

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*"To know and to share Jesus Christ"*

*The Grapevine*

September 2016

**CONTACTS:**

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*In Revd Caroline's absence and/or in case of emergency, please contact any of the following:*

**Church Wardens:** Barbara Kenyon: Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Polly Ward: Phone no: 02 28 13 01 93, email: wardpolly@outlook.com

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Keith Fowler (LCA) 02 51 49 83 25, Jo Collinson (LCP) 02 51 55 84 56

**Reader:** John Matthews: Phone no: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

**Website:** www.allsaintsvendee.fr

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*Preface*



Hello everyone,

I am writing this in sunny August and although we are about to offer thanksgiving for the harvest in church, it seems that much has been gathered in already. I feel more isolated from the farming community than I used to so I am unable to give their opinion of whether it has been a good year or not, especially as earlier I had heard dire warnings of mould on the crops when we had such a wet spring and early summer, I only know that our vegetable patch has been very productive.

As many of you know Bob has spent the summer looking after things in Mayenne after James was offered work at the camp site 'Le Pas Opton' and he has been busy freezing vegetables and fruit as he has far more than he can eat.

Because of the lectionary readings August had me talking about faith, choices and consequences. We have to actively choose to follow Jesus, we have to be active in our work for God's Kingdom and in following in Jesus' footsteps, moving forward to the future. Each choice we make has consequences, even the choices we make without really thinking about them; such as spreading that piece of gossip, eating the last biscuit, living by the world's values. Sometimes we are not aware that what we are doing is sinful or opposite to the Kingdom values of Jesus and this is brought

home in his teaching about the sheep and the goats; neither were really aware that they were making good or bad choices, but they were judged on them.

We were also warned that following Christ is not always a popular choice or a comfortable one. But the perils and pain of the present will be rewarded, however not necessarily in this lifetime. I really believed that God called me to the Vendée, and we certainly gave up a comfortable home to follow that calling, moving into discomfort, but at least we are leaving behind a comfortable home for the future incumbents! Now we have the adventure ahead, moving forward into our future, following where God leads us again, and as we step into the unknown we count ourselves fortunate that we still have adventures to look forward to - one the consequences of me choosing to follow Christ, although Bob says he is never going anywhere without a house again!

As my final weeks here draw to a close I would welcome your prayers for my future journey with God and for all my family and would like to welcome all for you to my final service with Harvest Thanksgiving at La Chapelle Palluau on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

God bless,  
Caroline

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## SEPTEMBER FORWARD PLANNING

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*This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible. If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.*

Responsibility (Organiser)	4 <sup>th</sup> September LCP	11 <sup>th</sup> September PdS	18 <sup>st</sup> September LCA	25 <sup>th</sup> September PdS
<b>Welcomers</b> (Polly Ward)				
<b>Salle Setup/ Clearing away</b> (Chris Green at PdS)		Kent/Green		Green
<b>Refreshments after the service</b> (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)		Jenny W		Jean & Ken Miller
<b>Musicians +/- Organist</b> (Polly Ward)		Stuart S-J		Stuart S-J
<b>Readers</b> (Polly Ward)				





# Dates for your Diary



- 5<sup>th</sup> September** Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))  
**8<sup>th</sup> September** Thursday **14.30 Sewing Circle** (For more information, email: [jpsmorandiere@free.fr](mailto:jpsmorandiere@free.fr))  
**9<sup>th</sup> September** Friday **Harvest Supper** at Puy de Serre (contact Polly for more information)  
**11<sup>th</sup> September** Sunday **Harvest Service** at Puy de Serre  
**12<sup>th</sup> September** Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))  
**16<sup>th</sup> September** Friday **Picnic lunch & "Walk for Alzheimer's Research"/"Walking for my Husband"**  
 Starting at the carpark, La Colline des Moulins, Mouilleron-en-Pareds" (details from Polly Ward)  
**19<sup>th</sup> September** Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))  
**22<sup>nd</sup> September** Thursday 14.30 **Ladies Circle** Craft with Olga/Cakes: Rita  
 (For more information, email: [jpsmorandiere@free.fr](mailto:jpsmorandiere@free.fr))  
**26<sup>th</sup> September** Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

*...and looking ahead...(please see website Calendar)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> October** Sunday 11.00. **Harvest Festival** and **Revd Caroline's Farewell Service** at La Chapelle Achard.

**3<sup>rd</sup> October.** Revd Caroline's official leaving date.

**12<sup>th</sup> November** Saturday **Autumn Bazaar** at St Hilaire de Voust.



## A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



*Don't forget your gifts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.  
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in  
Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.*

### Restos du Coeur

Thank you everyone for your generosity in continuing your contributions to Restos. Food, clothes and all sorts of things that can help to improve the lives of people who have so little.....We are so blessed by the Lord. We don't have to go without food and within reason we are able to buy all the things we need.

The more I read my bible, the more I realise that Jesus' mission was, so often, to the poor.

Our bible study is of Luke and it is making changes in the way I understand my bible.

Please come and join us every Monday afternoon. (See page 6)

Bill.

*For more details and updates of all these events, please visit our website:*

[www.AllSaintsVendee.fr](http://www.AllSaintsVendee.fr)

Following a recent decision to limit the information circulated in the "Grapevine" Prayer List, followed by a request to reconsider the decision which was published in last month's Grapevine, I am pleased to publish below David's summing up of the situation.

## Prayer List



From David Pearson

The following is an extract from notes of a Ministry Team Meeting held on 25 July 2016:

"The meeting then discussed in detail a letter received concerning our previous decision regarding the cessation of naming people in the Intercessions...*the main concern centred on publishing the names in Grapevine which subsequently could be accessed worldwide via the website.* (my italics). A detailed discussion took place and it was agreed that people do need to know the names of those for whom we are praying – we just need to maintain outside confidentiality and ask for their permission. It was decided to use the "Prayer List" compiled by David Pearson and distributed by email. David has put out an invitation in Grapevine for others to join but there have been no new applications to date. David will liaise with PW to check all Intercessors are on the prayer list circulation and this list will give the names that can be used during Intercessions each Sunday. It is hoped in this way we can obtain permission from the people concerned, keep the list manageable and add and remove names in the correct time frame. David agreed to explain this in Grapevine and reply to the letter's authors."

In the light of this latest decision, I suggest that if people really would like names published in Grapevine, specifically, they or their 'sponsors' should *initiate* that request by writing to me at:

davidlpearson@orange.fr

certifying that permission is given or has been obtained.

Can I also remind people that they can subscribe to the e-mail prayer circular by writing to me at the same address.

Thank you all

David

## *Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP*



*We are now studying ST LUKE'S GOSPEL*

*We meet each Monday afternoon at 3.00pm at our house  
at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79).*

*Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

*Please give us a ring if you would like to join us and we will give you directions to the house if you  
don't already know where we are.*

*Carole and Bill Stocking.*



**You are warmly invited to our next "Faites le Plein" meeting  
which will be held in La Roche sur Yon on  
Wednesday 7th September 2016.**

The evening will at 7pm with refreshments, followed at 7.30pm by a time of worship,  
in French and English.

**The meeting will be led by Chris Elmer.**

Anyone who would like personal prayer ministry, offered by a qualified team,  
can receive that at the end of the meeting.

The meeting is held at the Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre (the entrance to this site is opposite the  
Boulangerie Potier which has a red frontage, through the large gateway, into the car park). Look out for the  
"Faites le Plein" signs directing you towards the restaurant.

**Hope that you may join us!**

Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team.

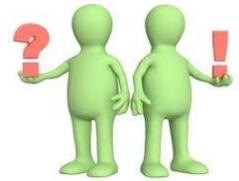
[liz.jond@wanadoo.fr](mailto:liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)



# These are YOUR pages.....

Once again, my thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine" so, read on, and see what you can discover.

Your comments will be much appreciated.



*You will discover:*

*Messages received from friends of ASV, including:*

***"Music to my Ears" from Revd Gareth;***

***Thanks from Marian and Richard***

***The Autumn Bazaar & Harvest Supper information***

***"Christians against Poverty" by Mike Knight***

***"Walking for my Husband" information will appear later on the website***



*Your Opinion really does Count!!*

*Thank you to all those of you who expressed their support following Marian and Richard's Prayer List letter in last month's "Grapevine"...The request together with the replies, have been considered by the Ministry Team and, as a result, I have included, under the Prayer List heading, David's explanation of the decision which was made.*



Dear Good Friends,

We understand that, following our recent letter to you expressing concern about the reading of the prayer list, the decision to not read it in our Churches is now being reversed. This is indeed an answer to our prayers, and a move for which we are most grateful. Not just us, but having received several letters of support, we feel it will be welcomed by many.

May we take this opportunity to thank those concerned with the amendment.

Yours most gratefully,

Marian and Richard



# AUTUMN BAZAAR

12 NOVEMBER 2016

at ST HILAIRE-DE-VOUST

Planning is now underway for this event,  
but the number of stalls and attractions will entirely depend on the amount of volunteers  
on the day.

Might **You** be one?

Can you spare the morning or the afternoon (or both) to help?  
If so please will you tell one of the people named below.

We are also looking for donations for the stalls, listed below.  
Please help with this if you are able, preferably sooner, rather than at the last minute,  
so that organisers know what they have to offer on the day.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Jewellery</b>        | Maggie Calton with Jane Gawn.   |
| <b>Scarves</b>          | Pat Martin who will ask for <i>clean, laundered</i> scarves                                       |
| <b>Tombola</b>          | Rackhams. All items, especially interesting bottles, welcome!                                     |
| <b>Cakes</b>            | Jo Collinson and Suzanne Patterson, also gluten free items, + <b>jams and preserves</b>           |
| <b>As New Gifts</b>     | Linda Gorton, Simon Patterson and Keith Fowler  |
| <b>Book Stall</b>       | Hester and Colin Grimshaw, a new supply is requested as previous collection has now been reduced. |
| <b>Crafts</b>           | Jenny Wilkinson, Joan Stewart and craft group, <b>to include cards.</b>                           |
| <b>Toys</b>             | Ken Miller, any type of toy in good condition, complete jigsaws etc.                              |
| <b>Bran tub</b>         | Jean Miller - with emphasis on children's items if these are donated.                             |
| <b>Side shows</b>       | Sunday School children.   |
| <b>Christmas Hamper</b> | Donations of Christmas-type fare to Dee and Curtis Parkyn please.                                 |
| <b>Refreshments</b>     | Polly Ward, Maggie Kent, Chris Green.   |

**God Bless You All**

Marian Rackham (richard.rackham@cegetel.net)

# Christians Against Poverty

## Part 1.

by Mike Knight

Several months ago I picked up a book 'Nevertheless' by John Kirkby in a charity shop. It tells the story of how CAP was formed and its early days struggle to survive. The book is now available free from the CAP website.

John Kirkby was born in 1961 and grew up in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire. Although his parents were Christians, he had little interest in church as he grew up. He spent much of his teenage years rebelling, developing an increasingly destructive relationship with the classic combination of drink and drugs. At fifteen he made up a National Insurance number in order to get a job at a paint manufacturer fitting lids onto the paint tins. Over the following years he worked through a series of apprenticeships and jobs discovering along the way that he had a strong entrepreneurial streak.

At the end of his teens, he began a job as a debt collector and loan salesman for a finance company called Avco Trust. Over the next seven years he worked his way up through the company until he was running several of their branches. After moving on, John set up a number of businesses including a financial services company, a loan brokerage firm and what became the largest sun-bed retailer in the North of England. Through his success he was able to fund a lavish lifestyle including a large home, cars and holidays.

However through a series of mistakes and excessive borrowing to finance his businesses, John's world soon began to fall apart as the banks started to ask for their money back. In 1992 he was advised by his accountant to declare bankruptcy. He avoided doing so, but lost virtually everything and found himself with debts of £78,000 and nowhere to turn.

One thing John was left with was a house he had acquired through a property deal. It had a huge mortgage and he was desperate to get rid of it, but instead ended up renting it out to a pastor, Paul Hubbard and his family, who had recently moved over from Norway. John gradually got to know them and one day, in 1992, when he visited to collect the rent, they offered him a Bible and invited him to attend their church. He accepted and was so overwhelmed by the experience that afterwards he gave his life to God. Having encountered Jesus, John found himself desperate to share God's love often going to the Bradford Royal Infirmary talking to and praying for ill people he met there.

John said that after becoming a Christian you would have thought his life would transform and go from strength to strength, but in fact his circumstances worsened. His precarious financial situation began to deteriorate and his marriage of twelve years failed. During the following year his life completely fell apart. He became destitute, hurting, lonely and afraid. He was left camping out in a friend's bedroom. His two young girls would sleep on camp beds in the room when they came to visit. He was struggling just to find the money to feed himself and his children, regularly relying on the kindness of his family and friends at church to get by.

After hitting rock bottom, John gradually began to sort his life. He was able to find a job at a financial services company that he had helped found several years earlier. This position paid enough to allow him to considerably reduce his debts, but it also made him feel increasingly uneasy about the business of lending money. He often had to deal with people who were unable to pay back the money they had borrowed and were really struggling. His Christian instincts were telling him to help them and do what he could to reduce their payments.

In March of 1996, two years after finding work again, John decided that he needed to make a choice; either carry on as he was or put his life in God's hands and see where it would take him. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor. He chose the latter and soon afterwards finished working for the company. Following that, his intention was to set up either a Christian building society or finance company, but during a telephone conversation with someone he had never met he was asked what he could do that wouldn't require any start-up funds. As soon as the call was over he went to his computer and typed in 'debt counselling'. As the weeks progressed he prayed and studied the Bible along with researching money advice. He registered a charity using the name Christians Against Poverty. In August, armed with a lot of faith, but no money except a £10 gift, CAP was launched and in September, John met his first clients. God was about to put all of John's experiences of debt, poverty, personal breakdown and dealing with finance to very good use in an amazing way.

The miraculous story of how CAP grew from these humble beginnings into a large and respected charity is detailed in the book. It is full of incredible faith, answered prayer and God's repeated provision.

Throughout 1996 and 1997 John and his family struggle on, often with only a few £s in the bank for food, and nothing to pay for utilities and to repay his debts but throughout this they never wavered in their faith and their belief that this was what God wanted them to do.

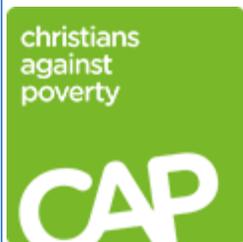
John's diary for December 1996 states that they sent out over 500 requests for financial help and getting few replies, of the 80 Churches in the Bradford area only 2 gave any support. He wrote to over 100 large companies in the area and again, only 2 gave any help.

By the end of their second year they had helped 167 people sort out their finances.

The work continued in spite of the shortage of funds and several centres around the country were opened but towards the end of 1999 it was obvious that they needed to find larger premises for the head quarters, they were working in a small industrial unit with John's office in a broom cupboard. Looking around it was obvious that with so little money it wasn't going to be easy, so John asked a supporter who managed a family trust if he would help, straight away he offered £150,000 and with this and another donation they managed to find a large old run down old mill in Bradford, it was on the market for £250,000 but they accepted John's cheeky offer of £185,000. The purchase went through in January 2001 and an army of volunteers started to make it usable. One Saturday over 100 people cleared 100 cubic metres of rubbish into skips. Over the next five years the mill, now called Jubilee Mill was transformed with the help of £1.3 million in large and small donations and interest free loans from supporters.

Some of the mill is now rented out to other businesses bringing in much needed income.

*(Part 2 to follow next month)*



The book is available free from Christians Against Poverty website.  
<https://capuk.org/about-us/the-cap-story>

# Music to my ears



Do you like listening to music ? One of the things that makes my home a home is me playing background music on the radio or, better still, the music I myself choose on my CD player.

My collection of 78s, 45s, 33s, are long gone, as are those little cassette tapes. Now, in their place, an extensive CD collection which doesn't get played as much as it deserves.

Well, I'm sitting at the dining room table writing next month's birthday cards and behind me, a CD of British Light Classical music is playing – a double album – and I'm transported back in time to my youth, to the programmes on the wireless of which these pieces were then theme tunes. You'll undoubtedly recognise the tune with which 'The Archers' begins and the theme tune for 'Desert Island Discs' both of which are still going strong. But do you know the one is entitled 'Barwick Green' by Arthur Wood and the other 'Sleepy Lagoon' by Eric Coates?

And do you remember the music from 'What the Papers say' or 'Dr Finlay's Casebook' and more obscurely, their composers – Malcolm Arnold or Trevor Duncan?

So what are your favourite pieces of music and what memories of time past do they evoke for you ? And are you brave enough, kind enough, to share your secret with Jacqui and other readers who belong to All Saints' La Vendée?

*Gareth Randall,  
Priest-in-charge,  
St Bartholomew's Dinard*



*Come on everyone; let's hear from our Readers....*

# Do you **pay** French taxes?



If so, did you know that for every 100 euros that you give to our Church the taxman will reduce your tax bill by 60 euros thus a 100 euro donation will only cost you 40 euros (and you will be able to increase your donation!!!)

**You simply need to make your donation in a recordable manner.** You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount on your tax return (no need to send proof, just keep your certificate in case you are asked for it) and the taxman will reduce your tax bill by a figure equal to 60% of your donations.

Donations to the vicarage renovation can also qualify for tax relief if made through A S V.

## Start Planned Giving now and let the taxman help our Church!

Contact...Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)  
or..... Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

..... **To find out how easy it is!!!**



Don't forget, if you have missed a service and would like to read the **Sermon for the Day**, then log on to the ASV website at:

[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr).



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of "Grapevine".

Thank you to all the Contributors and I look forward to hearing from you next time  
SO.....

**send your contributions and comments to:**

**Jacqui at:** [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)

**before the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, please**

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

