

The Grapevine

May 2026

Welcome to the May Grapevine!

*"Among the changing months, May stands confest
The sweetest, and in fairest colours dressed."**

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**James Thomson, 18th Century poet*

4-thought

Rev Hazel

Well, it's that time of year again. No, I don't mean holidays, or Springtime. I'm thinking about the AGM. Under the Church representation rules we are obliged to hold one before the end of May.

Therefore, as you probably already know, we will be gathering after the Eucharist in Puy de Serre on the 10th May.

Before I had to have surgery last year, it was intended to run a course to prepare and equip new Congregational Worship Leaders, (I hesitate to use the word "train") I have already the original list of names, but would be happy to welcome new enquirers. It is planned to have some in person meetings, at the Vicarage, but the majority of sessions will be via zoom. So, if you feel that you are being called to this type of ministry, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. Then I can set things in motion

Things to look forward to in May (apart from those above!)

Thursday, May 14, Ascension. One question I've been asked is why Jesus did not ascend to the Father earlier. Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days after His resurrection, instead of ascending immediately into heaven, and this would have been to demonstrate to His followers that He truly was alive. After all, they knew the Roman authorities had put Him to death, and that His body had been taken down from the cross and sealed in a tomb.

Sunday, May 24 Pentecost: First and foremost, Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. To Christians, the Holy Spirit represents God's ongoing, active presence in the world and in their lives. The Spirit provides empowerment for faith, daily guidance, and the courage to take positive action in our communities.

Pentecost is widely considered the birthday of the Christian Church. Following the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter delivered the first public sermon about Jesus. According to the book of Acts, thousands of people believed and were baptized that very day. (Read more in Acts 2. 1-4)

Hazel



Churchwardens' Notes - May 2026

I would like to start with a reminder that the AGM for our church, All Saints Vendée, will be here at Puy de Serre on Sunday 10th May, following the normal service. It is vital, if you would like to have a vote (which is now a rarity for us expats), that you ensure that you are on the Electoral Roll (explained below in case you missed it before), especially if you are considering standing for a position on the Church Council, (volunteers greatly encouraged and received!). Also, I'd like to draw your attention to two other entries in this month's edition. Firstly, the thank-you letter for our contributions to The Children's Society for our Christmas Candle Box collection.

Secondly, Maggie and I have compiled an ASV Rota for the period June to September, for those who help, practically during services. If this includes you, it would help if you could have a read through and contact either of us if you see any glaring problems or inaccuracies.

We have also sent our contribution to the Bishops Lent appeal for this year, of €100.

I am fast approaching my first anniversary as Churchwarden, during which time I have faced a fairly steep learning curve in helping to provide behind-the-scenes work which contributes to the smooth running of our services. The keys and switches of the Church are an amazing, convoluted set in themselves ; then there is the sound system and heating to be contended with, as well as many other matters that need our attention.

I must say a huge thank you to Maggie for guiding me through the 'minefield' and to all who help and support to ensure that our services flow seamlessly (or as near as possible!).

I would like to especially thank the 'band' who provide such sweet music to help us to worship, and of course not forgetting Jenny and Trudy who together with their team provide our much appreciated refreshments.

Your church wardens, Maggie and Chris.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

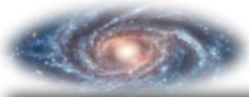
The Electoral Roll of a church is completely updated every six years - this was last done last year, 2025. Once updated, the Electoral Roll Officer is required to revise the Roll each year shortly before the Annual Meeting (AGM). The Council have now fixed the date for the AGM and it will take place after the service on Sunday 10th May 2026. The revision has to be completed not later than 15 days before the AGM (i.e. April 25th.) and not earlier than 28 days before the AGM (i.e. April 12th). Once it has been revised, the Roll is "frozen" until after the AGM has taken place.

If anyone wishes to join the ASV Electoral Roll, please complete an Application form and return it to me as soon as possible. **An application form can be obtained from me and I can email a copy if necessary.** If anyone wishes to have their name removed from the Roll, again, please contact me. If you are on the Roll, you will have filled out a new form last year. If you wish to remain on the Roll then there is nothing you need to do this year unless you need to tell me of any changes in your contact details.

Only people on the Electoral Roll are allowed to nominate or stand for Churchwarden or a Council Member. Again only Roll members may vote in elections or for motions at the AGM. In other words, membership of the Electoral Roll is the way to be able to take an active part in the life of the church. If you need more information please contact me, greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk, or on : 05 49 72 18 46.

Chris Green
Electoral Roll Officer

Elucubrations



“Trust us, you look amazing, you look beautiful,” Artemis mission pilot Victor Glover gushed. “And from up here, you also look like one thing. *Homo sapiens* is all of us. No matter where you’re from or what you look like, we’re all one people.”

Voltaire said at one point: Uncertainty or doubt is uncomfortable, but certainty or no doubt is stupid.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z1SwwFopJk&list=WL&index=11>

Gracias Choir - Were You There

God is almost always a cover for something else. "Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." Blaise Pascal.

At a recent service, Tony Lomas talked about Giotto's image of the Raising of Lazarus (Fresco Arena Chapel, Padua, Italy) which follows John 11:1-44 with the traditional fidelity to the text, and the usual artistic exceptions. Martha and Mary fall to their feet before Jesus. (In John, only Mary does.) Jesus' words to Lazarus are expressed in the blessing gesture he makes in the picture. As in the text but unlike the earliest Lazarus images, he is taken forth from a cave, not a built structure. The stone covering the cave mouth has been taken away by members of the crowd. Lazarus is wrapped as always in his grave cloths, and as always in the images (but not in the text) his face is visible.



« At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be, « What is hell ? Come early and listen to our choir practise. »



Spiralling costs resulting from current wars, among other things, mean that the help the Restos du Cœur

provide to those of limited resources is increasingly important.



The volunteers in La Châtaigneraie always express their heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations.

Donations are crucial to Resto's work, so again my thanks too, to everyone for your generosity!

Trudy



Trudy Coates



Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers :

Bob and Caroline

Gini and Martyn

Roy

Hazel and Martin

Jo and Brian

Maureen

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim and Sharmila

Nell (Mair and John's daughter)

Carole and Clive

Sally and David

(If you would like a name to be added to the Prayer List, please contact David Pearson.

Tel: 02 51 61 05 04 or Email: davidpearson@orange.fr)

Grapevine Treasurer's Report



Treasurer's Report March 2026

Editor's note : Apologies to all our readers, but due to e-mail problems, I am unable to publish the Treasurer's Report March 2026. It will be sent out separately as soon as possible.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

**Below is a reminder of how the Planned Giving scheme works :*

PLANNED GIVING THROUGH THE STANDING ORDER “VIREMENT” SCHEME.

Some people have been asking how to make a donation to ASV, or how to join the planned giving scheme.

Here are the details:

Account at the Crédit Mutuel, La Châtaigneraie:

Account Name: The Congregations of All Saints, Vendée

IBAN: FR76 1551 9390 5900 0216 6480 146

BIC: CMCI FR 2A

If you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact me:

mcgregor@lalogette.com, or by phone: 02.51.53.82.55

ADVANTAGES:

If you set up a standing order (virement) through your French bank, online, it is cost-free.

You stay in total control of what you give – the standing order (virement) can be changed at any time, but only by you!

Only the Treasurer knows how much you give per month. The details remain confidential.

You know what you are giving, and exactly when the money comes out of your account, and so your budgeting is much easier. You remain in total control.

If you complete a French tax form, then you will get a significant rebate (depending on your situation) at the end of each financial year (up to 65%).

If your French tax bill is small, then you will pay no tax at all!

ASV can plan ahead much more effectively, as it knows what contributions are coming in, rather than guessing who is going to be at church! We have recently lost some regular givers, through members returning to the UK, and so your donation at this time would be particularly appreciated.

DISADVANTAGES:

I can't think of any, so why not come and join the party!

British residents:

If you do *not* have a French bank account, but would like to support the work of ASV, then please contact me, and I can help you. Please note, you cannot use tax-efficient giving in both France *and* the UK.

Iain McGregor (Treasurer, All Saints, Vendée)

ASV Donation to The Children's Society

I reproduce here a letter received by Chris Green :

Dear Mrs Green,

**Thank you to the members of All Saints Anglican Church Vendee
for your very kind donation of £180.00**

Thank you so much for helping in our mission to change the lives of vulnerable children by donating **£180.00** in support of our work. Your kindness and generosity will make a significant difference to our work and I want you to know how grateful we are for your dedication and support – we really don't take it for granted.

Your valuable donation will allow us to continue reaching out to thousands of vulnerable children who are dealing with issues of hardship, abuse and neglect – often without anyone to support them. By choosing to support us, you've done something truly life-changing for thousands of children. Across the country we are all working together to ensure that more children have the care and support they need and deserve.

In the United Kingdom 4 million children live in poverty, 1 in 20 children have been sexually abused and more than 100,000 children run away from home or care every year. Without your help, so many of these children would continue to face the tragic effects of these issues without anyone to listen to or support them. Thanks to you, now more of them will.

On behalf of everyone at The Children's Society and the young people we work with, thank you for helping to make children's lives better.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Moran
Head of Supporter Experience



Dates for your Diary



April 2026	
26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
May 2026	
3rd	PLEASE NOTE : The service at La Chapelle-Palluau is CANCELLED
10th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
14th	ASCENSION
17th	
24th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre : PENTECOST
June 2026	
7th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
14th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
21st	
28th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
July 2026	
5th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
12th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
19th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant
26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
August 2026	
2nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
9th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

28	June	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	JW	AH/TC
5	July	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
12	July	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	CM	IMG/FMG
19	July	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
26	July	PdS	11h	HC	HD	JM	AM	MK	JW/GK
2	Aug	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
9	Aug	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	KS/BC
16	Aug	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
23	Aug	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	JM	CM/MK
30	Aug								
6	Sept	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
13	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	DG	AM	CG	AH/CH
20	Sept	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
27	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	TL	TC/JW

From Rupert Cattell in Vouvant:

A Vouvant event that may be of interest.....

Sunday 17 May is the Festival of Plants in the Place du Bail with two mini concerts in the church.

Also I believe there's a Painting and Gardens Festival on the 6th June with a large number of the village's gardens open and showcasing local artists' works. Our garden will also be open.

L'ART AU JARDIN 2026

VOUVANT
6 - 7 juin

L'ART AU JARDIN

20 jardins 47 artistes

Peintres sculpteurs
photographes graveurs

Invité d'honneur: Jean Deletre

Samedi 15 h - 20 h
21 h concert gratuit Groupe Primavera, alto-chant-harpe celtique

Dimanche 10h-18 h

organisé par :
contact: 06 59 00 49 91

Au delà de l'eau
ateliers d'art

SUPER O
La Châtaigneraie

Vouvant

Au delà de l'eau
ateliers d'art

Crédit Mutuel

EXPOSANTS L'ART AU JARDIN 2026

1 Place du Corps de Garde

Invité d'honneur Jean Delêtre - peinture

12 rue Basse des remparts

Jean François Bourasseau - art plastique

Jardin Public

Colin Underway - sculpture

François Plumart - portrait

Denis Le Taconnoux - peinture

Les Barres

Caroline Mennefile - peinture - métal

Impasse du Petit Château

N° 10 Penny Peckmann - art plastique

Françoise Boussau - art plastique

Bruno de la Pintièrre - dessin

N° 8 Ludovic Mercher - peinture

Nicolas Ruelle - peinture

Marie Jeannot - estampe

«Pipane» Christine de Chaille - céramique, peinture

N° 7 Laurence Galand - techniques mixtes

Paul Valoteau - marqueterie contemporaine

Jean Marie Kulaj - sculpture fer

Rue du Petit Château

N° 3 Sophie Marabout - peinture

Pascal Clément - sculpture

N° 5 «Baghit » Nathalie Guilhard - photographie

Alain Bougerie - sculpture, peinture

Gande Rue

N° 35 Geneviève Regnier - aquarelle

Jocelyne Mas - mosaïque sur miroir

Roxane Mérot - dessin, dessin numérique

N° 60 Dany Masson - encre, dessin

«Marguerite» M.-Ch. Chailloux - ecoprint

4 Rue de la Filée et Lavoir

Corine Pagny - peinture, gravure

Bernard Guérin - carnet de voyage, sculpture

Brigitte Pane - carnet de voyage, portrait

La Basse Rue, Le Fournil

Françoise Brouillard - peinture

Laurent Paolillo - sculpture

1 rue de Lusignan

Danielle Denouette - gravure, toile et papier

Inge Dixneuf - aquarelle

Place de l'Eglise

N° 4 Marie Christine Potier - sculpture, peinture

N° 1bis Fanny Delumeau - peinture

Marie Thérèse Paquereau - calligraphie

Cour du Miracle

André Rouvreau - peinture

Château de la Recette

Corinne Emerit - peinture

Daniel Gauthier - peinture

Jean-Yves Jodeau - peinture

Impasse de la Tour

N° 1 Hélène Ganille - mosaïque

N° 4 Cathy Monnier - peinture

Michel Le Déroff - peinture, aquarelle

Rue Malicorne

N° 8 Christina Louvet - peinture

N° 6 Nathalie Marotte Lesueur - peinture, modelage

Patrick Lesueur - aquarelle, dessin

N° 5 Caroline Mallet - photographie

Michèle Guillet - pastel, aquarelle

Avec l'aimable participation du Duo Hibernia
(Richard et Catherine, whistle et harpe) le dimanche

ASV Service Rota 2026 – Index of names and positions

Name		Abbrev.	Worship leader	Intercessor	Reader
CATTELL	Rupert	RC			X
COATES	Trudy	TC			X
CONDIE	Anne	AC	x		x
CONDIE	Bill	BC			
DOOR	Hazel	HD			
GREEN	Chris	CG	x	x	x
GREEN	Doug	DG	x	x	x
HESTER	Alan	AH			x
HESTER	Christine	CH			x
KENT	Geoff	GK			x
KENT	Margaret	MK	x	x	x
LOMAS	Tony	TL		x	
MATTHEWS	John	JM	x	x	x
McGREGOR	Fiona	FMG			x
McGREGOR	Iain	IMG			x
MILTON	Ann	AM			
MILTON	Chris	CM		x	x
PEARSON	David	DP		x	x
PEARSON	Sally	SP		x	x
SLATER	Kate	KS			x
WILKINSON	Jenny	JW		x	x

Please note :

If you are unable to be at church for your place on the rota, please try to arrange a swap and inform the Worship Leader.

Anne Condie 05 49 06 27 72

Doug and Chris Green 05 49 72 18 46

Margaret Kent 05 49 72 27 72

John Matthews 05 49 75 29 71

HC Holy Communion

MW Morning Worship

YR Yves Rousseau

LCP La Chapelle Palluau

PdS Puy-de-Serre

Forward Planning

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

ASV News :



La Chapelle-Palluau

Following the Easter service at La Chapelle Palluau ably led by Tony Lomas, the congregation celebrated together with the infamous bring and share. This was once again hosted by Colin and Hester who opened their house to us. The food and drink were enjoyable as was the company. Although the numbers were few it was definitely more than one or two! Visitors from Angers joined us so our prayers are always answered to increase and spread The Word.

Amen

Linda Gorton

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Ladies meetings are normally held every 4th Thursday of the month. and at Debbie's Lench's house when possible.

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

For details and directions, please contact Jenny – email below. **Anyone willing 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

