle Palluau. [Please see below]
12th September, Friday, 5.30pm, Quiz night at Puy de Serre
[For more details please contact Polly on 02 51 51 64 29]
14th September, Sunday, 11am: Restos du Coeur collection at Puy de Serre
19th September, Friday, 6.30pm Harvest Supper at Puy de Serre
[Please contact Polly for tickets [10 euros] and further details]
25th September, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds. For more details,
please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34 70



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



*Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month
at Puy de Serre.*

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

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



Names on our Prayer List.....

Please continue to pray for **Peter Hutchinson** who is now very frail.

**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**

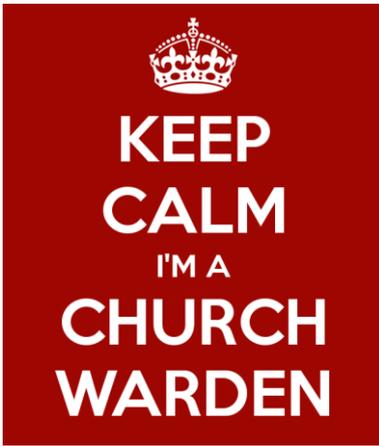
"Thank you all for your continuing prayers"

*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

Notes from our Church Wardens



Work continues apace on the Vicarage. Bob and James have both been working non-stop to get the house ready to live in. It is really beginning to take shape now and Caroline and her family are actually living in it – or should I say camping out in it! Although, by the time you read this, one or two rooms will be completely finished. It really is exciting. If you have not yet managed to visit, there is a photo on the website. Have a look.

We are very grateful to all those who have been making donations towards the cost of refurbishment of the Vicarage. However, we are nowhere near our target yet. If you have been intending to donate, but just have not got round to doing so, please make every effort to do so

urgently. All you need to do is make out a cheque payable to "The congregations of All Saints, Vendée" and give it to Caroline, Barbara or Joan or send it directly to the Treasurer, Maggie Jelley, at La Pardiere, 79380, La Fôret sur Sèvre. Remember that our target is 10,000 euros so please be as generous as you can. The vicarage is our pledge for the future...

Financial donations are not the only way to support and help the renovation process which has already begun. You will be kept fully informed of it all as it goes along and when working parties etc., are needed. Keep an eye on your email or telephone Caroline if you able to give some time.

We are 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.

We have had some lovely social events this Summer – a Ploughman`s at Polly`s, a walk and tea at La Pardiere and a bring and share supper before going to the candle-lit Prieure de Grammont to hear Gregorian chant. These were all so enjoyable, but only made possible by the hard work of Polly in particular and Maggie and Geoff. Thank you so much, all of you. It was much appreciated.

Don`t forget to keep an eye on the website to stay up to date!

Barbara and Joan



Don`t forget the Fair/Fête/Bazaar!
The date is fixed: **15th November, 2014**

It may seem a long time away,
but we all know what time is like!

If you are making jams, jellies or chutneys this
summer/autumn, then please make one or two extra...

It`s also time to start making things for the Craft Stall...

It`s time to look out unwanted jewellery and gifts...

It`s time to collect bottles [full!] for the tombola...

And don`t forget to create some time to make those cakes nearer the date!

[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]

Confused by the seeming plethora of initials and titles of other Christian groups in the Vendée?

Here is an article from Caroline to help explain and to clarify...

Dear all,

I have been asked by the Ministry Team to clarify some of the advertisements of other Christian Groups which appear on our web site and our involvement with them.

When I was praying about whether to come here or not I had a clear sense that I was to have a ministry of healing and reconciliation, and that was before I knew anything of the history here! I have also always worked with other Christians of whatever background, I believe it is important that we should be united in God's work, even when we have differences, after all we were charged to love one another so that people will know we are Christ's disciples.

So I work and meet with colleagues in the Eglise Protestante Unie, a recent combination of the reformed Church and some Lutherans, our Catholic friends and others working here in the Vendée including Louange Cote Ouest and the Rendezvous Fellowship. I advertise their events because they are resources for us to use or events to enjoy (or both!) and because I want to support their mission efforts. We alone as a smallish group have not got the time, personnel or energy to organise everything we need for spiritual growth and mission, so we share.

We remain the Church of England here in the Vendée with all the history and traditions that that involves and our structure of oversight and authority, please God that will not change, but we are also part of a much larger worshipping community, both English and French. We cannot afford to be inward looking, nor can we rely on tradition totally for the future. Our congregations have a tendency to be ageing, we need to reach out to other English speakers living around us and make ourselves attractive enough for them to want to get to know our God for themselves. "Fresh Expressions" and other movements have all been tried as the problems are the same, in general, in the UK as here. I don't have the answers but it is worth while looking at what it is that is making some churches grow and others decline. Some of it is a critical mass situation and often it is the town/city churches that are growing, but not exclusively. People are travelling to worship in the UK as well as here.

People have been involved in Alpha courses here and we now have the Filling Station in the Vendée. This is separate from but a complement to our regular services. It does not seek to tempt people away from any church they may be attending, but rather to supplement. Members of ASV along with other French and British people host and organise the event in La Roche sur Yon, called Faites Le Plein there as there are many French who attend. The other event is hosted by the Rendezvous Fellowship. Both follow the same format and have the same speakers on different nights.

I will continue to advertise events organised by others, of course I can't guarantee the quality or the content, any more than they can for our events, but sometimes you may be pleasantly surprised I hope, and even on a not so good day God still works. A change can be good, it can make us think, even if it only strengthens our existing views. Please try some!

I know that for some of you there is a history, but please let that all be in the past and let us move forward by the power of the Spirit to a richer, God filled future where all Christians are untied to do God's work here on earth for the coming of the Kingdom.

ASV Website News

Don't forget the website is there for you!

You'll find
STOP PRESS messages
EVENTS that were received too late for the Grapevine deadline,
SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED
and even previous editions of THE GRAPEVINE.



I'm delighted to be able to report that, recently, through the website:
I have received enquiries about arranging weddings and funerals; I have been able to help holidaymakers trying to find a church whilst away from home; I have heard from an advocat who was attempting to contact ASV with regard to a bequest; I have put folk in touch with friends and parishioners with whom they had lost contact over a number of years; I have even been able to put prospective purchasers and church goers in touch with members of our congregation who are able to offer advice.....

.....and I thought I was wasting my time!!

So, do use our website - why not give it a try!!
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Jacqui Stainton-James - (Website Co-ordinator)



The Filling Station

**From September onwards we will be using a new venue in la Roche sur Yon.
Why not come and join us on Tuesday 9th September ?**

**Our guest speaker will be author and pastor, Gerard Kelly, from Bless Network.
Bless is a mission centred in Normandy that prepares young people for Christian discipleship, in France
and across Europe.**

Gerard's message will be translated for French speakers.

For more info : <http://blessnet.eu/>

7pm onwards at

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

**We hope to see you there !
Ample parking, 1st floor room with lift access.**

For more info: liz.jond@wanadoo.fr
<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>

Letter from the Editor

FROM MIRABELLES TO MICHAELMAS

[A definition of September!]

For the past few weeks, my kitchen has been filled with delicious small orange coloured plums, overflowing from baskets, bowls and colanders. The sweet fragrance of mirabelles, as they simmered on the hob or became golden jam, spread invitingly throughout the house. Mmm! For me this fruit is one of the delights of France and this year has seen a bumper crop.

And they are good for you! Rich in fibre, a good source of vitamin A as well as C, they also contain minerals and trace elements essential for the good functioning of your metabolism, apparently. Sluggish intestines? Eat mirabelles!

Although they may be a speciality of the Lorraine area, they seem to grow everywhere here. My neighbours bottle them in eau-de-vie. Every baker has rows of Mirabelle `tartes`. Have you ever wondered how this fruit got its name? My favourite is the legend of Princess Mira. She was kind and beautiful and lived in a lovely old castle. One day, an old woman arrived at the castle gate. The princess invited her in and looked after her well. The old woman turned out to be a fairy [of course!]. As a reward she turned all the trees in the principedom into wonderful fruit trees that bore golden fruit. The fruit became known as mirabelles, recalling the princess`s name and beauty!

We are certainly in the middle of Harvest time, which in the UK traditionally began on Lammas Day, the 1st August and ends at Michaelmas. This month, we are reminded that Michaelmas is on its way, by the blooming of the aptly named Michaelmas daisies. They provide welcome colour as the growing season comes to an end.

“The Michaelmas Daisies, among dede weeds,
Bloom for St Michael's valorous deeds.
And seems the last of flowers that stood,
Till the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude.”

(The Feast of St. Simon and Jude is 28 October)

[I remember getting my Michaelmas daisies from Richard and Marian`s coffee morning a couple of years ago. They had been freshly dug from his garden that very morning by Bill Stocking!]

The Feast of St Michael and All Angels is celebrated on 29th September. He is one of the foremost angelic warriors who protect against the dark of the night, the Archangel who fought against Satan and his hordes. It is appropriate to remember him at this time of year, when the darker nights and colder weather begin, providing protection from those dark forces that people believed were stronger at night and in the winter months of the year. It was a day for feasting on goose that had been fattened in the fields of stubble following the harvest and this was supposed to prevent the family from poverty for a whole year.

Michaelmas Day is the time to say farewell to the growing season and start a new yearly cycle. Maybe this is why the Michaelmas daisy symbolises saying goodbye.

Joan Stewart

HARVEST SUPPERS

La Chapelle Palluau



We shall be having our Harvest Supper in Chapelle Palluau on Friday September 5th starting at 1800 in the Salle de Fête .
It will be a Bring and Share event with wine provided.
Everyone is welcome.
We will be having a collection of goods for Restos du Coeur as well.
If you would like to go, please let Jo know by email at: collinson5@orange.fr

Puy de Serre

Tickets are now on sale for the Harvest Supper at Puy de Serre on Friday September 19th (1830 for 1900)
As last year, the tickets are priced at €10 for an apero, 4 course meal and coffee and all profits will be donated to the Resto du Coeur



Bring your own booze
Book early to avoid disappointment
polly.ward@aliceadsl.fr
02 51 51 64 29



Christmas Carol Questionnaire.



This year our evening Carol Service will consist of carols chosen by the Congregations of All Saints Vendée



On the form provided at the end of this edition of Grapevine, please list those carols which are your particular favourites and return it to us at church or by email before the end of October.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Stuart and Jacqui Stainton-James
sjfamily66@hotmail.com



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





Your Name: _____

I attend the church at *La Chapelle Achard/*La Chapelle Palluau/*Puy de Serre
 (*Please cross out the statements which do not apply)

Phone Number or Email address: _____

All Saints Vendée

Our Congregations' Favourite Christmas Carols 2014 Questionnaire

So that the favourite carols, which are known and loved by our congregations, can be included into our Christmas Services, please list below your particular favourite "Top Ten" carols.

If possible, give the first line as well as the name of the tune if there is a choice of tunes. (Don't worry if you don't know which book they appear in, we'll do our best to find them - just the title should be enough!)

Title of Carol or first line:	Hymn/Carol Book (if known)	Number (if known)	Tune (if known or a choice)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

If there is a carol you particularly dislike, please mention it on the reverse of this questionnaire.

Please hand your completed questionnaire to either Stuart or Jacqui Stainton-James or email it to us at sjfamily66@hotmail.com by the end of October.

Further copies of this questionnaire are available on the ASV website at www.allsaintsvendee.fr

STOP PRESS

10th August - Golden Wedding Celebrations

Two couples who have recently celebrated Golden Wedding Anniversaries received a Blessing during the Morning Service at Puy de Serre. The celebration continued afterwards at the Bring & Share Lunch in The Salle by cutting the cake.

Between them Marian and Richard Rackham and Margaret and John Dorey have been married for **200 Golden Years** as will be seen from the icing on the cake!



22nd August - Church Walk and Afternoon Tea

Following Maggie and Geoff Kent's Walk with Treasure Hunt last Friday, walkers and friends enjoyed a magnificent Afternoon Tea served on the terrace at La Pardiere. There was also a money-raising stall and raffle.

