

Church of All Saints in the Vendée
"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

 *The Grapevine* 

May 2020

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4thought



Food for thought?



As we celebrated Easter in isolation, and our lockdown continues, I've had time to reflect. I was checking the liturgy we use so that once we can worship together, we'll have everything ready. One of the changes in the words we use is very seasonal.

For example, the invitation to Communion becomes from Easter Day to Pentecost:

All Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

And the dismissal: from Easter Day to Pentecost:

All Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Our French brothers and sisters in the EPUDF have a hymn book called Alléluia. So I wondered what was the exact definition of alleluia or hallelujah? It turns out that it is a sort of verbal shorthand! The word "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah" literally means "Praise the Lord". The form "Alleluia" is also used to refer to a liturgical chant in which that word is combined with verses of scripture, usually from the Psalms. It can be a noun or an exclamation.

Probably the most famous use of the word in the minds of most would be the song written and sung by Leonard Cohen, or The Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah by Handel. Traditionally the latter is always listened to standing up.

My Bible Dictionary (The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. F.L. Cross OUP 1957) refers to the use of the word in the Bible, in the Psalms and Tobit and particularly in the Book of Revelation, Ch. 19:1,3,4,6. as a chant of the saints in heaven.

So, the next time you hear or read the word alleluia, say to yourself "Praise the Lord", make it a special moment of peace within.

These are difficult times for all of us. Not only the restrictions on our daily lives, but the worry over our family members and friends both near and far. Each morning I take the time when I say Morning Prayer, to pray over the list of church members and their families as well as my own family. I have been deeply touched by the number of people who have rung me, to see how Martin and I are coping. I have been frustrated, as I'm sure you all are, about the necessity to carry documentation on the rare occasions we have to venture out, but the penalties for not doing so are heavy. Please keep in touch with one another, whilst respecting social distancing, and keep safe!

Every blessing,

Hazel



FORWARD PLANNING ROTA

2020 May into June	<i>All services have been cancelled until the Restrictions are lifted.</i>
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)	
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	

CHURCH SERVICES with LECTIONARY READINGS

May into June 2020

With the closure of all our services until further notice, I am including our Lectionary Readings so you can use them for your personal devotions

If, and when, the Covid-19 Restrictions are lifted, please refer to the website for service times.

3rd May 4th Sunday of Easter

[Genesis 7]
 Acts 2.42-end†
 1 Peter 2.19-end
 John 10.1-10
 Psalm 23
 † *The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading*

10th May 5th Sunday of Easter

[Genesis 8.1-19]
 Acts 7.55-end†
 1 Peter 2.2-10
 John 14.1-14
 Psalm 31.1-5,15-16 [or 31.1-5]
 † *The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading*

17th May 6th Sunday of Easter

[Genesis 8.20-9.17]
 Acts 17.22-31†
 1 Peter 3.13-end
 John 14.15-21
 Psalm 66.7-end
 † *The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading*

24th May 7th Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Ascension Day
 [Ezekiel 36.24-28]
 Acts 1.6-14†
 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11
 John 17.1-11
 Psalm 68.1-10, 32-end [or 68.1-10]
 † *The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading*

31st May **Pentecost – Whit Sunday**

Acts 2.1-2†
or Numbers 11.24-30
 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 *or* Acts 2.1-21†
 Psalm 104.26-36,37b [or 104.26-end]
 † *The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading*

7th June **Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 40.12-17,27-end
 2 Corinthians 13.11-end
 Matthew 28.16-20
 Psalm 8



EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

DATE	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRES-IDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	CHALICE	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	WEL-COMERS	NOTES
3 May												
10 May												
17 May												
24 May												
31 May												
7 June												

All services have been cancelled until the Restrictions are lifted

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



Barbara
David and Susan
Isi and family
Holly and Rachel
Jenny and Ray
Malcolm
Mike

Penny and **David**, and their son **John**
Pam and Brian
Pat and David
Dick
Peter
Pat and Roy
Heidi and her parents, Joël and Jo

....and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of:

Janice Adams

Barbara

Ken Ferguson

Beccy Sackley

Dot

Avril Simmons

Johnathan Mark Sykes

Tim Johnson



John Kenneth Ferguson (known to all as 'Ken')

died suddenly and peacefully on Tuesday 31st March 2020 in Coulonges-sur-L'Autize. He was born In Scotland 31st August 1937, the youngest son of a traditional Scottish family - he saw himself as a true Highlander as he was born North of Perth. He studied Agriculture at college, intending to take over the family farm after National Service and a short service commission but the early death of his father meant his life took a completely different direction.

He came down to London to find his fame and fortune - instead he found Irene. They married in 1964 and had four children, John, Isobel, Kenneth and Jenny. He was eventually to expand his clan first with grandchildren and step-grandchildren - Holly, Charlotte and Robyn; Allan, Gillian and Matthew; Phoebe, Oliver and Thomas and Katie and Jonathon(JJ) and latterly with several great-grandchildren - Theo and Imogen, Georgia and Bobby and Seren-Mae. He was immensely proud of all of them - even though he could not always remember the names of the younger clan members!

He treated his many friends as honorary clan members and so the circle grew, year by year and many people over the years enjoyed traditional celebrations at New Year and other times.

In London he worked as the Agricultural Agronomist for Chile until the revolution and then went back to Scotland to train as a teacher and whilst there he fulfilled one of his lifetime ambitions when he was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport(V). His Territorial Army service was to be the background to the rest of his working life. After moving back to the South of England he joined 7th Queens (V) in Folkestone and commanded the unit that was the last of the Buffs! After reorganisations left him without a vacancy, he was asked to join 220 Field Ambulance in Maidstone - he was back in the RCT in charge of the transport. The post was for a captain so he had to reduce a rank so he was extremely proud when he was awarded his Majority as a Brevet Rank. He got the title but not the pay! He stayed with them until his retirement in 1992 after the Ministry discovered he was over the official age when he was asked to volunteer to take charge of the medical transport in the Iraq War! He loved the unit and it became a real family affair when all four of the children joined and two of them found their spouses in The Territorial Army

Continued/...

.../Continued

He had several jobs whilst the family was growing up in the small village of Sedlescombe - finishing up with what became a passion for him - he became the manager of a Training Scheme for young people and at last was able to put the innovations that he had found were not appreciated in his earlier experience as a teacher. After that ceased he went on to forge a new career working for Kent Social Services. He became the Manager of a Centre for People with Learning Disabilities in Tunbridge Wells and he bought all his life experience to the task of developing this into a unique project getting extra funding from the EU to achieve the goal of giving the clients a chance of working in the real world.

He was especially proud to become a Civic Medallion Holder for Tunbridge Wells and continued to take part in Civic functions - the last being the Remembrance Service in November 2019.

Retirement in 2002 did not slow him down despite the heart problems that he had begun to experience culminating in a quadruple bypass 20 years ago. Much as he loved Sedlescombe he wanted to travel and also to spend time on his other passion - he played the guitar and had been in several bands over the years.

He had decided to buy a house in France as a 'challenge' when he retired and this became his first love. However he did like to keep warm in winter, the house in Sedlescombe was sold and he bought a house in Florida - close by Disney - thus ensuring lots of family visits! We had always been members of the Church in Sedlescombe but now found our Church in America as well as our Church here. In the end, however, the house in Florida was sold last year and he chose to become a French Resident - his heart was here.



His death was probably due to heart failure but because it was so sudden it was treated as if it were corona-virus related. Thus, he was cremated on 6th April with no family or friends present. We are hopeful that we can arrange a memorial service for him when restrictions are lifted and we will let people know as soon as we are able.



Irene

Ken, by his eldest Granddaughter, Phoebe

Memories of my Grandad:

My brilliant, cantankerous, fiercely contrarian Grandad passed on. He loved arguing with me and I (mostly) loved arguing with him about nearly everything. He was a phenomenal person who taught me murder ballads as a child, a highlander who helped Steal the Stone of Scone, a low level anarchist with a hatred of authority and apparently a dislike of the English...whilst also being a Major in the British army, marrying a gal from Essex and living in Kent. He was an enigma and one of the best people to share one-too-many drinks with. His absence will be a huge loss to me and our whole family and his large fan club of female retirees who loved his off-time and off-key (but always heartfelt) Scottish folk concerts.

from Phoebe Patey-Ferguson.

Sunday Club



will take place once again in
the Salle at Puy de Serre when our services recommence.

If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m. They will be most welcome.

All children welcome from all denominations, we have lots of interest

Please contact Jenny if you require more information:

email: jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Here is a special message from Jenny to help relieve the boredom of these unusual times...

Easter Sunday Club lesson

What is the EASTER story all about ?

Jesus died a horrible death on the cross FOR US this amazing act of love Jesus did for us to take away our sins.

THE STORY OF EASTER BEGINS IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS when God created the perfect world. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and their sin messed up their relationship with him. So, since that time there has been a distance between humans and God. But since God still loved us, God sent Jesus who was perfect to bridge that distance. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, taking the punishment for all of us. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have a good relationship with God again.

Key passages are: Genesis 3:2-6
JOHN 19:30,38-40,20:11-18

OBJECT LESSON (please ensure this done together with a responsible adult)

Let's symbolize what Jesus did for us:

You will need :

- a flat plate, - clear drinking glass, - coin, - candle (small), - coloured water.

Let's imagine the coin is yourself,

1. Place the coin onto the plate,
No matter how hard we try to be good, all of us have done bad things. We call this sin.
2. Pour the coloured water onto the plate.
Sin covers us up. We are drowning in it, there is no way out on our own. But then God sends his son, Jesus.
3. Place a lighted candle onto the plate. It needs to be in the water but NOT covering the penny
(! Please ask the assisting adult to do this for you!)
Jesus came to be a light. He lived the perfect life. And then died on the cross,
4. Place the drinking glass over the candle.
After a few seconds the light will go out and then the water will soak up inside the glass.

THIS IS JUST LIKE THE ACT OF LOVE JESUS DID FOR US TO TAKE AWAY OUR SIN.

IF WE ACCEPT JESUS AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS, HE WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS.THEY ARE GONE FOREVER.

THATS WHAT EASTER IS ALL ABOUT!

Jennifer Wilkinson



Dates for your Diary

May 2020



1st Friday	
2nd	
3rd Sunday	
4th	
5th	
6th	
7th	
8th	
9th	
10th Sunday	
11th	
12th Tuesday Treasure Hunt	has been postponed
13th	
14th	
15th	
16th	
17th Sunday	
18th	
19th	
20th	
21 st Thursday Ascension Day	
22nd	
23rd	
24th Sunday	
25th	
26th	
27th	
28th	
29th	
30th	
31st Sunday	

All services and meetings have been cancelled until further notice



Dates for your Diary



June 2020

1st Monday

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th Trinity Sunday

8th

9th

10th

11th

12th

13th

14th Sunday

15th h

16th

17th

18th

19th

20th

21st Sunday

22nd

23rd

24th

25th

26th

27th

28th Sunday

29th

30th



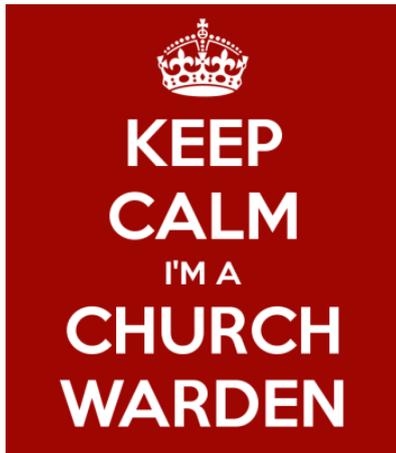
Training Day for Emergency First Aid

Training to HSE standard, leading to a certificate valid for 3 years

Was Tuesday April 7th 2020

Postponed to October





Your Churchwardens write:

May 2020

This Covid 19 crisis is the first time the whole world shares a common enemy. We all have our own part to play and obeying the social distancing rules is the most important thing we can do. Thank you all for keeping in contact with each other by telephone, emails, FaceTime - why not try Skype or Zoom? They are not as difficult as you might imagine. Your Chaplain and Council Standing Committee have been meeting by Skype because we must keep ASV running ready to resume church services as soon as we are allowed.

On a practical note, keeping the church running has a financial implication as our only income comes from plate collections, fund raising and planned giving. Obviously the first two sources have ceased for now which is why it is so important to the treasurer to receive planned giving income so he can pay the bills. Even in this crisis we still have to pay the church honoraria, vicarage utility bills, vicarage repairs (the roof was damaged in high winds), garden maintenance and the revised payments to the Diocese. If you are not part of the Planned Giving scheme please consider joining - your treasurer Iain would love to hear from you. He is doing a difficult job well - thanks Iain!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all but let us leave the last word to the inspirational Captain Tom Moore who said "Tomorrow will be a good day".

Doug and David

ASV Treasurer's Report:

March 2020

Income: 652.47€
Expenditure: 1337.06€

The balance, therefore, is negative for the month: - 684.59€.

Obviously, things are a little uncertain at the moment - if anyone feels able to join the Planned Giving Scheme, this would be an absolutely wonderful time to do it! (Details from any Council member, or the Grapevine).

Keep healthy, keep isolated, and keep talking to each other!

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)



through the Standing Order Scheme

ADVANTAGES

If you set up a standing order (virement) through your French bank, online, it is cost-free. If you need help doing this, please just ask me, or other council members.

You stay in total control of what you give – the standing order (virement) can be changed at any time, but only by you!

Only the treasurer knows how much you give per month.

You know what you are giving, and exactly when the money comes out of your account, and so your budgeting is much easier.

If you complete a French tax form, then you will get a rebate of 66% at the end of each financial year in which you have made a contribution. That means that a monthly virement of 30€ per month, will only cost you 10€ after tax. A monthly virement of 60€ will only cost you 20€ etc!

If your French tax bill is small, then you will pay no tax at all.

ASV can plan ahead much more effectively, as it knows what contributions are coming in, rather than guessing who is going to be at church!

If you would like to physically put something into the collection plate each service, then there should be small cards which you can collect on your way into church, which you can put into the collection plate as it is passed round.

DISADVANTAGES:

I can't think of any, so why not come and join the party!

British residents:

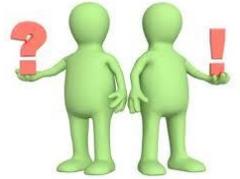
If you do not have a French bank account, but would like to support the work of ASV on a regular basis, then please contact me, and I can help you. Please note, you cannot use tax-efficient giving in both France and the UK.

Iain McGregor
Treasurer, ASV
mcgregor@lalogette.com



These are YOUR pages.....

My thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine"



Lent Lunches & Easter Raffle update; Restos de Coeur;
Treasure Hunt update;
A Handwashing Prayer and A Pandemic Prayer;
Ladies Circle Meetings update;

"Singing round the Piano" is cancelled **but** this is a golden opportunity to take a pen and complete your Favourite Hymns Questionnaire!



Mike Mylod is our link with
Restos du Coeur

He will continue to collect gifts of dry goods, etc.
for as long as possible
to be delivered to the local depot.

Mike can be contacted by phone at: 02 51 51 07 36



CANCELLATION OF TREASURE HUNT

As you should have seen in "Stop Press" on the Website we have cancelled the Treasure Hunt planned for May 12th. because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

We hope to organise a Treasure Hunt at some time in the future and look forward to welcoming those of you who had already shown interest as well as new entrants.

Stay safe!

Kent's Krew (Geoff, Maggie, Doug and Chris)

Chris and Doug Green greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk or Maggie and Geoff Kent. maguujelley@gmail.com

Ticia Goode shares this hand washing prayer received from a Royal Air Force Chaplain.

As I was my hands today
Wash my heart from fear, I pray
Wash my mind from needless fret
Wash the world from deadly threat,
Wash the needy with your Grace,
Wash me as I seek your face,
Wash me Jesus, every part,
Wash me, body, mind and heart.



(It also covers the 20 second hand washing rule!)

Lorna (Marian Rackham's daughter) has sent this prayer taken from St Michael's Parish Magazine, Alnwick, Northumberland. Marian believes one of the parishioners has written it.

A Prayer During Times of a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced,
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,
Remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our marginal income
in the tumult of the economic market,
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be
the loving embrace of God to our neighbours
Amen.

Contributed by Jean Sawyer

Postponed but not cancelled!

Due to the current circumstances both the Lent Lunch and the Easter Raffle had to be deferred, but we have every intention of holding them if and when we are able to.

Anyone who already has raffle tickets to sell, please hang on to them, and when social contact is less limited please continue to sell them.

Unfortunately, several of the chocolates and other food items in the raffle will be out of date, so I may well be appealing for replacements once a definite date is established.

Maggie and I still hope to invite people for a Lent-type lunch, it just won't be in Lent, presuming things change before 2021.

We will ask Jacqui to publish in the Grapevine as soon as we can, still for Resto du Coeur.

Watch this space.

God bless you all and keep you safe, and healthy.

Marian



ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020

Thursday 14th May, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 28th May, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Jaynie [bb
How to make Welsh

Thursday 11th June, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 25th June, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle – at Marian`s
Cakes: Mel
Ladies Circle Olympics!

Thursday 9th July, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 23rd July, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Everyone
Annual Strawberry tea and games with Sandy

Thursday 13th August, 2.30pm

Sewing Circle

Thursday 27th August, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Annual lunch and shopping trip – venue tba

Thursday 10th September, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 24th September, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Ann
Jane`s Day

Thursday 8th October, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 22nd October, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Jean

Thursday 12th November, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 26th November, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle

Massage, hair and nails with Jenny, Maggie,

Thursday 10th December, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 17th December, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Get ready for Christmas
Bring and share Christmas lunch

For more information, please contact: Joan Stewart: jpsmorandiere@outlook.com 02 51 00 34 70

“SINGING ROUND THE PIANO”



We have managed to meet twice and obviously our 3rd meeting will take place in the un-foreseeable future... **but it will take place again, so...**



In this time of Confinement, please take the opportunity to complete and return the attached Questionnaire

In 2007, we circulated a Questionnaire to the congregations in the Vendée asking everyone to let us know their favourite hymns so they (the hymns!) could be incorporated into future services. We feel it is time to circulate the same questionnaire again to establish your current favourite hymns

so....

Please make your choices on the attached questionnaire and return it to us either by email, by hand or by post to us at:

1 rue du Moulin, MOUILLERON-EN-PAREDS, 85390 Mouilleron St Germain

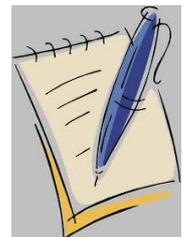
To date, we have received only 5 replies so we look forward to receiving your choices so Stuart can start to collate your favourites in time for the return to normality.



email: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
1 rue du Moulin, 85390 MOUILLERON-EN-PAREDS



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of "Grapevine".



My thanks to all the Contributors. Hopefully, this will be our final “Confinement” edition so

Please send your items for the JUNE edition to:

Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

before 15th May 2020

Requests to be included on the emailing list can be addressed to:

Jacqui Stainton-James at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

Please return this questionnaire to Jacqui & Stuart by 31st May 2020

Your Name:

I attend the church at: *La Chapelle Palluau/*Puy du Serre

Phone Number/Email Address:

2020
All Saints Vendée
Our Congregation's Favourite Hymns

So that the favourite hymns, which are known and loved by this congregation, can be included in our Church Services, please list below your "Top Five" hymns.

If possible, give the first line, the name of the hymnbook and the number where they can be found as well as the name of the tune - if there is a choice of tunes

(If your choice does not appear in any of our hymnbooks, please include the title and/or first line and we will do our best to locate it!)

<u>Title of Hymn or first line:</u>	<u>Hymnbook :</u>	<u>No:</u>	<u>Tune:</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

[If you feel strongly, you can list your Least-Favourite hymn(s) on the reverse!]

*Please cross out the statements which do not apply

Please hand this completed questionnaire to either Stuart or Jacqui Stainton-James or email it to us at: sifamily66@hotmail.com

or post it to us at:

1 rue du Moulin, Mouilleron-en-Pareds, 85390 MOUILLERON ST GERMAIN

I received this poem from Jim and June just before Grapevine went to press. I can certainly identify with some, (but not all!), of the comments. I hope it will bring a smile to your face and let's hope by next Grapevine the Lockdown will be a thing of the past!! Jacqui

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!