

THE GRAPEVINE

August 2025



*The façade of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption church at Vouvant,
familiar to many readers as ASV are generously welcomed here every summer .*

THE GRAPEVINE



August 2025

Welcome to August's Grapevine !

I hope you are enjoying the summer. The (dare one say) very pleasant but unusually hot and sunny weather has brought with it the increased need not to waste water – every story has two sides.

Thank you once again, all those who have offered material for publication. Your time and trouble are deeply appreciated by very many readers.

ASV Contact details:

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| <p><u>Chaplain & President:</u> Revd Hazel Door Home phone: 05 49 87 71 45 e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr</p> <p><u>Vicarage:</u> 27 rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges: Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71</p> | <p><u>Churchwarden:</u> Chris Milton: Phone : 06 70 64 53 38 e-mail: chrisannmilts@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>Churchwarden and Lay Vice-Chairman:</u> Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72 e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Lay Minister:</u> John Matthews: Phone: 05 49 75 29 71 e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr</p> |
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Website:
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

...and, talking of contact details, I have received the following from Doug :

KEEPING RECORDS UP TO DATE !!

If any of your contact details change (phone number, email address, etc.) **please, please, please let us know right away** so we can update the Contact List and, where applicable, the Electoral Roll.

Out of date information is of no use at all and, with email addresses especially, someone may have sent an email message and assumed it had been received and not sitting in an obsolete, or rarely opened, inbox.

Many thanks

Doug and Chris Green

4-thought

Rev Hazel

At the recent Church Council meeting it was decided to explore the possibility of recruiting new congregational worship leaders. Several folk have already indicated their interest, and planning is in hand to start the process of equipping them for the role. If you might be interested, please let either me or one of the wardens, Margaret or Chris, know as soon as possible. We're hoping to start with an in-person session in the vicarage on a Monday in September. This will be an authorised role and as such will be subject to some Diocesan requirements.

I hope that you will all have been making the most of the sunny weather. Our garden is looking like a desert, my Koi carp have been so deep in their ponds that we have hardly seen them, the warmth has not stopped them eating though!

As I often do, I check the calendar of Saints and notables each month and I'm pleased that a few of those dear to my heart are celebrated in August :

- 9th [Mary Sumner](#), Founder of the [Mothers' Union](#), 1921
- 11th [Clare of Assisi](#), Founder of the [Minoresses](#) (Poor Clares), 1253
- 13th [Florence Nightingale](#), [Nurse](#), Social Reformer, 1910
- 14th [Maximilian Kolbe](#), [Friar](#), Martyr, 1941
- 20th [Bernard](#), [Abbot](#) of [Clairvaux](#), Teacher of the Faith, 1153
- 28th [Augustine](#), Bishop of [Hippo](#), Teacher of the Faith, 430
- 31st [Aidan](#), [Bishop of Lindisfarne](#), [Missionary](#), 651

Some years ago, Martin and I were privileged to be invited to join a pilgrimage to Assisi, the shrine, of course, of the founder of the Franciscan order. We then know little about St. Clare, so learning of her life was very illuminating.

As a teen, she heard [Francis](#) preach during a [Lenten](#) service in the church of San Giorgio at Assisi.

Inspired by his words and knowing that marriage was rapidly approaching, Clare went to Francis and asked him to help her to live after the manner of the Gospel. On the evening of [Palm Sunday](#), 20 March 1212, with the consent of Guido II, [bishop](#) of Assisi, Clare left her father's house accompanied by her aunt Bianca and another companion, and proceeded to the chapel of the [Porziuncula](#) to meet Francis. There, her hair was cut, and she exchanged her rich gown for a plain robe and veil. Fully cutting a woman's hair was a symbolic act showing that she was no longer bound by the laws of man or society but rather that she followed the will of God.

The Order of Poor Ladies was different from any other order or convent because it followed a rule of strict poverty. Clare wrote their Rule of Life, the first set of monastic guidelines known to have been written by a woman. Following her death, the order she founded was renamed in her honour as the Order of Saint Clare, commonly referred to today as the Poor Clares. Her feast day is on 11th August.

Rev Hazel



Churchwardens' Reports August 2025

First part is by Maggie: The Ecumenical Walk on Sunday 6th July 2025

"The day began with Morning Worship in the church of St Jean, Fontenay-le-Comte. There were only 3 of our congregation present (Trudy, Mara and Eugene) but they enjoyed singing with the aid of a cantor and the joyous sound of a Polynesian group and their children. They were made very welcome at the bring-and-share lunch.

I joined the walk in the afternoon. It was very interesting to see some of the old and fortified parts of the town, as well as wandering along the River Vendée. The theme of the day was *Artificial Intelligence, Real or Imaginary*. At the Protestant Temple, Pasteur Lilian Switzerland and Ivone Hiro gave a very elucidating and animated talk on the subject.

The day ended with a short organ recital at the church of Notre-Dame. Thankfully the rain held off during the day and it was good to spend time in fellowship with French Christian friends."

The next part of our report is by the 'new boy' and includes some points discussed in my first proper PCC Meeting which was held in the Vicarage.

The first matter was a thank you to all who helped make the Memorial Service (31 May) for Polly such a perfect tribute to her.

Next there was a discussion regarding Church finances, which seem to be in a

fairly robust state - quite an achievement in today's uncertain times.

It was felt that the service at Vouvant (15th June) was well attended and enjoyed by all, especially being invited for coffee and cakes provided by (grateful thanks!) Rupert and family. The next service there will be on the 20th July and it is hoped for good attendance and don't forget, if you have visitors (as most of us do this time of year!) please invite them along.

Also on the agenda was the perennial problem of finding worship leaders and Intercessors. Hazel has offered to lead training for these posts and there have been some volunteers who have put their names forward but if there are others who may be interested, please contact Maggie, myself or Hazel. A provisional date was agreed for the 1st September but if you would like to be more involved in assisting with church services, please 'step up'.

Blessings,

Your Churchwardens

Margaret Kent and Chris Milton



A rest during the Ecumenical walk in Fontenay-le-Comte, 6th July

Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers :

Bob and Caroline

Colin and Hester

Gini and Martyn

Jo and Brian

Maureen

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim and Sharmila

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

Pat and Roy

Linda, Carole's sister

ASV Treasurer's Report



June 2025:

Income: 2062.54 €

Expenditure: 2433.68 €

We have a negative balance for the month: -371.14 €

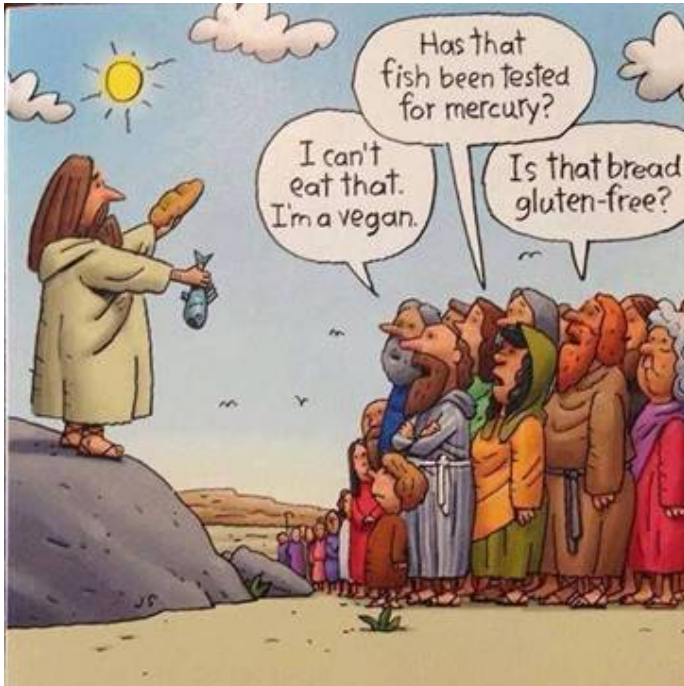
Income was slightly higher this month, but outgoings were a lot higher. However, compared to last year at this stage, income was up by a magnificent 5 euros, whilst outgoings were significantly higher - mostly due to a bill being settled a month earlier than in 2024.

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV.

If you would like to join the Planned Giving scheme - please contact me (mcgregor@lalogette.com), and I will send you the details. Participating will give you about 66% off your French tax bill!

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Elucubrations



Stoic classic *Meditations*,
by Marcus Aurelius:

It is the privilege of human nature to love those that disoblige us. To practise this, you must consider that the offending party is of kin to you, that ignorance is the cause of the misbehaviour, and the fault is involuntary, that you will both of you quickly be in your graves; but especially consider that you have received no harm by the injury, for your mind is never the worse for it.

The Talmud:

**“We do not see things as they are,
we see them as we are.”**

From the archives, in case you missed this!

Church Ladies with Typewriters.....

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins!

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

And this one just about sums them all up

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:
'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

Thank you once again to Trudy Coates for these gems!

Sunday Club

Jenny and Trudy have now officially retired from Sunday Club. As yet, no-one has come forward to take over.

If you feel this could be something you'd like to volunteer for, or for more information, please contact Jenny on :

jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Ladies' Group Meeting

All welcome !

For the date, time and address of the next meeting, please contact Jenny.

[Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

Dates for your Diary

[illegible]

[illegible]

Forward Planning

If the information shown here is inaccurate, out-of-date or incomplete, please could I be told of any changes in time for the next issue of Grapevine.

Many thanks !

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|--|------------------------------|
| Responsibility (Organiser) | Puy de Serre 11h Services |
| Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS) | Jenny W Trudy C |
| Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews) | Barbara M |

Uganda – “journey of a lifetime”

Linda Gorton



A journey of a lifetime

Just two of the scenes we witnessed in Uganda over the past weeks. The service on Sunday 12th was very lively. Choir band and dance leader. Lots of young people. One service out of 5.

The church service was in English. One at 7-9, then from 9-11. There were three other services on Sunday in Ugandan. There were five collecting baskets and as part of the notices the church warden announced the amounts from the previous Sunday and what support they were giving to the local community. It was a very lively and charismatic experience. The music and songs were familiar. We started with "When the deer pants for the water".

The sermon wasn't a patch on Hazel's but it was given by a young divinity student in his first year. We visited a deaf school in Kampala and a country school in the local area. I will do a part two of my trip to Uganda next month when I have more time to ponder what has been an eye-opening experience .

Linda Gorton

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The next meeting is on

For details and directions, please contact Jenny – email below. **Anyone wanting to host these meetings in the future, please contact Jenny !**
The times and places for future meetings will be announced as soon as they can be arranged.

New members very welcome!
Contact jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

All previous sermons and talks can be accessed at:
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

I hope you have found this issue of the Grapevine useful !

Please also consult the
website for any updates

And finally...

If there is anything relevant to the **All Saints Vendée** community or simply of general interest (events, stories, announcements, photos...), which you'd like to be published in the **September 2025** issue, do make sure you submit it* to me,

Nigel, at njp78@hotmail.com

Before August 15th 2025 !

Huge thanks as always to all contributors ! I look forward to all next month's offerings.

NJP

**preferably in a format I can edit, if necessary!*