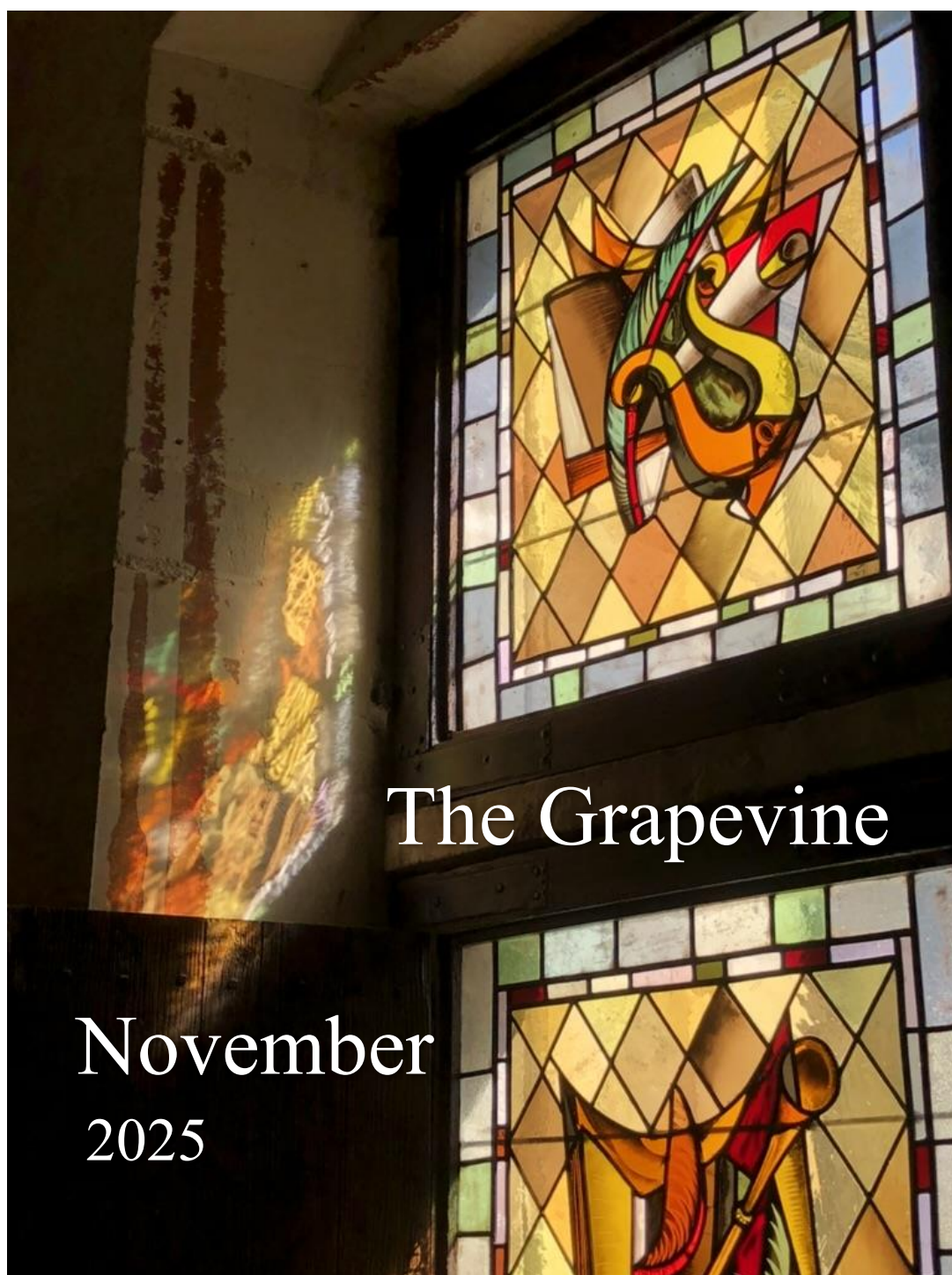




The Grapevine

November
2025

*The sun shines through autumn colours
in the stained-glass windows of
Tours Cathedral.*

*Martin, the Bishop of Tours (c.397)
is commemorated on 11th November -
see 4-Thought below.*

Welcome to November's Grapevine!

This month...

Hopefully you will receive this edition before the end of October, in which case don't forget to put your clocks and watches back an hour on the 25th, such that at 3.00 am on Sunday 26th, it will be 2.00 am.

The holy day of Toussaint (*All Saints' Day*) comes on the 1st of November and is followed by *All Souls' Day* on the second. Traditionally in France, *la Toussaint* is a time for family gatherings and the day after sees many people visiting the resting places of loved ones.

The supermarkets and florists' shops are full of chrysanthemums (*les chrysanthèmes*), which families place on the graves at this time of year. The significance of this flower is that, while it is unavoidably associated with loss, is in fact a very positive symbol, representing longevity and joy.

The name can be traced to the Greek words *chrysoi* and *anthemys* meaning 'gold' and 'flower'.

November, in the UK, includes Guy Fawkes' Night on the 5th, involving fireworks and bonfires. On this night we celebrate the undoing of a 'traitor' who, with a group of Catholics led by Robert Catesby, plotted in 1605 to kill King James I of England and VI of Scotland by detonating vast quantities of gunpowder underneath the Houses of Parliament.

Democracy as we know it was still a long way off !

Another word associated with the beginning of November is 'halloween' (the vigil on the night before All Hallows Day – All Saints' Day).

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4-thought

Rev Hazel

Following the wedding of our grandson in October, we found ourselves with a few days of R & R time. Being based on the outskirts of my home town, we spent several hours driving round the Marine Drive, a road round the headland of the castle. It stands on a massive promontory of rock rising above the North Sea. Its 12th-century great tower is the centrepiece of a royal castle begun by Henry II. It became one of the greatest royal fortresses in England and figured prominently in national events during the Middle Ages. Its buildings are mostly relatively recent additions to a site which, as a natural fortress, has been intermittently inhabited and fortified for nearly 3,000 years.

We were amazed at how calm the sea was, watching surfers, and paddleboarders, being frustrated!

Later we ventured further north, crossing the moors to Whitby, and then passing the ruins of the Abbey and the church of St Mary. It will not come as a surprise to regular readers of Grapevine, that I like to list the Saints commemorated in the month, and the 19th is the day for St Hilda [Abbess](#) of [Whitby](#) Abbey, who died in 680. (full list further down) The Venerable Bede stated that the original ideals of monasticism were maintained strictly in Hilda's abbey. All property and goods were held in common; Christian virtues were exercised, especially [peace](#) and [charity](#). Everyone had to study the [Bible](#) and do good works. Five men from this monastery later became [bishops](#). Two, [John of Beverley](#), Bishop of Hexham and [Wilfrid](#), Bishop of York, were [canonized](#) for their service to the Christian church at a critical period in its fight against paganism.

After leaving Whitby we turned south again, heading for the town of Pickering, crossing the moors once again, appalled at the extent of the recent moor fires, pleased to see that the radome of Fylingdales, had not suffered damage, being quite a way from the main body of the fire.

There are other saints to be commemorated in November, and to coin a phrase “Lest we forget” the 11th of November is of course Remembrance Sunday.

1 [All Saints' Day](#)

2 [Commemoration of the Faithful Departed \(All Souls' Day\)](#)

6 [William Temple](#), [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), Teacher of the Faith, 1944

7 [Willibrord of York](#), [Bishop](#), Apostle of [Frisia](#), 739

8 The Saints and [Martyrs](#) of [England](#)

11 [Martin](#), [Bishop of Tours](#), c.397

17 [Hugh](#), [Bishop of Lincoln](#), 1200

19 [Hilda](#), [Abbess](#) of [Whitby](#), 680

20 [Priscilla Lydia Sellon](#), a Restorer of the Religious Life in the Church of England, 1876

23 [Clement](#), Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100

25 [Isaac Watts, Hymn](#) Writer, 1748

29 [Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church](#)

30 [Andrew the Apostle](#)

Rev. Hazel



Churchwardens' Notes. November 2025

Hello to everyone.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer but now autumn is upon us and has brought us cooler and fresher air and a wonderful display of nature's colours of rust and golds ; but alongside those colours, many will have noticed that the colour rose / pink is popping up a great deal. It is the colour of hope, solidarity and awareness of breast cancer.

In France alone more than 60,000 women (and some men) are diagnosed with the disease. It is an annual campaign designed to raise awareness and, as early diagnoses continue to rise, it is leading to more lives being saved, so please get involved if you can.

Once again a big 'Thankyou' to all who brought gifts for both the Harvest Festival and Resto du Cœur. Your support is invaluable.

Talking of events in France, have you noticed the sign at some villages 'Petite Cité de Caractère'? The closest to us being Vouvant. Well, since moving to this part of the world we now visit (especially now that we have E bikes!) regularly and I was interested to find out what made a Petite Cité and for those who, like me, didn't know, to claim that title the commune has to be less than 6,000 inhabitants and have one or more protected historic monuments and / or a

remarkable heritage site. So now I know. Another mystery solved.

Now for a few dates for your diaries:

A very important announcement is that our next communion service at Puy de Serre will be held on Sunday 26th October, which is also when the clocks 'fall' back an hour.

Future dates to note: (All commencing at 11h)

9th November: Remembrance Sunday Service at Puy de Serre.

23rd November: Holy Communion at Puy de Serre.

14th December: Lessons and Carols service at Vouvant.

24th December: Holy Communion service at Faymoreau.

So I hope to see you all around and especially if you have visitors who would like to join us they would be most welcome.

Your Church Wardens

Maggie and Chris.

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers :

Bob and Caroline

Gini and Martyn

Hazel and Martin

Jo and Brian

Maureen

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim and Sharmila

Nel(Mair and John's daughter)

Pat and Roy

Carole and her sister **Linda**

(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: davidlpearson@orange.fr)

Les Restaurants du Cœur



A heartfelt thank you, everyone !

For all your donations, always gratefully received in La Châtaigneraie.

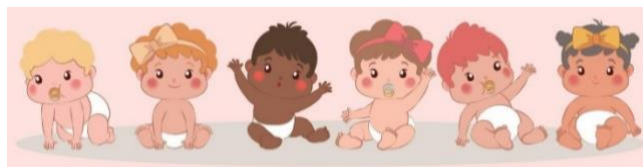
The charity **Restaurants du Cœur** (literally *Restaurants of the Heart* but meaning *Restaurants of Love*), commonly known as the **Restos du Cœur**, was founded by comedian Coluche (1944–1986) and its main activity is to distribute food and hot meals to those in need.



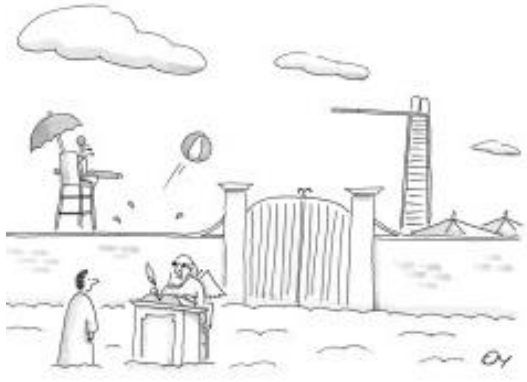
Coluche

The association targets the homeless and those with of low income (single families, elderly people with a low pension, young adults, etc.). The association also helps people to find housing and supports other projects.

My thanks too for your generosity. Trudy



..... Elucubrations



"Did you bring a bathing suit?"

Richard Feynman: "The universe is not stranger than we think... It's stranger that we CAN think."

"The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg." Road Dahl

"Finally, brothers and sisters," Saint Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

**, "Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget
by drop upon the heart
our own despair, against our will,
wisdom through the awful grace of God."**

— Aeschylus

*Quoted by Senator Robert F Kennedy upon the
assassination of Martin Luther King Jr 1968*

**The head of Christ, Rembrandt van Rijn, oil
paint on oak panel 25 cm x 21.7 cm**



**falls drop
until, in
comes**



Small children at prayer :

Our Father who does art in Heaven, Harold is his name

**Forgive us our trash baskets and forgive those who put trash in
our baskets**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some e-mail. Amen

Thanks to Trudy for the Restos du Cœur notes and Elucubrations.

ASV Treasurer's Report



September 2025:

Income: 2774.99 €

Expenditure: 615.02 €

We have a positive balance for the month: 2159.97 €

There was very little expenditure in August. We also benefitted from a good EDF refund and the revenue from the extra services in Vouvant. Hazel also donated her funeral fees once again, and we also had a donation from previous French residents, giving us a very healthy balance! I'm not sure that next month will be quite as rosy!

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)

Dates for your diaries!



ASV Quizzes 2025-26:

- November 28, 2025
- January 16, 2026
- February 13, 2026
- March 13, 2026

Salle St. Augustin, Puy de Serre,
18.00.

Only 10 € per person, to include:

- A few rounds of light-hearted questions, with prizes for the winners
- A raffle, with some interesting prizes
- An evening of fun, meeting old and new friends
- A two-course meal, with meat and veggie options, but please provide your own cutlery, crockery and drinks, and nibbles to help you chew on the answers!
- Everyone is welcome, so please bring you friends and neighbours

Many thanks as always to Iain and Fiona

Ladies' Group Meeting

All welcome !

The next meeting is planned for the 27th November.
Please contact Janny for further details :

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com



Dates for your Diary

October 2025	
26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
November 2025	
2nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
9th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre (Remembrance Sunday)
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
27th	Thursday Ladies' Group meeting*
December 2025	
7th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
14th	Sunday LESSONS AND CAROLS at VOUVANT
24th	Monday 11h Christmas Eve Service at Faymoreau
January 2026	
4th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
11th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
25th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

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

For confirmation of dates/ times/ venues,
please contact Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

ASV Service Rota

October 2025 to January 2026

[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

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 LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The next meeting is planned for the 27th November.

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

Don't forget

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...

Thank you, if you managed to get your contribution to Grapevine in to me by this week. I know we all have busy lives, and it is much appreciated that I don't (usually!) have to chase people for copy.

Having said that, there's always room for more, and if anyone would like to (for example) put together a couple of hundred words about their year, their summer, a happy family event or any other blessing, don't hesitate !

If there is anything which you'd like to be published in the **December 2025** issue, do make sure you submit it* to me,

Nigel, at njp78@hotmail.com

before November 15th 2025

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

NJP