



*The Grapevine*  
*January 2026*

*Photo ©njp 2025*

# *The Grapevine*

*January 2026*

Happy New Year

and

**Welcome to January's Grapevine !**

I start assembling this month's edition on a quick family visit to the UK. And for all its current (reported) problems, the country is still beautiful (in good weather) and the splendour of creation is everywhere to be seen.

As I write, it is just over a week since we were treated to a lovely service of Lessons and Carols at Vouvant. The service was very well attended, with alternate readings in English and French, including some of the sung verses, which provided ample opportunity for francophone and anglophone congregation members to practise their linguistic as well as their melodic skills !

The service was enriched by the wonderful organ playing of Yves Rousseau, especially in his rendition of an arrangement of The Londonderry Air ('Danny Boy'), played in tribute to Yves' Irish friend Earl Moffit, who had died recently.

## ASV Contact details:

<p><u>Chaplain &amp; President:</u> Revd Hazel Door Home phone: 05 49 87 71 45 e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr</p> <p><u>Vicarage:</u> 27 rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges: Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71</p>	<p><u>Churchwarden:</u> Chris Milton: Phone : 02 51 51 77 38 e-mail: chrisannmilts@hotmail.com</p> <p><u>Churchwarden and Lay Vice-Chairman:</u> Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72 e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Lay Minister:</u> John Matthews: Phone: 05 49 75 29 71 e-mail: <a href="mailto:matthewsj@wanadoo.fr">matthewsj@wanadoo.fr</a></p> <p><u>Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer :</u> Anne Condie: Phone: 05 49 16 27 72 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ASVsafeguarding@gmail.com">ASVsafeguarding@gmail.com</a></p>
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Website:  
[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)

### Pat Darley

Sadly, Pat Darley died on 20 October this year. Along with her husband Roy, they were both frequent members of our congregations, especially when they lived at Thiré. We saw them less often when they moved further afield and illness prevented them from attending.

Pat was a cheerful and happy person, which was reflected in her funeral, held in the new crematorium at Fontenay-le-Comte on 5 November. There were some 60 people there and the service was conducted very empathetically by the Rev Martyn Crompton. There was a tribute read by Pat's granddaughter Eleanor, and the eulogy and a reading by one of Pat's sons, Matthew.

We send to Roy and his family all our best wishes and condolences.

Love,

Maggie

# 4-thought

Rev Hazel

Well, another New Year. A new beginning?

I recently was invited, as representative of All Saints' Vendée Anglican church together with representatives of the Protestant church, to attend the installation of the new Bishop of Luçon. We were there to welcome Mgr Renauld de Dinechin, previously Bishop of Soissons. It was a lengthy service, but well worth it. A great joy to be there at a new beginning!



Memorably for Martin and me, our first child was born on a first of January, but I'm not giving away how long ago. A new beginning indeed.

The time is long gone for me to make New Year resolutions, probably too little and certainly too late, well, that is my reasoning. For many though a resolution is what will carry them through the coming year. There are times when we have to be strong, appear to be coping, other times when we rely totally on the love and strength of our Lord's love for us, from deep within our hearts and souls.

We read in John's Gospel that Jesus said:

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."  
(*John 8:12, NIV*)

Our challenge is this:

"We need to give Christ a chance to make use of us, to be His word and His work, to share His food and His clothing in the world today. If we do not radiate the light of Christ around us, the sense of the darkness that prevails in the world will increase." (*Mother Teresa*)

Please continue to support Restos du Coeur, and by doing so let your light shine forth in this New Year.

Every blessing for 2026

Hazel



## Churchwardens' Notes, January 2026

Let us begin with Seasons Greetings. We hope that Christmas is a wonderful time for all and we wish all of you a very peaceful and healthy New Year.

Looking back over the last twelve months on a personal note, it has been quite an eventful and interesting time. I have moved house (and county) from a very rural setting and have found a lovely new home in more urbanized surroundings with all the benefits that brings, such as very social and inclusive neighbours, being closer to many friends, and the benefits of being able to walk or cycle to the shops (as opposed to having to drive everywhere for supplies).

It has been a year for many visits to the hospital, both as an out-patient and in-patient, for numerous ailments, which, thanks to the power of prayer and the excellent French health system, have now been sorted satisfactorily.

However, there have been some sad occasions such as the loss of our dear friend Graham Greene, husband to Angela Greene, (whom some of you may know as the cellist with Keynotes choir). He sadly passed away in late November. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angela and the family.

Other sad matters have included the continuing conflicts around the world and a disappointment in world leaders at not being able to (or not wanting to?) resolve these conflicts.

Closer to home I hope that the Vouvant Service in December of 9 Lessons and Carols was enjoyed by all and I would like to draw your attention to a few events coming up.

Alongside our regular services there will be an Ecumenical Welcome Evening to be held in Fontenay-le-Comte on the 21st January. The theme will probably be The Light From Bethlehem, where our Priest Hazel will speak. All are welcome. Further information to follow.

Our service on the 25th January will be dedicated to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This will be held at the church at Foussais-Payré at 11h.

It is also hoped that in this New Year Hazel will be running a Worship Leaders Course, so if you are interested in becoming more active in our services please indicate your interest to either myself or Maggie Kent or Hazel.  
So all that's left for me to say is Best Wishes to all at the beginning of this brand New Year.

On behalf of Maggie and myself,  
Chris.

# 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 her sister **Linda**

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



# Les Restaurants du Cœur



*I felt like Santa Claus  
when I delivered your  
generous gifts in  
December – and  
needless to say they  
were welcomed with  
open arms/*



*A heartfelt thank you, everyone !*

Not for everyone does the new year bring new departures, resolutions to do better and hope for the future; sadly too many view the coming year with trepidation, the fear of not being able to pay bills, deteriorating health, and fear of losing a job in the face of rising prices. So our gifts do make a difference.

My thanks too for your generosity. Trudy







# E-l-u-c-u-b-r-a-t-i-o-n-s



**"We live in a world which is built on science and technology, but where most people don't know anything about science and technology. One day this mix of power and ignorance will blow up in our faces." Carl Sagan.**

"Il faut imaginer Sisyphe heureux." Albert Camus 1942



*Hazel made mention in her sermon back in November of this painting, « He was Despised and Rejected of Men », by Sigismund Goetze (1866-1939)*  
*victorianweb.org*

interpretations of the Old Testament

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get 10 commandments.

Children's



*Thanks, Trudy !*



## ASV Treasurer's Report



November 2025:

Income: 1274.18 €

Expenditure: 1859.22 €

We have a negative balance for the month: - 585.04 €

Slight deficit in November. There were a couple of annual bills that were paid.  
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 16 January 2026 at 18.00 hrs**

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

Cost: **10€** to include the meal

Booking: By **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026** 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 !*

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

For confirmation of dates / addresses  
please contact

[Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

All welcome !

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



*Christmas Cards* 🎄 *made by the Vendée Ladies' Group*

# Dates for your Diary

<b>December</b> 2025	
24th	<b>Monday 11h</b> Christmas Eve Service at <b>Faymoreau</b>
<b>January</b> 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
<b>February</b> 2026	
1st	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
8th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
15th	
18th	ASH WEDNESDAY
22nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
<b>March</b> 2026	
1st	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
8th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
15th	
22nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
29th	PALM SUNDAY
<b>April</b> 2026	
3rd	GOOD FRIDAY
5th	EASTER SUNDAY 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
12th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
19th	



26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
May 2026	
3rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
10th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
14th	ASCENSION
17th	
24th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre : PENTECOST

**\*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  
January to May 2026 follows :**

	<b>2025</b>								
<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Organist</b>	<b>Inter- cessor</b>	<b>Readers (2)</b>
24	Dec	Faymoreau	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	AC	BC/TC
	<b>2026</b>								
4	Jan	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
11	Jan	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	MK	BC/KS
25	Jan	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	AH/CH
1	Feb	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
8	Feb	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	CM	AH/CH
15	Feb								
18	Feb								Ash Wednesday
22	Feb	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	GK/CM
1	Mar	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
8	Mar	PdS	11h	HC	HD	JM	AM	DP	SP/JW
15	Mar								
22	Mar	PdS	11h	HC	HD	DG	AM	CG	FMG/IMG
29	Mar								
3	Apr								Good Friday
5	Apr	LCP	11h	HC	HD				Easter Sunday
12	Apr	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	SP	BC/TC
19	Apr								
26	Apr	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	JW	KS/CM
3	May	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
10	May	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	AH/CH
14	May								Ascension
17	May								
24	May	PdS	11h	HC	HD	JM	AM	CM	DP/SP



# 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**

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](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 **February 2026** issue, do make sure you submit it to me,

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

**before January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

I look forward to all next month's offerings !

NJP