



The Grapevine

Welcome to the Christmas and New Year edition of the Grapevine! The photo was taken by the organist Yves Rousseau in Vouvant Church, after the ASV Service of Lessons and Carols – a lovely occasion with a good turn-out!

NJP

The Grapevine

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Rev Hazel

May you all have a very blessed year.



2025 holds a special milestone in my life, in July it will be 20 years since I was ordained priest. I know many of you were there to witness the event, which was shared with my dear friend and colleague Brian Davies.

2025 already is promising to be another busy and special year. ASV members have worked hard in recent years to build strong ecumenical links with our French fellow Christians, the Eglise Protestante Uni de France, and the Catholic Church. As we were last year, we have been invited to join them in sharing the Vœux Œcumenique, which will be held in the la Salle des OPS de Fontenay, on the 8th January 2025. The full address is 102 rue de la République. It will commence at 1830. Unfortunately, I cannot be there, but I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend; it was a very good do last year!!!!

Following closely in January, is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service. This year the service has been created by a community in Italy, and our service will be on the 19th January. Further information will be given in church notices. Because I'm due to have surgery to my back, it is doubtful that I can attend either of these special events, but I pray that all members of ASV will make every effort to be present at them.

Martin and I wish all friends of and at ASV a very Blessed New Year, filled with love, joy, health, and happiness, may your hopes all be fulfilled,

Hazel

Rev. Hazel Door



CHURCHWARDENS' NOTES for January 2025

A REMINDER OF OUR REMAINING DECEMBER 2024 SERVICES

Sunday 22nd December - Morning Worship Service at FAYMOREAU church

Tuesday 24th December- Christmas Eve Holy Communion at FAYMOREAU church.

Churchwardens' Notes for January 2025

What a wonderful beginning to our Christian celebrations leading up to Christmas and 2025! The first of December saw the lighting of the first Advent candle at La Chapelle Palluau at the start of the Holy Communion service. This was followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch at the home of Colin and Hester Grimshaw, who always make everyone so welcome.

The second Sunday of Advent saw the second candle lit before the Holy Communion service at Puy de Serre. We were not able to use the church as usual, as the preparations are ongoing for the exhibition of crèches there (it begins on 15 December, every afternoon and well worth visiting), so we used the Salle St Augustine. After the service, while Jenny, Graham and Trudy provided coffee, we set up the salle for a 'Bring and Share' Christmas lunch. We began with apéros and on to a magnificent meal. The tables were decorated and as usual, there was plenty of food to go around. It was so nice to have time to share fellowship with our family of worshippers.

We celebrated the third Sunday of Advent in the church at Vouvant, with a service of Lessons and Carols. It was attended by almost 50 people, mostly British, but with some French locals, who all sang lustily and listened carefully to the carols and readings both in French and English. The organ was played beautifully as ever by Yves Rousseau and

the sermon was by John Matthews. The Advent candles were lit eventually after tries with two gas firelighters, a cigarette lighter and some matches, which I casually threw all over the aisle! The service ended with everyone crowding into the Sacristy for coffee provided by Jenny and Trudy. It all felt really Christmassy - if that's the right word - with a lovely crèche at the front of the church.

Our fourth candle will be lit at a Morning Worship service at 11h00 on Sunday 22 December at Faymoreau parish church, led by John Matthews. The fifth and central candle will be lit at our Christmas Eve service of Holy Communion at 11h00 which will also be held at Faymoreau church. This is the main church in the village, near the chateau and not the Miners' Chapel.

In the New Year there will be a 'Vœux de l'Année' held at the Salle OPS in Fontenay le Comte at 18h00 on 8th January to meet with fellow Christians in the area from various organizations. All are welcome to come and to share drinks and nibbles! The annual œcumenical service will be held on 19th January. Further details to follow.

We have had no enquiries as yet from those of you interested in joining the Church Council, or learning how to be a Worship Leader, Sacristan or Churchwarden. Doug will be standing down at the coming AGM and we need someone to take over from him. Please consider and pray for these roles. Do you know a retired priest that might be interested in helping us out when Hazel retires in June?

We both wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Your Churchwardens,

Doug and Margaret



Grapevine Treasurer's reports:


October 2024:

Income: 786.25 €

Expenditure: 1332.13 €

We have a negative balance for the month: -545.88 €.

This month did not appear to be quite as healthy, with some large bills and some monies not paid in by the end of the month. Hopefully next month will look much rosier, as it will also include the quiz proceeds. I cannot totally guarantee the accuracy of the accounts

this month as  decided to munch on the bank statements!

November 2024:

Income: 1963.97 €

Expenditure: 708.22 €

We have a positive balance for this month: +1255.75 €.

The Quizzes (October and November) raised a net total of 580 €. From the raffles we were able to give 100 € for our local Restos du Coeur and 90 € to the Children's Society, which we also support through the Christingle boxes.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:

Jo and Brian

Colin and Hester

Millie-Jean and her parents

Tim and Sharmila

Maureen

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

Irene

Pat and Roy

Bob and Caroline

Thanks to David Pearson, as always.

From Jenny Wilkinson:

[Cancer Charity Donations](#)



Jenny asks me to convey her gratitude for the donations given to the charity at our Christmas church meal last Sunday.

The total donated for the Cancer Charity was 70 euros !

All monies received from sale of sewing projects will be donated to Cancer UK in memory of my friend Karen Samson.



Sunday Club

"No one will be turned away, everyone is welcome
Calling all children, including holidaymakers, to attend Sunday
Club. Do ***please*** let us know a couple of days in advance, if you'd
like to come, so that we can prepare something special for you."*

Please contact Jenny if you require more information: email:
jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

How good's your Christmas French ? See the Sunday Club
wordsearch below to find out !



NOËL

MOTS MÊLÉS



Trouvez les mots de Noël cachés

BONNET
BOTTES
BOUGIE
BOÎTE
BRANCHE
CADEAU
CARTE
CHARBON
CHARITÉ
CHEMINÉE
CONIFÈRE
DONNER
DÉCORER
FAMILLE
FESTIN
FROID
GIVRÉ
JOYEUX
LUTIN
NŒUD
SAPIN
VEILLE
VERT
VŒUX
CHANT DE NOËL

D	O	N	N	E	R	H	F	A	M	E	L	Q	E	L	P	M	W	S	Z
B	C	C	A	D	E	A	U	O	G	V	É	Q	H	F	Y	M	T	E	W
B	H	N	I	P	A	S	H	U	T	E	G	N	F	V	D	L	O	Q	R
O	A	Y	C	T	Z	A	D	O	T	R	H	C	I	R	X	A	I	D	R
Î	N	K	L	U	T	I	N	I	B	T	L	D	N	M	O	P	U	É	T
T	T	Y	D	E	V	U	A	J	B	E	U	A	N	Y	E	I	W	C	Z
E	D	G	U	L	R	Z	U	S	O	Œ	Y	H	Z	O	C	H	D	O	V
D	E	X	S	L	M	Q	I	H	N	Y	R	Z	M	S	U	K	C	R	W
N	N	U	L	I	K	J	E	I	É	K	E	F	A	A	L	I	Y	E	Q
J	O	R	P	E	K	L	Y	R	F	S	L	U	W	H	S	D	V	R	F
O	É	G	T	V	L	M	V	O	W	P	H	V	X	N	L	B	A	D	F
R	L	V	U	I	D	I	X	É	X	B	B	R	S	E	T	R	A	C	A
X	V	T	M	D	G	V	T	M	R	O	C	B	C	F	Z	S	Z	G	M
Y	K	A	A	D	U	I	C	M	N	D	U	F	O	X	E	S	S	M	I
R	F	J	Y	J	R	H	U	N	S	G	B	S	N	T	A	S	I	F	J
F	O	C	D	A	A	X	E	I	J	K	A	X	I	L	T	V	T	G	R
U	W	X	H	R	U	T	Q	N	P	N	Z	L	F	T	Z	E	P	I	I
U	H	C	B	Œ	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	Z	È	B	P	P	S	J	N
Z	B	O	V	L	B	T	T	C	R	J	V	P	R	E	I	G	U	O	B
V	N	Q	T	U	G	H	X	Q	S	Z	Y	K	E	J	X	O	C	O	M



(Graphic kindly provided by Jenny Wilkinson – thanks, Jenny)



As you all know, Mike and Dominique Mylod work hard to support the Resto du Cœur in La Châtaigneraie. They are very grateful for your continued contributions !

Just a reminder, food items and toiletries are gratefully received; all items must be within date and unopened. Of course, they hope that ASV will continue to support it.

However, they would be most grateful if a kind volunteer could share the pick-ups with them, when Dominique cannot be here. He email is dominiquemylod@gmail.com or Whatsapp mobile 0044-7799883514. God bless you.

On behalf of : Mike and Dominique Mylod

Dates for your Diary

December 2024	
22nd	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at FAYMOREAU Church
24th	Tuesday 11h Christmas Eve Holy Communion at FAYMOREAU Church
25th	Wednesday Christmas Day
29th	
January 2025	Happy New Year!
5th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau (to be confirmed or cancelled)
8th	Œcumenical Evening at Fontenay-le-Comte – all welcome, details at the end of Grapevine
10th	Quiz at Puy-de-Serre
12th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Puy-de-Serre
19th	Sunday 11h Œcumenical service at Foussais-Payré
23rd	Council Meeting
26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

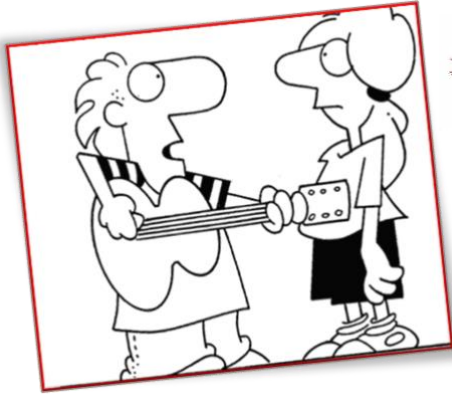
Forward Planning*

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 – Jenny (refreshments) or Barbara (flowers).

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

Please note : These details have not, to my knowledge, been altered or amended for some time, so it is assumed they are still accurate. If you are in doubt, please have a word with the relevant person ! Many thanks

*According to information received by the time of publication.



Elucubrations



"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

The forest was shrinking but the trees kept voting for the axe, for the axe was clever and convinced the trees that because his handle was made of wood, he was one of them. - Turkish proverb.

God Be With You by Oasis Chorale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsgjbpXLdTc>



No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, Meditation XVII
John Donne

Many thanks again
to Trudy Coates
for her Elucubrations !

"Two things are
infinite: the universe
and human stupidity;
but I'm not sure about
the universe!"
Albert Einstein

Œcumenical Service in Fontenay-le-Comte

Here are the details for this event :

VŒUX ŒCUMENIQUES
mercredi 8 janvier 2025 à 18h30

Salle des OPS
104, rue de la République Fontenay-le-Comte

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The times and places for future meetings will be announced as soon as they can be arranged. **Anyone wanting to host these meetings in the future, please contact me.** (We can no longer host at Moullierion-Saint-Germain).

New members very welcome!
Contact jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Visit the ASV website for any updates,
to check out articles and dates, and
don't forget,

ALL PREVIOUS **SERMONS** and TALKS can be
accessed at:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Grapevine !

There are certain to be special events which you'd like to be mentioned
in the **January 2025** issue, so make sure you submit them as soon as
you can,

to me,

Nigel Pearce, at

njp78@hotmail.com

by January 15th 2025

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année !