



# The Grapevine



December 2025

## Welcome to December's Grapevine.

Even if the actual date of Our Lord's birth is uncertain, a brief search on the internet tells me that Christians have celebrated it on the 25th December since 336 AD, during the reign of the Roman emperor Constantine.

At the time of writing, the weather is getting increasingly wintry, and thoughts of a white Christmas and all the traditional holiday trappings come easily to mind. Hazel, though, in her 4-Thought, reminds us of the real significance of Christmas and its pure simplicity in the face of relentless commercialism.

Many thanks as usual to all our regular contributors. On that subject, even if you're not a 'regular contributor', please feel free to submit photos or articles, that you feel would be of interest to Grapevine readers !

### *On a lighter note...*

If you're going to the **ASV Fun Quiz** (see below) please remember to **book** your places **by Monday 24th November** !

## ASV Contact details:

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Website:  
[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)

# 4-thought

Rev Hazel

During our recent visit to the UK, we visited the local garden centre for lunch, which was great! However, our route to the restaurant was lengthy, and convoluted, as we were manoeuvred through display after display of items for xmas decorations. I refuse to use the word Christmas in that context, feeling closer to Ebenezer Scrooge than our Lord and Saviour! Even caught myself muttering Bah! Humbug!! Scrooge exists in opposition to the very idea of Christmas. He values business, wealth, and solitude, while Christmas is about community, charity, and family.

This begs the question who are my family?

Try this from Matthew 12:46-50 NIV:

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Or this from John 13:34 ESV :

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Or this from Matthew 25:40 NIV

The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

I know there are many more quotations that also fit with the season and the sentiment, I’m sure you will have fun trying to find them

I have always been very proud of the All Saints Vendée contribution to Restos du Coeur, and Martin and I support them as much and as often as we can. I have also discovered that Restos are not only concerned with food distribution, though that is very important. Les Restos du Cœur is the story of a “little idea” that became a national symbol. In 1985, on Europe 1 radio, Michel Coluche mobilized the country's goodwill around a project for a free soup kitchen for people in need. Four decades later, Les Restos has 75,000 volunteers and continues to fight against poverty and all forms of inequality. The organization has grown, but its needs and the social emergency have never been greater. It is suggested that the proceeds of the quiz in November this year go to them, and I wholeheartedly agree.

So we approach the time when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus I wish you all a very blessed and peace filled Christmas, and share with you the prayer I’ll be using every day until Christmas:

*Dear Lord, how we praise and thank You that love in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ came down at Christmas, when the eternal Son of God became Jesus, the perfect Son of Man, and through whom the promise of peace was given to men of goodwill. Peace with God to those who trust in the redeeming blood of His Son, and the peace of God, for all who are born into the family of God, positioned in Christ and accepted in the Beloved.*

*Thank You, for the example of a life that personifies love and thank You that the Person of Jesus Christ is the One that satisfies every need of the human heart.*

*Father, at this special time of the year when we remember that first Christmas day when Your dearly beloved Son was manifested in the flesh in the form of a new-born babe, we pray that His love and His peace may spread abroad into the hearts and minds of many lost and hurting people, who feel themselves unloved and who lack that vital peace with God and the incomparable peace of God within, that surpasses all comprehension.*

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit grant peace in the hearts of all who are searching for answers, as to emptiness in their lives, this Christmas time. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.*

Every blessing,

Rev. Hazel



## Churchwardens' Notes, December 2025

I know it's a cliché, but when it is said that time flies, I'm sure it goes by quicker year by year! So Christmas tide is coming around again. It's such a joyous time to be with family and friends as long as we don't get too 'bogged down' with all the hustle and bustle and remember what Christmas is truly about.

Don't forget our service of Lessons and Carols at Vouvant church at 11.00 on 14 December. Then there will be a service of Holy Communion at Faymoreau Church on Christmas Eve at 11.00. It's in the village church opposite the château and not in the miner's Chapel. Ste Marthe's church at Puy-de-Serre is again unavailable over the Christmas period while the exhibition of crèches is there. These are well worth a visit.

Several of the congregation at Puy-de-Serre sing with La Châtaigneraie's choir Choraline. They will be singing alongside a choir from Chantonay in a Christmas concert in the church at La Châtaigneraie at 15.00 on Sunday 21 December. All are welcome. I must also add that Reaction Theatre, including Keynotes, will be performing a Christmas melange on Saturday 6 December at 19.30 and Sunday 7 December at 15.00 in the theatre at L'Absie. I'm sure you can't wait to see your two Churchwardens being silly on stage!

It remains for us to wish you all a very Happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and for peace in the world in 2026.

Your Churchwardens  
Maggie and Chris.



## **THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL**

The Poppy Appeal is a campaign held every year. Founded in 1921, the Appeal raises funds for the Royal British Legion's vital work supporting serving personnel, veterans and their families throughout their lives with whatever the need, whenever it's needed. The simple act of wearing a poppy sends a personal message of thanks and support for the Armed Forces community.

Thank you everyone who contributed to this year's appeal and we were able to send £75 to the Royal British Legion on behalf of All Saints, Vendée.

Doug 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

**Nell** (Mair and John's daughter)

**Carole** and her sister **Linda**

**Carole** and **Clive**

*(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](mailto:davidlpearson@orange.fr))*



# Les Restaurants du Cœur



*A heartfelt thank you,  
everyone !*

Your gifts are always  
received with joy and  
amazement.



For most of us Christmas is a time of joy and plenty ; not so for many people, here and across the world. Restos du Cœur keep their decorations low key, and so too their gifts for children for otherwise the needs remain the same. Let us spare a thought for those children for whom there is no celebration of any kind.

My thanks too for your generosity. Trudy





# Elucubrations



**Peace and Joy at Christmas and health and happiness for 2026 to you all.**

**In the Bleak Midwinter | The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yb9tHjuy9Hw>

**Misa Criolla y Navidad Nuestra, Ramírez , Asociación La Bella Música Catedral de San Isidro**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fsBLAZ6z5Q&t=710s>

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

# ASV Treasurer's Report



October 2025:

Income: 735.00 €

Expenditure: 2078.49 €

We have a negative balance for the month: - 1343.49 €

As predicted, October was not quite as rosy. We had the bill for the local taxes for the vicarage and for the use of the Salle in PdS for coffee after services, an occasional lunch and quizzes - although the cost for the Salle hire is eventually covered by the quizzes. The plate collections for PdS will show in the November accounts as they were presented too close to the end of the month to show in the October accounts.

If you would like to join the Planned Giving scheme - please contact me ([mcgregor@lalogette.com](mailto:mcgregor@lalogette.com)), and I will send you the details. Participating will give you about 66% off your French tax bill!

Iain McGregor  
(Treasurer)

# ASV Fun



**All are welcome!**

- so please invite your family, friends and neighbours!

**Date: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 18.00 hrs**

**Place: The Salle at Puy de Serre.**

**Cost: 10€ to include the meal**

**Booking: By Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at the latest**

**(with details of food allergies / vegetarian option)**

**Fiona McGregor [mcgregor@lalogette.com](mailto:mcgregor@lalogette.com) 02 51 53 82 55**

**Please let me know if you can donate a **dessert** or a **raffle prize** for  
any of our quizzes**

Maggie and Geoff Kent are our Quizmasters, with lots of easy to answer questions (we hope!), and Jenny and her team are providing the meal.

There will be tables of 5-6, so if you want to enter with a group, please let me know, alternatively if you want to come alone or as a couple, I can put you into a group - a great way to make new friends!

**Please bring any 'nibbles' you want to sustain you during the  
first few rounds before the meal, and your own **cutlery,**  
**drink and glasses.****



# Ladies' Group Meeting

*All welcome !*

Dates for Ladies meeting in November is 27th .  
The Christmas party will be on Monday 15th December. 12-4pm  
Both at Debbie's

All welcome !

More information [jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)



# Dates for your Diary

<b>November 2025</b>	
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
27th	Thursday Ladies' Group meeting*
<b>December 2025</b>	
7th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
14th	Sunday <b>LESSONS AND CAROLS</b> at <b>VOUVANT</b>
24th	<b>Monday 11h</b> Christmas Eve Service at <b>Faymoreau</b>
<b>January 2026</b>	
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](mailto:Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

# ASV Service Rota

## November 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

<b>Responsibility</b> (Organiser)	Puy de Serre 11h Services
<b>Refreshments after the service</b> (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny W Trudy C
<b>Flower Rota</b> (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](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

# *Don't forget*

All previous sermons and talks can be accessed at:

[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Grapevine!

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 **January 2026** issue, do make sure you submit it\* to me,

Nigel, at [njp78@hotmail.com](mailto:njp78@hotmail.com)

**before December 15<sup>th</sup> 2025**

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

NJP