

A photograph of a church steeple with a grey tiled roof, partially obscured by lush green trees. In the foreground, there is a low stone wall and a concrete pillar on the left. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text 'THE GRAPEVIN E' is overlaid in a brown, serif font.

THE GRAPEVIN E

September
2025

Welcome to September's Grapevine !

*"The leaves of brown came tumbling down - remember -
in September in the rain
The sun went out just like a dying ember
That September in the rain" **

**from "September in the Rain" ©Harry Warren and Al Dubin, 1937*

A song about nostalgia, but I imagine that, after the few heatwaves we've had, more than a few of us will be nostalgic for rain; that most wonderful blessing which, though we may sometimes not realise it, we are luckier than many in the world to enjoy...

ASV Contact details:

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

Website:
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

4-thought

Rev Hazel

In the UK the harvest festival, also known as the harvest home, is traditionally celebrated on the Sunday nearest the harvest moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox, which is often between 21-23 September. In the past the harvest festival time differed, based on when all the crops had been brought in. The whole community, including children, needed to help right up until the end, as lives depended on the success of the harvest.

In the past they would be held as soon as the harvest had been completed and the final cartload triumphantly returned to the farm where the Harvest Supper, also known as the 'Harvest Home', would take place. It was harvest time when Martin and I got married, and the church was beautifully decorated, though as we were in a seaside town, the decorations were fishing nets and lobster pots. This year though, with most of the crops locally having already been gathered in, there are increasingly louder voices proclaiming climate change and its effect on our planet.

Harvest celebrations pre-date Christianity, but it has always been seen as a very spiritual time to give thanks for the year's crop. Symbolic corn dolls, made out of the last sheath of the harvest, were placed on banquet tables when parishes had their huge feasts. The doll was then kept until the spring to ensure the continuation of a good crop next year. This custom began with Saxon farmers, who believed the last sheath contained the spirit of the corn.

Of special importance were the last sheaves of corn left standing as it was often believed a Corn Spirit resided within them. A descendent of Roman goddess of grain Ceres, it came to be known by a variety of names such as 'The Maiden', 'The Neck' and 'The Mare' and once scythed would be made into a symbolic corn doll. First though came the act of actually cutting these final sheaves.



the

Reapers were anxious not to anger the spirit so they would line up at a distance and throw their sickles until the corn was cut, a time-consuming act which guaranteed anonymity. In the Welsh Borders these straws would be tied into four bunches, to represent the legs of a horse, before the sickle-throwing commenced. In Devon and Cornwall there was much ceremony attached to 'Crying The Neck' with the final reaping held aloft by a farmer who was encircled by his workers. The corn dolls would often be kept above the hearth and, in order to guarantee the success of the next harvest, ploughed back into the land the following Plough Monday.

We're all too aware that this year our weather temperatures have risen, though there have been similar peaks during the last 25 years. This year has seen the occurrence of more wildfires across Europe. Maybe there is more that nations can do to limit emissions of carbon dioxide, but as individuals we can and should do what we can to make a difference.



Churchwardens' Notes September 2025

We know the weather has been extremely hot, but how wonderful for those of us with visiting families. We need rain of course, but God has blessed us with the warmth of the sun during the school holidays.

We have sent the latest church 'jobs' rota out to those of you involved and it will also be published in this edition of Grapevine. Please let us know if you would like to take part in reading, intercessing or worship leading. Hazel is planning to run a course for potential worship leaders as soon as she is able to do so.

I must thank Christine Hester for taking over the roll of Sacristan, which involves the care of the altar linen and altar utensils. I have had the honour of fulfilling the role for many years now, but it now gives me time to greet churchgoers and help out more where required.

We also gratefully thank Tony Lomas for stepping in for Hazel from time to time. It is delightful to see both Tony and his wife worshipping with us in All Saints Vendée.

Many of us are now classed as vulnerable adults in view of our advancing ages! Many people also help with visiting or helping others less advantaged than ourselves. Please think carefully about following a short Safeguarding course online - it need only take an hour or two. It basically helps to raise awareness of safe caring for all. To access the Church of England's basic Safeguarding awareness module, go to safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php or contact Ann Condie on 0549 172772.

We will be celebrating our Harvest service on 14 Sept in Puy de Serre. Please bring non-perishable goods as well as the normal goods for Restos du Coeur. So much is always needed and always gratefully received.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Blessings from your Churchwardens,

Chris Milton and Margaret Kent

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

Linda, Carole's sister

ASV Treasurer's Report



July 2025:

Income: 1416,00 €

Expenditure: 926,54 €

We have a positive balance for the month: 489,46 €

A quiet month !

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

CS559334



JONAH TAKES A SELFIE

If only it were all so simple! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them.

But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.

And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Percy Bysshe Shelley 1817



The Good Samaritan Swiss artist
Eugene Burnand 1850-1921

Down To The River To Pray - Alison Krauss
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY>

Thanks once again to Trudy for this month's cultural gems.



A heartfelt thank you, everyone !

The Resto du Cœur in La Châtaigneraie is a very unprepossessing building, yet inside it houses a very warm welcome from dedicated volunteers, and a cornucopia of fresh and preserved food, toiletries and other donations.



August is traditionally a holiday month, but there was no holiday from need, which remains steady throughout the year, including the need for tinned food and nappies .



My thanks for your generosity. Trudy

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 !

The next meeting is planned for the 25th September.
Please contact Janny for further details :

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com



Dates for your Diary

August 2025	
24th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
31st	
September 2025	
7th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
14th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
21st	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
October 2025	
12th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Puy-de-Serre
19th	
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
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

ASV Service Rota

October 2025 to January 2026

D	M	Venue	Time	Service	President	Worship Leader	Organist	Inter-cessor	Readers (2)
12	Oct	PdS	1100	MW	JM	JM	AM	CM	GK/JW
26	Oct	PdS	1100	HC	HD	MK	AM	DP	SP/CM
2	Nov	LCP	1100	HC	HD				
9	Nov	PdS	1100	HC	HD	AC	AM	DG	AH/CH
23	Nov	PdS	1100	HC	HD	DG	AM	CG	FMG/IM G
7	Dec	LCP	1100	HC	HD				
14	Dec	Vouvant		Lessons and Carols	HD		Yves		
24	Dec	Faymoreau	1100	HC	HD	MK	AM	AC	BC/TC
4	Jan	LCP	1100	HC	HD				
11	Jan	PdS	1100	HC	HD	AC	AM	MK	BC/KS
25	Jan	PdS	1100	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	AH/CH

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 on

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 **October 2025** issue, do make sure you submit it* to me,

Nigel, at njp78@hotmail.com

Before September 15th 2025

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

NJP