

Church of All Saints in the Vendée
"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

 *The Grapevine* 

February 2016

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Preface

I am writing this on a cold, grey day in January, and after such a mild December who knows what the weather will be like in February? Thankfully I am in our own home so am curled up in front of the wood burner! But my prayers are with those who are so affected by the floods in the UK and the refugees and other homeless people who are in such desperate conditions. Thank you all that have supported our appeals for goods for the refugees and for money. Polly and I are making sure that it all gets to the right places to be moved onwards.

Healthwise I am very much better and I want to thank you all for your prayers and support. I hope you enjoyed the story of the ladies toilet in last month's Grapevine! I will be remembering that I am only a part time, house for duty Priest this year if Bob has anything to do with it.

We seem to be barely finished with Christmas before we are into Lent this year. I am busily reviewing some potential Lent material for us and hope to be able to publish some suggestions in time. It is difficult to meet regularly except on Sundays but perhaps just for the 6 weeks of Lent some of us could achieve that?

The Ashing Service which marks the start of our Lenten journey is at 3.00 pm on February 10th in Puy de Serre. This offers a chance to commence this time of reflection and repentance communally, to offer the following weeks to God; to work in us and in our lives. For those of you who have never attended a service such as this it can be moving and thought provoking. Hopefully, by this not being in the evening, it will make driving easier for those who have to travel.

Another event that happens in Lent is the 'Women's World Day of Prayer', 'Jour Mondial de Prière' on the 4th March. This year the service has been prepared by the people of Cuba with the theme "Receive children. Receive me". Last year some of us met at Joan Stewart's home in the morning for an English version and some also joined with the Catholics at Les Essarts in the evening for a French version. We plan to repeat these activities this year and you are all invited to join us – even the men! Further details will be published when we have them.

I preached* on the second Sunday after Christmas about 2016 being a chance for us all to grow and move forward, that our faith can be passionate and bearing the fruits of the Spirit. That we should try not to allow ourselves to become dormant or stale and set in our ways; rather that we could be open to whatever God is leading us to be and to do. This is not about doing away with all tradition, after all that is an important part of the Church of England, but coming to our faith and worship fresh and full of enthusiasm, waiting for an encounter with God and for the work of the Holy Spirit to be recognisable. We need to be expectant that there will be signs, wonders and miracles, whether our worship is traditional or modern.

I hadn't realised that I was doing it, but I don't believe that it's a coincidence, that I have ended up with three study books for the Song of Songs this year. There is for me, a sense that we could return to that first glow and excitement, the fervour of a new relationship, rather than the humdrum ways of a stale-ish long term relationship, particularly if that is limited in communication. It is up to each one of us to decide whether we can change our relationship with God and by allowing him more input into our lives move onwards into an exciting new life with him. We are 'born again' in Christ, we don't have to remain the same or be the person we have always been. It is not only people like criminals and drug addicts who can allow God to change their lives completely. We all can. This Lenten time may be a time when that can be considered? It could be so exciting and fruitful for us as individuals and as the Congregations of All Saints Vendée, it is much easier to attract others to our faith if we are passionate and excited about it, and if it shows in the way that we live our lives.

God bless,
Caroline

*See: [www.allsaintsvendee.fr/Previous Sermons](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr/Previous_Sermons)

FEBRUARY into MARCH 2016 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]

7th February 11.00	LCP	Sunday before Lent	Holy Communion
Exodus 34:29-35,		Psalm 99,	2 Corinthians 3: 12- 4:2, Luke 9:28b-43
10th February 15.00	PDS	Ash Wednesday	Ashing Service
Isaiah 58: 1-12,		Psalm 51:1-18,	2 Corinthians 5: 20b- 6:10, John 8:1-11
14th February 11.00	PDS	1 st Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion <i>(Note: There will be no Bring & Share Lunch today)</i>
Deuteronomy 26: 1-11,		Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16,	Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
21st February 11.00	LCA	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Morning Worship
Genesis 15:1-12,17-18,		Psalm 27,	Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13: 31-35
28th February 11.00	PDS	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion
Isaiah 55:1-9,		Psalm 63:1-8,	1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9
6th March 11.00	LCP	Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion
1 Samuel 1:20-28,		Psalm 34:11-20,	Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2: 33-35

(There may be last-minute changes to the readings so please check with Revd Caroline or the Worship Leader if you are a Reader)

*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 always available)



FEBRUARY FORWARD PLANNING

*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)	7 th February LCP	10 th February PDS <i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	14 th February *PDS	21 st February LCA	28 th February PDS
Welcomers (Polly Ward)					
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)			No Hall, so tea and coffee will be served in the church		Green/Parkin
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)					Christine & Brian
Musicians +/- Organist (Polly Ward)	Simon		Stuart	Simon	Stuart
Readers (Polly Ward)					

Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP



We are now studying MATTHEW AND BECOMING A DISCIPLE.
We meet each Monday afternoon at 2.30pm 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.

Coëx HOME GROUP



All are welcome to the next meeting which will take place on
Thursday 11th February at 2.30pm,
Chez Suzanne, 109 La Maigrière, 85220 COËX,
where we shall continue our study of the BOOK OF ACTS.

If you would like to come and need directions, please call Suzanne on:
0244366290 or email: SiSuPatter@neuf.fr

SEE YOU THERE!



Dates for your Diary



- 3rd February, Wednesday, 7 for 7.30pm Faites le Plein/The Filling Station** at Maison de Diocèse, (Page 9)
- 4th February**, Thursday, 10.00, **Church Council meeting**
- 5th February**, Friday, **Quiz** (contact Polly Ward, see page 10)
- 7th February** Sunday, 11am **Holy Communion**, La Chapelle Palluau
- 10th February** Ash Wednesday 15.00 **Ashing Service** at Puy de Serre
- 11th February** Thursday **Coëx Home Group** at 2.30pm, (See page 3}
- 12th February**, Friday, **Soirée Crêpes** at La Salle, Puy de Serre (contact Polly Ward)
- 14th February** Sunday, 11am **Holy Communion**, Puy de Serre (*No Bring & Share Lunch*)
- 21st February** Sunday, 11am **Holy Communion**, La Chapelle Achard
- 25th February**, Thursday, 2.30pm **1st Ladies Circle of the Year** (Contact:Joan jpsmorandiere@free.fr)
- 28th February** Sunday, 11am Holy Communion, Puy de Serre

Also, a Reminder...

Every Monday Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP (See Page 3

...and looking ahead....

- 4th March, Friday, 11.00 **Women's World Day of Prayer Service** at La Morandiere, Mouilleron-en-Pareds (contact Joan or Caroline - see page 6)
- 9th April, Saturday, **ASV AGM** at Les Essarts
- 30th April, Saturday, **Non-Annual Coffee Morning & Plant Sale** (See Page 11)

There is the possibility that the church at La Chapelle Achard will be unavailable during April. Please check beforehand on the website that the service will take place. www.allsaintsvendee.fr.



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 Restos du Coeur in Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.
(See Bill's Christmas Letter)*

For more details and updates of all these events, please visit our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

Sunday Club

Sunday Club takes place at Puy de Serre.
If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m.
They will be most welcome.

Barbara

*[Please contact Barbara if you require more information:
Phone 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr]*

Names of our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers:

Alasdair Anderson.

Paul Brechet & Anne.

Tony Calton & Maggie.

Pat Darley & Roy.

Joelle Gosselin & Bernard.

Celia Houghton.



The family and friends of Peter Hutchinson.

Lorna Inglis & family.

(Lorna is the daughter of Richard and Marian Rackham)

Jean Mylod & Mike.

Caroline Sackley & Bob.

Elizabeth Vine.

And please continue to remember all those whom we know and whose names do not appear here, who are in need of prayerful support at this time.

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 do not want to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need. In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.

Peter Hutchinson

1927-2016

Peter Hutchinson was born in 1927. He grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne, attending its prestigious Royal Grammar School and ultimately graduating from Newcastle University Medical School.

Starting in general practice, Peter went on to specialise in geriatric care where he developed a number of innovative aspects to 'Community Geriatrics' as it became known. With Peter at the helm, nobody could be placed in a social services home in Newcastle unless he or a colleague had screened them first. This avoided the tragedy of old people with limited treatable conditions being placed in 'care' rather than receiving medical treatment. He also initiated regular medical reviews of care home residents, something of a novelty at the time.

In the late sixties, Peter met and married Rachel, an author and journalist who became women's editor of the Newcastle Journal. They retired to France in the early nineties. Rachel was a keen churchgoer, a passion tolerated but not shared by Peter.

Following a stroke in 2008 Rachel became increasingly unwell and rapidly lost both speech and hearing. This put an enormous strain on Peter who by now was suffering from Parkinson's disease and osteoporosis. During these years, their home help Christiane became their invaluable carer.

After Rachel's death in 2012, Peter's own health began to deteriorate. Following several bad falls and injuries, he was hospitalised. He finally went into long-term care in La Chataigneraie, where he died on New Years Day 2016.

Peter will be remembered by all who knew him as a quiet, unpretentious man with a wonderful, dry sense of humour. He will be greatly missed by friends, both here and in the UK and, of course, by his brother and sister.

(Forwarded by David)

Eulogy - Desmond Vine

All at the 'Rendez-Vous Christian Fellowship' were saddened by the passing of their much loved Secretary, Desmond Vine. (Des). Des was a committed Christian, and former secretary of the All Saints Vendée Anglican Chaplaincy.

He was a real Gentleman, full of wisdom, compassion and excited by his faith in Jesus, his Saviour. We all loved Des, and rejoice in his life everlasting, and give thanks for the privilege of knowing, and fellowshiping with him. We look forward to the day when we will meet again!

Des leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and two sons Richard & Ian. Our prayers are with them.

(Chris Taylor, forwarded by David)



Women`s World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2016

11am

La Morandiere
Mouilleron en Pareds

The theme this year is:
“**Receive children. Receive me**”
and has been written by a group of women from Cuba

Please come along everyone, all you men too!

[If you would like to take part in the Service
please contact Joan (jpsmorandiere@free.fr) or Caroline]

Before Christmas two collections were taken at services to be donated to other agencies:



£155.00 was raised at **Puy de Serre** (changed into sterling) for the **Children's Society** at the Christingle service early in December, and

128.95 euro was raised at the Ecumenical service held at **Puy de Serre** on Tuesday 15th December in aid of Embrace - the charity for **Syrian refugees in the Middle East**.

Margaret Jelley



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

1) LENT - The season of lent is early this year - Ash Wednesday is February 10th. You may like to know that the earliest Ash Wednesday can ever be is the 4th February. This last occurred in 1818 and will not happen again until 2285! On Ash Wednesday (or the "Day of Ashes") it is the custom in many Christian churches for the ceremonial imposition of ashes on believers, usually in the form of a cross marked on the forehead accompanied by the words "For dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19). This custom is a sign of repentance and ashes have always been associated with cleansing and renewal. Can we encourage you to attend the Ash Wednesday service? It really can be the best start to the Lent season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and preparation for Easter.

2) AGM - A reminder again that a date has been set for the 2016 AGM of ASV, Saturday April 9th. Please mark the date in your diary. There will be a number of vacancies to be filled on Church Council and remember that Wardens are elected each year. Could you fill one of these positions?

Doug and Barbara

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!!!**

ASV ECUMENICAL LINKS IN THE PUY DE SERRE AREA.

On Sunday, 10th January nearly 90 people (35 from ASV) worshipped together in the Church at **Puy de Serre**. They came from the congregations of ASV, the Catholic Church and the Eglise Protestante Unie de France (formerly the Eglise Reformée) as part of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

For many years the three churches have, in turn, organised this ecumenical, bi-lingual service. Last year it was ASV, and this year it fell to the Catholic priest, Père René Claud Guibert, to co-ordinate our preparations for it- though representatives from all three churches took responsibility for the detailed arrangements. ASV organist, Stuart Stainton-James ensured our music, which was appreciated and commented on by a number of French and English worshippers.



At Christmas, nearly 60 people from the 3 churches had come together for the midweek **Christmas Carols and Lessons** service in **Puy de Serre**. We have, since we began English language services at Puy de Serre in 2002, sought to develop ecumenical links between the churches. However, its only in recent years that language difficulties and initial concerns about the 'differences' between us has given way to an appreciation of our shared beliefs, the fact that we are guided by the same Holy Spirit and serve the same Lord.

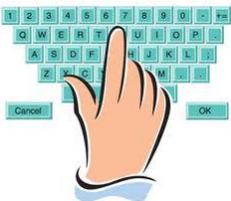
So, this next year we look forward to again working together to ensure ecumenical, bi-lingual services whenever they are appropriate. This is in addition, of course, to our continuing to develop our mission to the wider community via home groups, our social programme, individual membership of local organisations, ex-pat groups, and our support of events organised by our local communes.

John Matthews



Don't forget to view the website for "Last Week's Sermon" and updates of events mentioned here as well as STOP PRESS items.

*In case you have not requested "Grapevine" to be emailed directly to you, it is always possible to view the latest edition on the ASV website at:
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

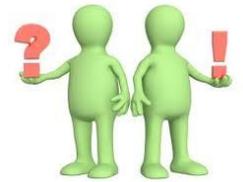
before the 15th of February, please

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





**Keep reading because....
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:

Contributors this month: Revd Gareth Randall, Carole & Bill Stocking, Polly Ward/Quiz Night, Marian & Richard Rackham, Peggy Pitcher, John Matthews and Faites le Plein/Filling Station next meeting.

Please send your Notices and Comments to me, Jacqui, at : sjfamily66@hotmail.com



**You are warmly invited to our next
"Faites le Plein" meeting
which will be held in La Roche sur Yon
on Wednesday 3rd February 2016**

We are pleased to welcome as a speaker, Nicolas Soullard.

The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments followed at 7.30pm by a time of sung worship, in French and English, then Nicolas Soullard will speak to us. He'll speak in French and there will be a translation into English.

Nicolas Soullard is married to Lucie. They have 6 children and live in the Vendée. He works as an industrial planner in the food industry as well as running his own catering company whose activities include selling take-away food at Christian conferences.

Since 2004, Nicolas and Lucie have celebrated 'The Marriage Supper of the Lamb' on the day of the 'Feast of Christ the King' by organising a meal for Christians of all denominations - a time of listening to the Lord.

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

For the NEXT QUIZ, on 5th February,
I am offering :

Chicken Pie (or Chicken & Ham or Turkey & Ham)
or
Lasagne

Menu suggestions please to Polly Ward
wardpolly@outlook.com

Cross questioning



As a Brit abroad, I have to confess that I'm addicted to BBC Radio 4's 'Today Programme'. For decades, back in London, Brian Redhead, then John Humphrys, Sue McGregor, Edward Stourton and James Naughtie informed my breakfast-time with news and comment and questioning. And now the team has been joined/replaced by a new team of new presenters - Mishal Hussain, Justin Webb, Sarah Montague, and Evan Davies. And, sad-to-say, James Naughtie has just retired on Wednesday 16th December - the day before 'O Sapientia'.

What makes me less comfortable nowadays, however, is the way interviews can be conducted. Okay, I do accept we don't want anyone in public life to get away with something or pull the wool over our eyes. We do live in a climate of accountability. But when folk are questioned, the interview sometimes seems to lack the respect proper to anyone as a person, due to someone who holds a public office.

Am I getting too sensitive or are my values of due deference, proper respect, things of the past along with opening the door for someone or giving up one's seat on a bus or a train ?

What do you think ?

Are you brave enough to let Jacqui know ?

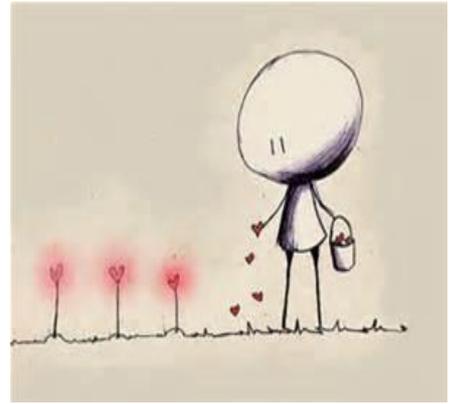
*Gareth Randall,
Priest-in-charge,
St Bartholomew's Dinard*



PS I did like Garry Richardson the Sports Correspondent too !

Dear Friends,

A happy New year to you all. Towards the end of last year we circulated a letter to Church members, and also put in the Grapevine, a message asking for volunteers to assist with plants for the stall at the non-annual Coffee Morning, to be held on 30th April 2016. We have received a few names, and those people should now have received a letter about this. But we would like to re-circulate the invitation in case anyone wishing to help missed it the first time around. If you have already volunteered but not received a recent communication about this, please will you contact us? The original letter is printed below for your perusal. Our thanks for reading this,



God bless you all,

Marian and Richard

Seeds for thoughts!

As many of you know, our coffee morning is a “Non Annual” one! At this moment in time we feel quite fit and able to produce one this year, but last spring I spent ten weeks, almost all day every day, potting on over a thousand begonias and almost as many other seedlings and found it just too time consuming, and expensive in compost costs.

We have four daughters and the youngest was two pounds lighter than her sisters at birth, but we nourished and nurtured her and she is now amongst the tallest and strongest! For this reason I hate to throw away weak seedlings. They all need to be given a chance in my eyes!

Two very good friends who are not church goers gave me many hours of their time in the spring and when I said, “Never again,” one came up with the following suggestion:-

Why not ask friends if anyone will assume responsibility for just one packet of seeds, and bring the plants a few days before the Coffee Morning.

This really appealed to us as we know that we now have a reputation for having the plant stall, and attract many customers because of this. I will no doubt have the usual surplus to requirements of tomatoes, courgettes etc. but in recent years have sown many flowers specifically for “giving away for a donation please”.

We are more than happy to buy a variety of flower seeds and distribute them to anyone game to have a go. Are you willing to try this please? At this stage we are just sowing the idea, but in early spring we will need to know if we have support, and if so, how much so that we can purchase seeds accordingly.

Please will you give this proposition some serious thought.

Marian and Richard

Xxx

(Suggestions and offers of help, please, to Marian and Richard who can be contacted at:

richard.rackham@cegetel.net



BRIAN, HAZEL AND MICHAEL?

While English language Sunday services have been held in the Vendée since 2001, we were originally part of the Chaplaincy of Poitou-Charentes & the Vendée and operated as the Vendée Fellowship until 2007. Those who can recall those days will have fond memories of **Revd Brian Davies**, our first Priest in Charge, who moved in November 2010; to take up a post in the Dordogne as part of the Aquitaine team of clergy. Brian has now taken retirement, taking his last service on Christmas Day. At the moment Brian and Pam are enjoying a well earned break and plan to remain in their present home for the immediate future.

Brian was ordained at Savigné in 2005, along with **Revd Hazel Door**. Hazel became Assistant Chaplain to Michael Hepper in the Chaplaincy of Poitou-Charentes, moved to become a Priest-in-charge in Brittany, and returned to the Poitou-Charentes 4 years ago as Chaplain.

Like Brian, Hazel preached her final sermon as Chaplain on Christmas Day and has now retired. After a period away from the area, Hazel and Martin plan to remain in their present home near Civray.

Both Brian and Hazel intend to carry on their work for the Lord and are seeking to discern where he is leading them next.

Many of us also remember with affection **Revd Michael Hepper**, first Chaplain of Poitou Charentes (1999 to 2011), who left to become Vicar of Leyburn in the Yorkshie Dales, based at St. Matthew's Parish Church. Those of us who had worked with Michael did not expect that he would 'sit on his hands' in Leyburn so its no surprise to learn that the Church congregation is now growing and thriving.

Last year Michael went on his Royal Enfield motorcycle to the Iona community with some of his collages and when the Church offered cakes and tea at the Wensleydale Show, over 1000 people visited the Church marquee. In addition to being a gifted guitarist, Michael's now joining the local band as a Euphoniumist!!

All three priests have contributed greatly to the development of ASV and to God's work in the Vendée, and I'm sure you'll wish to join me in praying that they will continue to be conscious of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their future ministry.

John Matthews

This letter has been translated by Carole Stocking.....



RESTOS DU COEUR
15 rue de l'Epargne
79160 Coulonges sur l'Autize

COMMUNAUTE ANGLICANE

Coulonges le 21 December 2015

For Mme Polly, Monsieur Geoff, Mme Carole, Monsieur Bill,

Mesdames Messieurs,

For several years you have contributed with members of your community to the life of Restos du Coeur of Coulonges.

We want to testify our gratitude to all your members and thank them.

Donations in cash or in kind (commodities, food, hygiene products, clothing, books toys) allow us to improve the bi-weekly distributions to beneficiary's families. We currently serve 37 families representing 85 people (58 adults, 26 children and a baby of under 6 months).

This year Santa Claus arrived on Wednesday 16th during the children's party, organised by the volunteers of the Coulonges Restos du Coeur and all the children appreciated the distribution of gifts. Participants danced to the sound of the accordion played by a local artist. Joy and good humor filled the room for the whole afternoon.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy End of Year Holidays..

Yours Sincerely

Pierre Grit
Responsable du Centre de Coulonges

Signature

Dear friends,

In addition to the letter from Restos du Coeur, may I add the thanks of Carole and myself for the tremendous support of the good people of Puy de Serre and Pompaire churches, the Craft Creation Group of L'Absie and Alan and Vee Houghton's group in England.

So many people who were so generous and encouraging this Christmas. I really think that, together we made a difference.

We now look forward to the coming year together. I feel sure the generosity of us all is helping to make that difference for people less fortunate than ourselves.

Bonne Année and Bonne Santé to all our friends

Bill

....and finally...

Thanks to Gareth for another lively contribution to last month's Grapevine. What memories it evoked, sitting in the infant classroom learning the two following rhymes. Would that the world was so happy with the weather, especially in view of the current situation!

Marian

The Jolly Farmer

1. I know a jolly farmer so ruddy and trim,
Whatever may be the weather 'tis splendid to him,
Come sunshine or rain it is certain to please.
What's bad for the hay is just right for the peas.
2. He sows in such good humour he reaps only smiles,
With song so light and merry the hour he beguiles,
And since all the lads would keep time to his tune,
When there's work to be done it gets done pretty soon.
3. Though light may be his pockets his heart's lighter still,
Though ill may be his fortune his mood is ne'er ill,
The weather of life beats upon him in vain,
He will smile to the last be it sunshine or rain.

and...·

Anonymous Author

Whether the weather be fine
Or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.

.....and this poem from Peggy....."waxing lyrical over my best Christmas card – ever"

Never abandon your prayers for loved ones,
That they may enter the fold.
This Yuletide my heart has been filled with joy,
Bells ringing in Heaven I'm told
"Gran, it's full immersion", she wrote,
"My memory has always held clear,
The praying and readings you both shared with us.
Holy Spirit forever be near.

ANON.