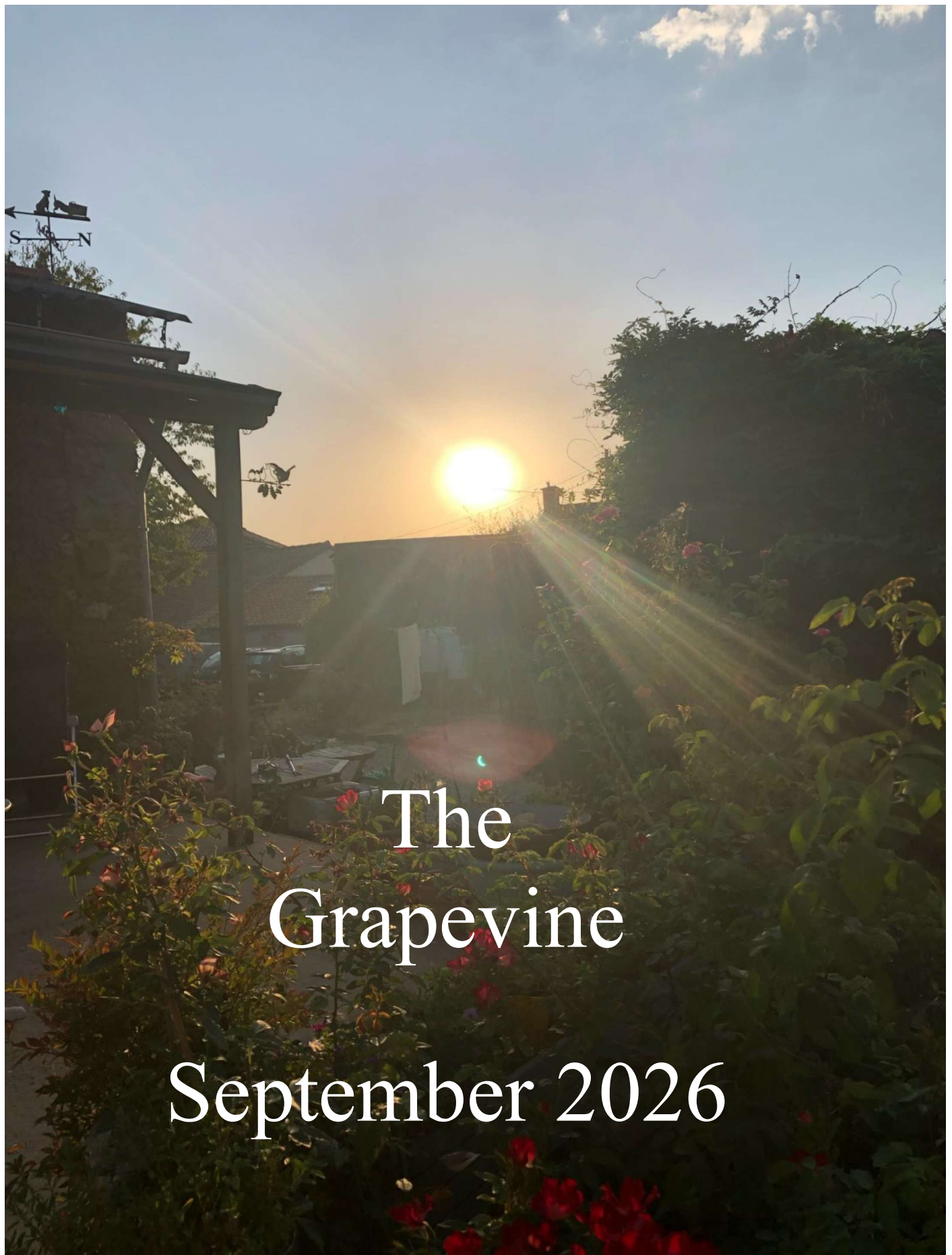




The Grapevine

September 2026

A smartphone photo of the eclipse (safely taken without looking!)

The Grapevine

September 2026

Welcome to the September Grapevine!

I couldn't decide whether to call this edition of the Grapevine the '*Eclipse*' edition or the '*Rentrée*' edition, but, in the end, I chickened out and it is, predictably, just the *September* edition.

Our very tall acer tree in the garden is utterly confused too, its leaves reddening and dropping far too early. Every year we seem to witness the wonders of Creation in a new and different way!

Nigel

All Saints Vendée

Contact details:

Chaplain & President:

Revd Hazel Door
Home phone: 05 49 87 71 45
e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr

Vicarage:

27 rue de Malvoisine,
85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:
Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71

Churchwarden:

Chris Milton: Phone : 02 51 51 77 38
e-mail: chrisannmilts@hotmail.com

Churchwarden and Lay Vice-Chairman:

Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72
e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

John Matthews: Phone: 05 49 75 29 71
e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer :

Anne Condie: Phone: 05 49 16 27 72
e-mail: ASVsafeguarding@gmail.com

Website:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr



4-thought

Rev Hazel

One very special day stands out for me during the month of September. That is the 14th, commonly called Holy Cross day.

I didn't know the exact significance, so I went searching. (If you are interested there are many articles across the internet.) This is a day which is commemorated across all Christianity. It comes from the finding of the wood and nails of the cross on which Christ died, and of the two crosses along side His. The remains were found by Saint Helena who was the mother of the Emperor Constantine. Following the discovery, a church was erected on the site in Old Jerusalem.

The building encompasses several sites of profound religious significance:

1. The Tomb of Christ (The Holy Sepulchre) - Enclosed within the Edicule in the rotunda, it is venerated as the site of Jesus's burial and resurrection
2. Golgotha/Calvary - The traditional site of the crucifixion, now accessible by stairs
3. The Stone of Anointing - Where Jesus's body was prepared for burial
4. The Prison of Christ - Where Jesus was allegedly held before crucifixion
5. The Chapel of St. Helena - Where the True Cross was said to be discovered
6. The Chapel of Adam - Situated beneath Golgotha, traditionally believed to be where Adam's skull was buried

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre stands as a testament to centuries of religious devotion, architectural evolution, and cultural exchange. Despite periods of destruction, conflict, and division, it remains Christianity's most venerated shrine and an extraordinary example of how a sacred space can reflect the complex tapestry of history.

The church's current restoration efforts represent a new chapter in its long history—one characterized by scientific conservation methods, interdenominational cooperation, and a deeper appreciation for its archaeological and historical significance.

As it has for nearly seventeen centuries, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre continues to evolve while remaining a powerful symbol of Christian faith and heritage.

As we look forward to autumn, and begin our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ, may I wish you all a peaceful and restful time,

Hazel





Churchwardens' Notes September 2026

Wow, as I started to write these notes for this month's edition, I suddenly realized that Ann (my wife) and I had moved in to our first French house 20 years ago this month, which started me thinking about where have those last 20 years gone? At that time when we moved over, it was the glorious years pre Brexit. (My personal view) and for the first couple of years we felt almost like millionaires, ("one day, Rodney, one day") and then suddenly the crash hit home in 2008 and both Ann and I needed to work. She commenced care in our local community, and I started working as an apple picker thinking very, very naïvely that I will be working with and learning from my French coworkers. Well, I did pick up a few new words in a foreign language, but unfortunately, not French. Most of it was Arabic.

Step back to the first year, one of our first expat contacts was joining the church here at Puy de Serre, where we discovered a thriving church community, led by the Priest at that time, Brian Davies and his wife Pam. So that's where the tale starts and from then we met and very much enjoyed the *joie de vivre* and sense of humour of a visiting Vicar called Jeffrey Coleman, and so, at that time we also started to attend his church in the Vienne which was on the third Sunday of each month, and with PDS on the second and fourth, we really got involved with church life most weekends. Having now moved into the Vendée we no longer attend Arçay, but we still enjoy coming to join our wonderful friends at the PDS community.

Also during this period I had the most wonderful gift of becoming part of an AmDram group, (I went to school with nearly an hour long coach journey, so I was never able to stay behind and enjoy the many delights offered by afterschool clubs, including drama football/cricket) and so with this drama group Reaction Theatre, I was able to realize my talent, (albeit limited as a budding thespian). 'Halcyon days'. Then this also led onto the choir Keynotes (as

many will testify I cannot carry a tune in a bucket!), but our circle of friends grew enormously and again, happy days. I also realize I am celebrating my first year as Church Warden and enjoying helping out more with the great team here at PDS so in this capacity, I suppose I should now get round to some church 'wardening' business!

Due to a bit of a hitch, our PCC meeting had to be rescheduled so there is not a lot to tell you except that, until that meeting takes place, Maggie and I have had no firm plans for November December dates; so that is the reason why we have only done the planning for service delivery for the next two months. So, in true Bugs Bunny fashion, "that's all folks"!

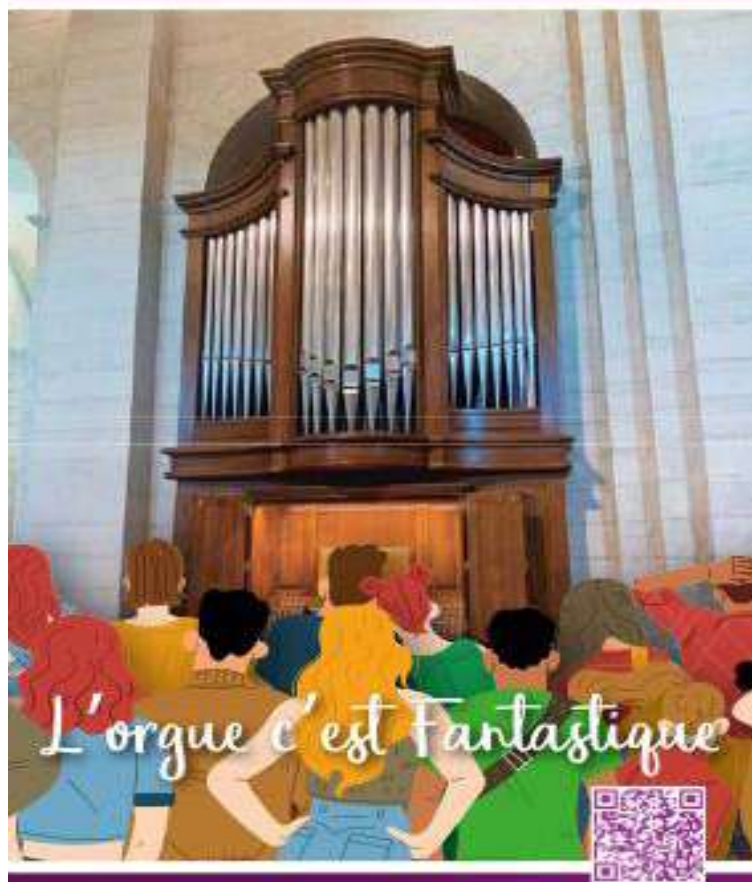
Hope you enjoyed the rambling and hopefully by the time you read this, we will all be experiencing more comfortable and a little cooler weather.

There is still one more ASV service of morning worship at Vouvant this summer, on Sunday 20th September. Do come along with friends, neighbours and visitors.

Lots of love from Maggie and myself,

Chris

ORGUE & MUSIQUE À VOUVANT



CONCERTS 2026

15 concerts de mai à novembre
Église de Vouvant

MUSIC LOVERS !

According to information online, there is still one organ concert to come this summer:

Thursday 27th August, 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



July 2026:

Income: **1221.00 €**

Expenditure: **1224.87 €**

We have a very small negative balance for the month: **-3.87 €**

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

Agnus Dei, Francisco de Zurbarán



St Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks in compassion on the world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

1944 diary passage by Anne Frank, which perfectly encapsulates hope for humanity: "It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's definition of stupidity is not about lack of intellectual capacity or foolishness but rather

1 Outsourcing our critical thinking to a third party (think, for example, of traditional media, social media and AI today).

2 Wilful ignorance (accepting things at face value, not bothering to find out what's really going on)

3 Conformity (doing what you've always done, blindly following the people around you



If you want to know what God thinks about money, just look at the people He gives it to. Dorothy Parker



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

The arrival of nappies is always greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm, 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





Dates for your Diary



August 2026	
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
30th	
September 2026	
6th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
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
October 2026	
4th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
11th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
18th	
25th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
November 2026	
1st	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
8th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
15th	
22nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre



ASV Service Rota *August to November 2026*

	2026								
D	M	Venue	Time	Service	President	Worship	Organist	Inter-cessor	Readers (2)
						Leader			
23	Aug	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	JM	CM/MK
30	Aug								
6	Sept	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
13	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	DG	AM	CG	AH/CH
20	Sept	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
27	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	TL	TC/JW
4	Oct	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
11	Oct	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	CM	GK/KS
18	Oct								
25	Oct	PdS	11h	HC	TL	JM	AM	JW	CH/BC
1	Nov	LCP	11h	HC	TL				
8	Nov*	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	CM/AH
15	Nov								
22	Nov	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	CG	TC/AC

**Remembrance Sunday*

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

Ladies' meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month 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 very rarely 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 **October 2026** issue, do make sure you submit it to me, at njp78@hotmail.com

...ideally before September 15th 2026 !

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

Nigel