

The Grapevine

August 2026



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Welcome to the August Grapevine!

Hello everyone. As I write, we are thankfully enjoying slightly reduced temperatures (or are we all getting used to the heat?) which is something of a relief. At times, the summer weather has been a bit of a struggle. As someone pointed out, it has been quite testing for our four-footed friends too, with their unremovable overcoats!

I hope you are able to enjoy the best of the sunshine with no ill effects, and that you will find this issue of the Grapevine informative.

The photo shows the view from my sister's farm in Somerset, during what has been a very hot, dry year.

Nigel

All Saints Vendée

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4-thought

Rev Hazel

In the many years I've lived here in France this year has surely been the hottest and for the longest, perhaps global warming has arrived??? I hope that you have all been able to cope, I confess that I was sorely tempted to return to the UK when my daughter began to complain that it was too hot at 27degrees. (only joking)

There are some interesting folk in this month's list, among them Mary Sumner. Commemorated on the 9th of August, when we will celebrate 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, she was a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church. From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born – and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries. As we look to the future members will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world. At the heart of everything they do will remain their unwavering belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

Additionally there will be commemorations for Florence Nightingale, Clare of Assisi, William and Catherine Booth, the founders of the Salvation Army.

The most recent commemoration is Maximillian Kolbe who died in 1941. He was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, priest, missionary, and martyr. He volunteered to die in place of a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek in the German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II. Kolbe was canonised by the Pope John Paul II in 1982. He is commemorated on the 14th August.

(The man who's place he took was married with two sons, who sadly, were killed before the end of the war. But Franciszek survived and returned to his wife in Poland. Afterwards he became a lay missionary, dedicating his life to spreading the story of Kolbe's sacrifice. Gajowniczek died in the city of [Brzeg](#) on 13 March 1995 at the age of 93. He was buried at [Niepokalanów](#), a [religious community](#) founded by Maximilian Kolbe, 53 years after Kolbe saved his life.)

Like many of you Martin and I are expecting visits from family members this summer, we've already had a visit from our son, a grandson and his partner, and are looking forward to further visits from daughters more grandsons and friends, looks like it might be hectic. May I remind you that the summer services at Vouvant are underway, and look forward to welcoming you there.

Every Blessing
Hazel



Churchwardens' Notes August 2026

Geoff and I have recently returned from three weeks in England. It was hot ! However, I know that the temperatures here have been yet again even hotter. I hope you are all managing to cope with it somehow. Whilst on the Hampshire coast, I really enjoyed a dip in the sea with my daughter and her fiancé. Geoff watched on from his folding deck chair and umbrella. According to him, water is for washing cars !

Whilst in Cheltenham, we went to a Baptist church for a service. Although not our style of worship, it was wonderful to see the energy, enthusiasm and faith at work within the congregation and the community. There were maybe two hundred worshippers of all ages present and we were made very welcome. Praise to the Lord for all that.

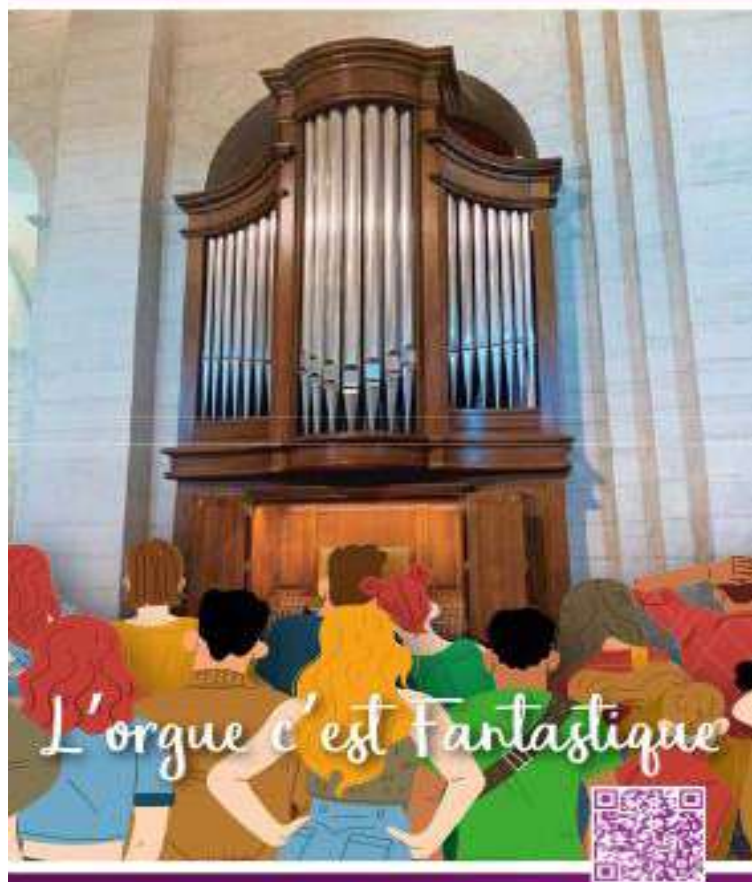
There are still 2 more services of morning worship at Vouvant this summer, on Sunday 16th August and Sunday 20th September. Do come along with friends, neighbours and visitors.

Keep cool and healthy.

With our love and blessings to you all,

Your Churchwardens Margaret and Chris

ORGUE & MUSIQUE À VOUVANT



CONCERTS 2026

15 concerts de mai à novembre
Église de Vouvant

MUSIC LOVERS !

According to information online, there are plenty of organ concerts to come over the summer:

30th July,

6th August, 13th August, 20th August and 27th August,

All Thursdays, all at 7 pm / 19h.



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: davidlpearson@orange.fr)

Grapevine Treasurer's Report



June 2026:

Income: **832.17 €**

Expenditure: **291.49 €**

We have a positive balance for the month: **+540.68 €**

An exceptionally quiet month, financially.

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!

pp Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Elucubrations



The **Assumption of Mary** is a Catholic dogma that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, at the end of her earthly life, was taken body and soul into heaven, defined by Pope Pius XII on 1 November 1950 in his apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, although the tradition is much older. It is celebrated on 15 August which is a public holiday in France. The last mention of Mary in the Bible is in Acts 1:14.

Painting by Il Sassoferato (1609-85)

George Eliot's oft quoted paragraph from Middlemarch (1871)

If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart beat and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence. As it is, the quickest of us walk about well wadded with stupidity."

Irish blessing :

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand*



"Personally, I wouldn't mind at all if God sent a plague of mice to rain down upon the sinners of the modern world."





The volunteers in La Châtaigneraie always express their heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations , so please keep them coming.

There is always a shortage of nappies, so if you are not sure what you would like to donate, a pack of « couches N° 6 » will be extremely welcome !



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

Trudy



A Letter from Normandy



To all members of the Puy de Serre congregation

Hazel received an email from **Joseph Kelly** which she would like to share with the PDS congregation.

“Dear Hazel,

Greetings from Normandie. If you are so inclined and find it appropriate, please share the following with our friends at All Saints, Puy-de-Serre.

Dear Friends,

After four months in the Vendée, we have just settled for the rest of the Summer in Beaumont-en-Auge, Normandie.

We would like to express our profound gratitude for the warm welcome and heartfelt hospitality afforded us by the All Saints congregation whilst we were staying in the Vendée. Everyone embraced these stray Americans with great zeal, and that made our stay particularly enriching and enjoyable. Simply put, we know we are blessed to have been amongst you for a time.

We will treasure our memories of you and will hold you all in our prayers. Thank you so very much and God bless you all.

À Bientôt,

Susan and Joseph Kelly”

Puy-de-Serre Church in History

I am indebted to Keith Brown for the following :

The parish church in **Puy-de-Serre**, located in the Vendée department in western France, is the **Église Sainte-Marthe** (Church of Saint Martha).

Origins and Medieval Period

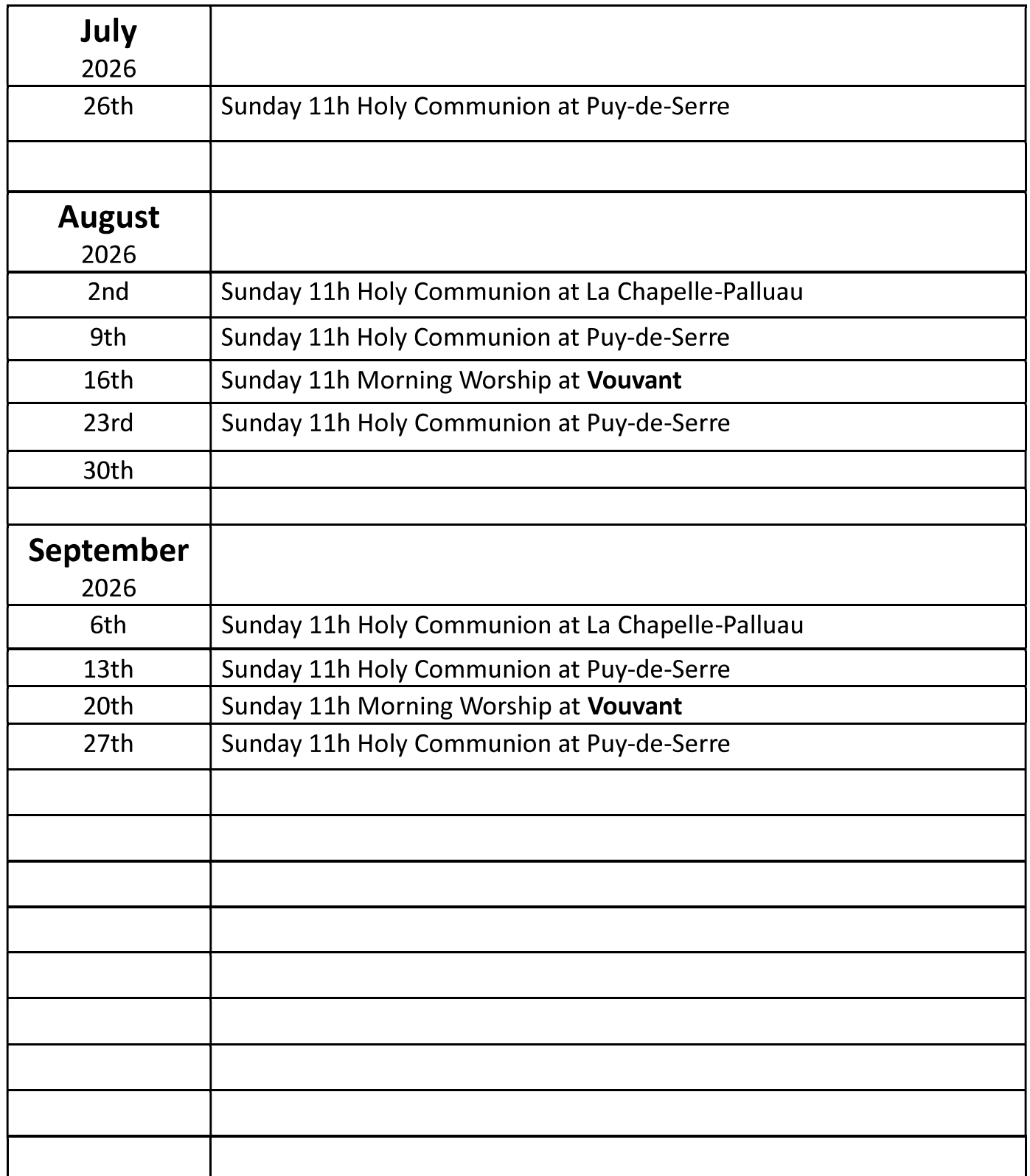
- **First Historical Mention (1119):** The parish of Puy-de-Serre is first documented in 1119 as *Podium de Serra* in an act by William IX, Duke of Aquitaine (who expressed a desire to be buried there). At the time, the church belonged to the Benedictine Abbey of Montierneuf in Poitiers.
- **Romanesque Architecture:** The original structure features a single Romanesque nave ending in a semi-circular apse vaulted in a cul-de-four (half-dome).
- **Additions (14th–16th Centuries):** Between the 14th and 15th centuries, a bell tower was added to the southern facade. In the 16th century, a seigniorial chapel was added, likely built by the local noble Roussière family.

Protection and Historical Monument Status

- The Église Sainte-Marthe was officially registered as a French **Monument Historique** on **July 12, 1982**.

Other Historical Religious Sites in Puy-de-Serre

- **Grandmontine Cell / Prieuré de Bonneray:** In the second half of the 12th century, Eleanor of Aquitaine founded a Grandmontine monastic cell (*prieuré*) in Bonneray, within the commune of Puy-de-Serre. Sold during the French Revolution as national property in 1791, its church and monastic buildings were repurposed for agricultural use (barn, stable). Its former refectory building was listed as a historical monument in 1930.





ASV Service Rota July to September 2026

[illegible]

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

Ladies' Meeting

July's ladies' meeting is on Thursday 30th at Debbie's.

Everyone is always welcome (if you're a lady looking for crafting)

Please contact Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

For further information.

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



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!

Please also consult the
website for any updates.

Thank you, if you managed to get your contribution to Grapevine 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 **September 2026** issue, do make sure you submit it to me, at njp78@hotmail.com

ideally before August 15th 2026

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

Nigel