

THE GRAPEVINE

July 2025



The congregation after Morning Worship in Vouvant, being treated to coffee at the Cattells' Château de la Recepte on Sunday 15th June.

July 2025

Welcome to July's Grapevine !

As I begin assembling the Grapevine, we are expecting the hottest day of the summer so far, with a local maximum of 35° forecast for the afternoon. Although it goes against the grain to shut windows and shutters when it's sunny, I hope everyone is following all the usual advice we receive for very hot weather; it was chastening to read in a news article that a certain number of deaths are expected from the heat alone – and that is in the UK!

Let us hope for the patience to wait calmly until the more comfortable weather returns, so we can enjoy the wonders the summer brings in this amazing country.

REMINDER

July 6th : no service at La-Chapelle-Palluau !

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4-thought
Rev Hazel

Martin and I recently spent a few days visiting Normandy. We visited the Omaha beach, saw the Mulberry Harbour, and German gun emplacements near the village we stayed in, Longues-sur-Mer, overlooking the Omaha and Gold beaches. We also visited the memorial near the village of Ver-sur-Mer unveiled on 6 June 2021, the 77th anniversary of D-Day, and it is dedicated to soldiers who died under British command during the Normandy landings. It is there that the silhouettes in metal have been placed. Among the 1,475 figures, this year's installation will feature approximately 200 new creations including radio operators, medics, and a Scotsman playing the bagpipes. The project will also include bespoke 'giants' to represent the only two women on the Memorial, nurses Sisters Evershed and Field, who died while saving 75 men from a sinking hospital ship; and 50 French resistance fighters. We were surprised how many visitors were there, including, to our surprise, a number of German folk. But of course, their loved ones would have been lost too.



Finally, we ended up in Bayeux, some 40 years after our first visit. No one knows for sure who created the Bayeux Tapestry. The popular belief is that Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and William the Conqueror's half-brother, commissioned the embroidery to decorate the nave of the new cathedral of Notre-Dame of Bayeux, consecrated on 14 July 1077. It is certainly an awesome sight, though I wondered why many of the soldiers depicted, seemed to be wearing onesies?! (I was suitably chastised by my daughter!)

We then spent an amazing hour walking around that cathedral before heading off for lunch.

When you think about the number of global and international conflicts that have and ARE taking place, it is not surprising that I was recently asked where was God in the conflicts that are raging in our world today. My truthful answer then was "I don't know for sure". But I have since found the following article:

Jesus has promised that until He comes again and takes home His bride, wars and rumours of war must happen (Matt 24:6-8). But when He comes, He will finally vanquish every foe and bring everlasting peace to His people and take us to a place where war and weeping will be no more (Rev 21:4-5).

Until that day, war, and crises of every kind reveal to God's people our weakness, helplessness, and lack of power and cause us to depend on Him like nothing else. Lloyd-Jones states that "there is no school in which Christians have learned so much of the loving, tender care of God for His own, as the school of affliction." It is truly in the shadows of affliction where God's presence shines brightest.

Until that day of Christ's return our duty must be to trust in God and pray (1 Tim 2:1-4). Pray earnestly for the war in Ukraine. Pray that justice, peace, and gospel-proclamation will prevail. Pray that those who oppose the Lord Jesus would yield their life to Him and be saved. And finally, pray that you would use the appointed time God has granted to you to serve Christ above all else as you carry out the good works He has prepared for you to do (Eph 2:10) with love and joy, and for His glory and praise.

I pray that it may be so, not only in Ukraine, but in our whole world. Amen.



Churchwardens' Report July 2025

We have had the great pleasure in recent weeks to have not only Ann Milton accompanying our singing at Puy-de-Serre playing the organ, but also Nigel Pearce with his double bass. It's even more delightful when Carole Winter also plays her violin. It's so soothing and evocative when they play during the Communion. Many thanks to all three of you. It certainly adds to our worship together. Please continue!

We held our first Morning Worship this summer at Vouvant on 15 June. It was Trinity Sunday and despite Hazel's trepidation, her sermon was most interesting and informative! We sang some lovely rousing hymns and look forward to the next service there on 20 July. Coffee and brioche at Rupert and Juliette's chateau makes a lovely conclusion to the morning.

Hazel is hoping to run a Worship Leader's course in the near future. If any of you feel you could offer your talents in joining the Worship Leader team, please let us know. We are always pleased to receive more help in other ways too - keeping the altar cloths and communion ware clean and tidy, reading at services, writing and reading intercessions, bringing in altar flowers etc. The more people that volunteer the easier it becomes to manage.

Nigel is always pleased to have additional articles, pictures etc to add to the Grapevine. If you have any other queries please refer them to one of us and not to him. He does such a great job with the Grapevine as well as playing music.

Don't forget the Ecumenical Day on 6 July in Fontenay. It's such an interesting town. You can 'pick and mix' during the day and don't have to go to everything. Last year's event was great and we are sure that this one will be so too.

Enjoy the hot, summer weather, but keep cool and well lathered with sun cream!

Blessings,

Your Churchwardens

Margaret Kent and Chris Milton

A letter from the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal
Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem*



المطران حسام الياس نعوم
رئيس الاساقفة الانجليكاني في القدس
الأسقف الخامس عشر لمطراينة القدس الأسقفية العربية

19 June 2025

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you all know, just last Friday, June 13th, Israel launched a sudden attack against Iran. This assault destroyed numerous buildings and installations, claiming dozens of lives—military leaders, scientists, and innocent bystanders, including women and children. Iran swiftly launched a reprisal, which also brought destruction and tragic loss of life in Israel to both Jews and Arabs. Since that time, this terrifying situation has only intensified, with foreign powers now threatening to enter the conflict, further heightening tensions both regionally and across the globe.

These developments are especially painful for us within this part of the Anglican Communion. The nations at war, along with those most directly impacted, reside entirely within the boundaries of our own Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East. As you are likely aware, our province encompasses three distinct dioceses: Jerusalem, Cyprus & the Gulf, and Iran—with the Diocese of Jerusalem extending its reach beyond Israel and Palestine to include Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Consequently, many of our church members have endured direct attacks, while a greater number now face the ominous prospect of cross-border escalations.

In his Sermon on the Mount, our Lord Jesus Christ boldly exclaimed to the gathered crowds, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matt 5:9). Yet peacemaking during war is perhaps one of the most difficult things that we Christians are called to do. Where does one even begin?

We can first of all lift up each other and the situation in prayer, imploring God to envelop us with His protective care. We can also seek His guidance for the leaders of nations, urging them to bring this violence to a swift conclusion. This would enable the many victims to receive necessary care and allow the warring parties to resolve their differences through peaceful negotiations held in good faith. Secondly, we can offer each other comfort and encouragement, building up each other through reassuring words about our Lord’s promise of salvation to his people, precisely as St. Paul exhorted the Thessalonians (1 Thess 5:11). Finally, we can look to the Holy Spirit for empowerment to become bridge builders within our local and regional communities, seeking to promote understanding, mutual respect, and goodwill.

Conversely, in following this path of peace, we must vigilantly guard against yielding to fear and despair. For this, we must again rely profoundly upon the graces of the Holy Spirit to both strengthen and empower us. As the Apostle further reminds us, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim 1:7).

It is with these hope-filled words that I continue to hold each of you in my prayers, earnestly seeking God’s sustained blessings upon all members throughout our Province and, indeed, beyond. Furthermore, I extend an invitation to our fellow Anglicans across the wider Communion, as well as all those of goodwill, to intercede on our behalf, that we might collectively be strengthened to embody the role of peacemakers as mutual members of the larger Body of Christ.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum
Primate and President Bishop, The Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East



Thanks to Anne Brechet, who forwarded this very topical document for inclusion in the Grapevine this month.

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers :

Bob and Caroline

Colin and Hester

Gini and Martyn

Jo and Brian

Maureen

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim and Sharmila

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

ASV Treasurer's Report



May 2025:

Income: 1712.72 €

Expenditure: 806.56 €

We have a positive balance for the month: + 816.16 €

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!

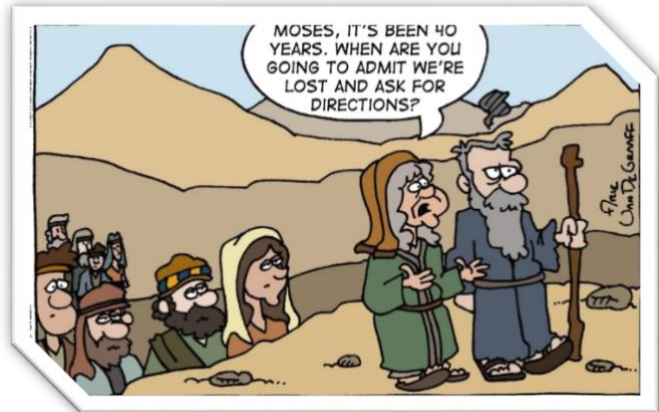
Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Elucubrations

from Trudy Coates

« Through our scientific and technological genius, we've made of this world a neighbourhood. And now through our moral and ethical commitment, we must make of it a brotherhood. We must all learn to live together as brothers—or we will all perish together as fools. » Rev Dr Martin Luther King

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.” Attributed to Jimi Hendrix



A more intimate translation of the first verse of the Lord's Prayer from Aramaic :

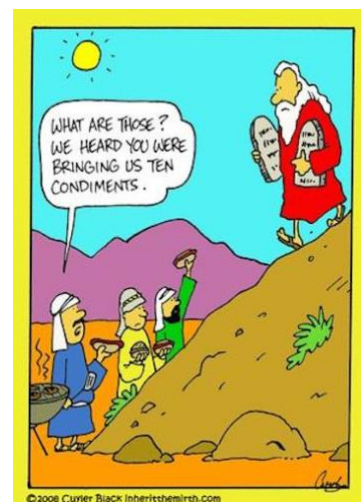
'Our Father' (Abba) 'who art in heaven' (in the heavens, atmosphere or the air)

'Hallowed be thy name' (Holy, set apart be your Person, or right now I hallow you Abba, I set you apart in my thoughts and awareness)

Thus I was taught this interpretation from the Aramaic:

'Abba you are as close to me as the air that I breathe, I stop and become aware of you'

With thanks to Mara





A heartfelt thank you, everyone !

As always, the volunteers at **Resto du Cœur** in **La Châtaigneraie** are extremely grateful for the contributions they receive from ASV .

The need for tinned food and nappies is ongoing.



My thanks for your generosity. Trudy



Sunday Club

"No one will be turned away, everyone is welcome

Calling all children, including holidaymakers, to attend Sunday Club. *Do **please** let us know a couple of days in advance, if you'd like to come, so that we can prepare something special for you."**

Please contact Jenny if you require more information: email:

jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Ladies' Group Meeting

I learn from Jenny Wilkinson that, owing to unavoidable last minute rearrangements, the next Ladies' Group meeting will be held at Mel's house in Menomblet on WEDNESDAY 25th June.

At 2pm there will be a strawberry 🍓 tea and all things strawberries!

All welcome !

For address contact

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

June 2025	
22nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
29th	
July 2025	
6th	No Service at La Chapelle-Palluau Œcumenical walk, Fontenay.
13th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
20th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at VOUVANT
27th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
August 2025	
3rd	Sunday 11h Holy <Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
10th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
17th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at VOUVANT
24th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
31st	
Setember 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

Sunday	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	NOTES
22 nd June	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG	AM	MK	TC, JW	
29 th June										
6 th July										No Service
13 th July	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	JM	AM	JW	SP, DP	
20 th July	V	11.00	MW							Vouvant
27 th July	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	CG	AM	DG	KS, AC	
3 rd August	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD					
10 th August	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	AC	AM	DP	BC, GK	
17 th August	V	11.00	MW							Vouvant
24 th August	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG	AM	CG	CM, MK	
31 st August										
7 th Sept	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD					
14 th Sept	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	CG	AM	SP	IMG, FMG	
21 st Sept										
28 th Sept	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	MK	AM	CM	KS, TC	

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

Two other shots from Château de la Recepte – thanks once again to the Cattells for having us to coffee !





(Photos from Rupert Cattell – many thanks)

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The next meeting is on WEDNESDAY 25th June at 2.00 pm at Mel's house in Menomblet. For details and directions, please contact Jenny – email below.

Anyone wanting to host these meetings in the future, please contact me !

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

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...

If there is anything relevant to the **All Saints Vendée** community, whether of general interest (events, stories, announcements, photos...), which you'd like to be published in the **August 2025** issue, do make sure you submit it* to me,

Nigel, at njp78@hotmail.com

before July 15th 2025 !

Huge thanks as always to all contributors ! I look forward to all next month's offerings.

NJP

**preferably in a format I can edit, if necessary!*