



The Grapevine

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April 2024

Some quotes about this month:

“April brings the sweet Spring showers,
On and on for hours and hours!”

(Michael Flanders and Donald Swan, *At the Drop of a Hat*, 1960)

“Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more
fools in it than ever”.

(Charles Lamb, 1775 – 1834)

Cover photo – This view of a Deux-Sèvres field in April 2023 reminded me of the Ukrainian flag.

4 thought

With thanks to Rev. Hazel

Although just over halfway through March, my thoughts have turned towards April. The predominant social topic for discussion among most of us has been the weather. (Very British???)

I'm sure every one of you is familiar with the saying "April showers bring May flowers", and my first thought was please no more rain! But then my second thought reminded me that we have had two years of drought restrictions because the aquifers were dry. Here in the commune of Linazay, in department 86, the Vienne, there is "ruisseau d'hiver" marked on the map. This winter stream began to flow in November last year, and is still going strong today, adjoining fields are flooded, the centre of the village has been inundated twice. This year the stream has been as much as 50 metres wide and flows from Pliboux in the Deux-Sèvres to join the river Charente near the market town of Civray. To date, there are no official figures to show how replenished the water table is, but I'm hopeful that it will not lead to any more drought restrictions this summer.

Whilst I have not been tempted to build anything as ambitious as an Ark, I was drawn to the Old Testament, in particular Genesis 6:5-7. The current situation in our world today makes sobering reading, doesn't it? There are so many areas of conflict, with more emerging daily. But we can rely on God's solemn promise, His covenant, in Genesis 9. vv9-17.

With reference to Saints' days in the month of April, two, in particular, stand out. St George, patron saint of England, commemorated on the 23rd and St. Mark the evangelist on the 25th. I'm sure we all know the tradition of St. George, but perhaps not much about St. Mark?

According to tradition, St. Mark, also called John Mark, was a cousin of St. Barnabas, an influential leader in the early Church and companion of St. Paul on his missionary journeys.

His house in Jerusalem is believed to be the site of the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Eucharist, and also the place where the disciples gathered after the Resurrection.

Christian tradition holds that he was a disciple of Saint Peter.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, with only 16 chapters. It is believed to have been written around 65-70 AD.

Many scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark was the first of gospels to be written, serving as the basis for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

He is often represented by a winged lion, symbol of Christ's royalty and resurrection.

Saint Mark is considered the founder of the Church in Egypt, specifically the Coptic Orthodox Church. He would have been the first bishop of Alexandria, where, according to tradition, he suffered martyrdom around AD 68.

The relics of St. Mark were supposedly taken from Alexandria to Venice in 828 AD and deposited in St. Mark's Basilica, built especially to house them. He became the patron saint of Venice, and his figure is closely associated with the city's history and identity. The winged lion of Saint Mark is an iconic symbol of Venice and is found on many of the city's buildings and monuments.

St. Mark played a crucial role in the young early Church, not only as an evangelist, but also as a traveling companion to St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their missions.

I pray that you may all have a blessed Easter, Hazel.

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:

Jo and Brian

Colin and Hester

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim & Sharmila

Maureen

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

Pat and Roy

Polly

Bob and Caroline

Chris and Ann

Thanks to David Pearson, as always.



Churchwardens' Notes

For April 2024

Doug Green, Maggie Jelley

ANNUAL MEETING (AGM) 2024

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this years AGM on March 10th where last year was reviewed and elections took place for the positions of Churchwardens and Council members. We confirm that, as the only nominations, we were re-elected as your Churchwardens for another one-year term. The size of a Church Council is determined by the number of people on the Electoral Roll. For ASV we can have 6 Council members who serve for a 3-year term with two members retiring each year. This year Jenny Wilkinson and Geoff Kent came to the end of their 3 years but were willing to stand again. As there were no other nominations, they were elected to new 3year terms.

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2025

Two important announcements were made at the AGM which need careful consideration in the next 12 months. Firstly our Chaplain, Hazel, reminded everyone that her Licence expires in the Summer of 2025. The second point is that Doug has made it quite clear that this will be his last year as Churchwarden, and he will not seek re-election at next year's AGM. At the moment, *All Saints, Vendée* is in a healthy position financially and spiritually and we hope and pray that it will continue for many years but the above points need to be addressed in the next 12 months.

LIONS SOS

Elsewhere in this edition of Grapevine you will see an article about an initiative by the Lions Club called Lions SOS. It is such a simple idea but could save someone's life - even your own. Please read this article carefully and ask at your Pharmacie for a box. We have both collected our boxes !

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If you need any more details or wish to discuss anything written here, please contact us. In the meantime, we hope you remember to alter your clocks for Summer time before the extra Service at PDS on Easter Sunday, 31st March.

With love and prayers for a Blessed Eastertide.

Doug and Margaret

Safety in a little plastic box

Whether we like it or not, or whether we admit it to ourselves, or not, we are, all of us, getting older! Some of us, whether by choice or by loss, are living on our own. Even those of us blessed to have partners may not always be in a position to help if a medical crisis situation arises. I have recently been told about an excellent free system run by the Lions Club International called Lions SOS. It seems to me a wonderful and very practical idea for us all to take up.

'LIONS SOS' involves placing written vital information relating to the person's health in a small plastic box stored in the refrigerator door. This immediately tells the emergency services about the patient's state of health and medications and can save vital time. On arrival they will see the 'LIONS SOS' sticker on the back of the front door and know that an information sheet is available in the refrigerator.

Using this system can help to bring peace of mind to the beneficiaries, elderly, isolated people, those weakened by illness, those with disabilities and others, as well as their families.

The little plastic boxes and full instructions may be collected FREE OF CHARGE from many Pharmacies across much of France, certainly in both the Vienne and Deux-Sevres

Geoff and I have already collected one each. WHAT A GREAT IDEA!



CHILDRENS' SOCIETY DONATION - THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who donated towards the Childrens' Society either via the Christingle Candle collection boxes or a donation directly to me. I converted the money into GBP and transferred this to the Society. I am pleased to report the total was £240 and shown below is the email acknowledgment I have received.

Again, many thanks

Chris

08 March 2024

Thank you for sharing the light of Christingle

Dear Mrs Green,

Thank you so much for your Christingle celebration this year and this amazing donation of **£240.00** to The Children's Society.

It's thanks to the money raised in churches and congregations like **All Saints Anglican Church, Vendee** that we are able to be here for children and young people when they need us most, and we're so grateful to you for standing alongside us. Please extend our thanks to everyone who contributed towards this.

We know how much work goes into organising a Christingle and this year supporters like you have gone to extraordinary lengths to celebrate and raise money with us. We are so grateful for all the effort you have put into making sure the Christingle tradition continues. It means the world to us and to young people.

Your support really does change lives – together, our volunteers, supporters and campaigners make The Children's Society's work possible. When you attend a Christingle service, you are standing alongside young people and letting them know that a brighter future is possible.

Last year more than 2,000 celebrations raised nearly £600,000 for children and young people. Every penny raised at your Christingle helps change lives. You can read more about the impact your support has at childrenssociety.org.uk/impact.

Thank you once again for Christingling with us this year to make a difference for children and young people.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Moran
Head of Supporter Experience

We may contact you by post, and telephone, about how you can support children in crisis by campaigning, volunteering or providing financial support. If you do not wish to hear from us, or have a preferred contact method, simply let our friendly Supporter Care team know by calling **0300 303 7000** or emailing supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk.

Grapevine Treasurer's report:

February 2024:

I have sent out the tax rebate forms for 2023 for those who have contributed via the Planned Giving Scheme. You will need to get your form dated and stamped by me to validate it with the tax authorities. If you have not already done so, please either hand it to me in person at the next PdS service, or post it to me with a stamped and addressed envelope for me to return it to you.

Income: 1444.00 €

Expenditure: 505.16 €

We have a positive balance for the month: + 938.84 €

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV. Financially, we had a very good start to the year. The income was augmented by an enjoyable February Quiz, and there was little expenditure during the month.

Iain McGregor

2024 - Les Olympiades de l'Orgue à Vouvant

Vouvant célèbre Gabriel Fauré / 1845-1924

Toute la programmation détaillée sur : orgueetmusiqueavouvant.com

Fête des plantes « Organistes en herbe » *

> Dimanche 19 mai / classe d'orgue du **CONSERVATOIRE DE NANTES** / professeur **MICHEL BOURCIER**

Fête de la Musique « Organistes en herbe »

> Dimanche 23 juin / classe d'orgue du **CONSERVATOIRE D'ANGERS** / professeur **THOMAS PELLERIN**

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL D'ORGUE DE VOUVANT / juillet & août

> Samedi 6 juillet / 20h30

Gabriel Fauré : Requiem & Pelléas et Mélisande

DIDIER LEDOUX, organiste titulaire du grand orgue de la cathédrale de La Rochelle

MATHILDE MILHIÈRE, soprano / **MARTIN BARIGAULT**, baryton

Ensemble vocal **POLYMNIE** / **FABRICE MAURIN**, direction

> Jeudi 11 juillet / 19h00

JONATHAN SCOTT, organiste en résidence au Bridgewater Hall de Manchester

Académie lyrique Alto / en résidence à Vouvant

> Samedi 13 juillet / 20h30 / Salle des fêtes / concert des élèves de l'académie

> Jeudi 18 juillet / 19h00

JEAN-BAPTISTE COURTOIS, professeur honoraire du Conservatoire national supérieur musique Paris

> Jeudi 25 juillet / 19h00

ANTONIO GARCIA, organiste titulaire du grand orgue de l'église française de Bern

> Jeudi 1er août / 19h00

BRUNO MORIN, organiste titulaire du grand orgue de la cathédrale du Havre

> Jeudi 8 août / 19h00

ELSA SIRODEAU, soprano

VIRGILE MONIN, Grand prix de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts, organiste en résidence à Vouvant

> Jeudi 15 août / 19h00

JUAN DE LA RUBIA, organiste titulaire de la basilique de la Sagrada Familia de Barcelone

> Jeudi 22 août / 19h00

PAUL GOUSSOT, organiste titulaire du grand orgue de l'église Sainte-Croix de Bordeaux

> Jeudi 29 août / 19h00

ALMA BETTENCOURT, classe d'orgue du Conservatoire national supérieur de musique Paris

Journées du Patrimoine : " Vents à Vouvant "

> Samedi 21 septembre / 16h30 / Musique bretonne et traditionnelle irlandaise

FRANÇOIS GOUTHE, bombarde

JEAN-PIERRE MAUDET, organiste titulaire du grand orgue de la cathédrale de Vannes

> Dimanche 22 septembre / 16h30

CÔME BOUTELLA, Tuba – Université des arts de Zurich / Suisse

CHRISTINE MÉTAY-SEGUI, organiste de l'église Notre-Dame de Fontenay-le-Comte

Marché de Noël de Vouvant *

Les mini-concerts de 15 minutes pour les familles

> Samedi 23 novembre & dimanche 24 novembre

VIRGILE MONIN, professeur d'orgue au conservatoire de Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées

* en association avec le Comité des fêtes de Vouvant

Production : Orgue & Musique à Vouvant

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

There is a Sunday Club Story below :

*The text that follows was submitted as a rather dark image, so I'm afraid it may not be all that easy to read. However, I'm sure it is worth the trouble! (NP).

Do Something Nice **by Sara Rivas**

So I was reading Mark chapter 12, this morning. And it mentioned how God will judge us based on the amount of gifts or talents that he has given us. And I know that you guys have lots and lots of gifts. Just to the other day, I was using my gift, which is a little interesting. I really love to shop, which is probably not a good thing for my wallet. But it was actually a good thing that I got to do for my nephew, he came by from Washington, and he needs to buy it back to back to school clothes. And I said, Well, I really like shopping, and I know your daddy doesn't, so I can help you go get some clothes. So while we were at Old Navy, we found this really cool ball machine, like you throw in a quarter you spin it, you get a bouncy ball. And it wasn't working. And my boys each had a quarter and they were really excited about getting their balls. And the very nice salesperson that was there had just freely gave two of the balls to the boys. And they were really excited. And they ended up keeping their quarters. They said don't worry about it, keep it for next time. And so it was really nice to see somebody be so kind and serve us by giving us something. And later that day, we ended up going to the grocery store and there was someone that was asking for money. And it was really nice to see Zeke to remember that he had a quarter in his pocket, and he pulled it out and he handed it to him.

And so it doesn't have to be something big. But if you have a gift, you have a talent, if it's just that you can listen. Ask your grandparents, hey, tell me a story. I wouldn't listen, you don't have conversation with them, talk to them. If you're practicing your reading, why not read to them. And if you're a little older, if you

can help by cooking or cleaning, and it doesn't have to be big stuff, it can be something little, like maybe you can dry the dishes and put them away. Or maybe you could pick up your plate, , put it back in the sink, that sort of thing. Or maybe you're a little older and you can cook, maybe you can make something even if it's something like hey, peanut butter and jelly sandwich to grilled cheese. Quesadilla Something easy peasy. And you could make and serve to someone else. And surprise some really nice. Or if you're a little older, maybe a little tech savvy and you see that someone is having a hard time with I don't know setting up their ring camera, or sending a message to their doctor and you can help them with that. Go ahead, say hey, you don't have to go. You don't have to go to the doctors to ask them. I can send a message for you. Go for it, do it, do something easy peasy. That is easy for you. But it will be very beneficial for someone else. And if you're older, and you can drive them to their appointments today, but they really like that. But I just want to encourage you to look for ways to serve this week. And God will richly bless you in return. And you'll be surprised at how good it'll make you feel afterwards as well. All right.

Let me pray for you. Do your Heavenly Father, thank you so much, dear Jesus, for loving us and for allowing us to call you our father and thank you for the promises that you have for us. Please help us to find ways to serve others this week. We love you so much. And we thank You for dying on the cross for us. In your very sweet name we pray. Amen.

Dates for your Diary

March – April – May 2024

March 2024	
24 th	PALM SUNDAY 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
29 th	GOOD FRIDAY
31 st	EASTER SUNDAY 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre followed by coffee in the church as the hall is in use.
April 2024	
1 st	Easter Monday
7 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle Palluau
14 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
21 st	Sunday

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28 th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Puy-de-Serre
May 2024	
1st	Wednesday
5 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle Palluau
12 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
19 th	Sunday
26 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

East & West Vendée – Church Service

Rota

March – April - May 2024

If you find you are unable to be at church on “your” day,

DATE 2024	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST	INTERCESSOR	READERS	NOTES
Sunday 24th March	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	JM	AM	JW	CM AC	PALM SUNDAY
Friday 29th March										GOOD FRIDAY
Sunday 31st March	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG		CG	MK GK	EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday 7th April	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD					
Sunday 14th April	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	CG		IMG	AH CH	
Sunday 21st April										
Sunday 28th April	PDS	11.00	Morning Worship	HD	HD	MK		DP	SP GK	
Sunday 5th May	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD					

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Sunday 12th May	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	AC		MM	KS BC	
Sunday 19th May										PENTECOST
Sunday 26th May	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	JM		DG	WL JM	

...please try to arrange a swap and inform the Worship Leader

Forward Planning April 2024

This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible. If you feel able to “fill in the blanks,” please contact the Organiser concerned – Jenny (refreshments) or Barbara (flowers).

Responsibility (Organiser)	14 th April Puy de Serre 11hr00	28th April Puy de Serre 11hr00
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny W. and Trudy C.	Jenny W. and Trudy C.
Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews)		

	<p>Did you know PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS can be read at: www.allsaintsvendee.fr See : John Matthew's recent Talk</p>	
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Danger! Are we creating God in our own image ?

Are we limiting God to our own horizons ? We often pretend to know what God is thinking, and we imagine that God has the same limited view of the Universe as we do, a view which has been described as the vanishingly small space around our brains.

Perhaps we should remind ourselves that our view of God is possibly as intellectually challenged as a frog's view of us.



Sometimes the best answer to a question is, « I don't know ».

Fortunately for us, we do however have the Gospels to turn to, for the guidance that God gave us through Jesus. And that still small voice inside us, Jesus telling us what the right thing to do is.

So when we hear people, ranging from world leaders and religious authorities to people around us and social media aficionados, claiming to know what God is thinking, we have to ask ourselves whether their ideas reflect what we know from Scriptures, not always easy to understand or interpret, or is it a very personal, limited spin, reflecting their narrow, frog-eyed* view and own objectives. (*with apologies to frogs)

Jesus, Light of the World



Painting by Nathan Greene



Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.

One day while he was up on the scaffolding -- the job almost finished -- he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened. The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the gravestones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint. Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: "REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"



Grapevine April 2024

With thanks to Trudy Coates



Resto du Cœur La Châtaigneraie Bulletin

Thank you all for your generous donations of food and personal hygiene products which we delivered to the Resto du Cœur La Châtaigneraie on 12th March 2024.

The La Châtaigneraie branch has 68 families on their books and can expect around 30 service users per session (they are open Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00 – 16:00). At least 60% of their service users have children and are lone parents. Refugees include people from Syria, the Ukraine, Guinea and South America. The nearest other Restos are in Fontenay Le Comte, Chantonay and Les Herbiers, which, as the volunteer I spoke with pointed out, is a long walk away when you've got a pushchair, no money and no car.

The La Châtaigneraie team are really proactive; the volunteers were in Super-U last week collecting food and personal hygiene donations from shoppers. They accept donations of short-dated goods from the supermarkets. They have got sachets of pet food where the boxes have split and the sachets cannot be sold individually. They even have an allotment to grow fresh veg to distribute except the wet weather has delayed lifting the potatoes and leeks.

The volunteers expressed their thanks and gratitude to the congregation of ASV. Every time we arrive with a car bootful of donations, they cheerfully pull out a battered old trolley to transport the goods and are always pleased and excited as they unpack your donations. As many of the congregation have caring and teaching experience, you understand the impact of malnutrition on the hippocampus (the centre of memory and learning in the brain). Your donations continue to protect the future of children in vulnerable families from hunger and illness.

Donations of rice, pasta, noodles, tinned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit, ready cook sauces long life milk, cream and juices, coffee, tinned and packet soups, cereals, biscuits, jam and spreads, cooking / olive oil, cat and dog food, condiments...

Loo roll, sanitary products, nappies, shampoo, bath / shower gel, washing up liquid, toothbrushes, toothpaste...

Mike Mylod will collect the next donations at the service on **Sunday 14th April 2024**

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

Sewing meetings are every 1st Thursday of the month and
Ladies Circle is every 4th Thursday.

New members very welcome!

Contact jennywilkinson213@gmail.com or
Joan Stewart jpsmorandiere@outlook.com

These are Your Pages

Remnants

In spite of difficulties we are still meeting up. Due to road closure at Linda's we met twice at Alison's, at Peggy's in Soulans, and at Christine's. Always joyful, enjoying songs and Prayers, we help and support each other.

Alison and Ian pick up Peggy and Jo, both not driving now. Distances are difficult, but we are determined not to let this stop us meeting together.

At Christine's, in her mobile home park in Maché we were welcomed by spring daffodils and early blossom on the trees, giving hope and encouragement after this long wet winter !



Following the service at La Chapelle Palluau, we have a Bring and share hosted by Colin and Hester in their lovely home. The variety of dishes is always a pleasant surprise, and we have time for fellowship. It's always good to be together. The photo goes someway to show the camaraderie and amitié. We are all looking forward to the better weather.



A letter from Marian Rackham

Dear friends at ASV, or at least all those who remember me, as it is now some time since I returned to UK. I am planning to visit France this summer, staying in Thiré from late June for possibly 5 weeks. Two of those will be with family but the rest will be on my own and I would love to catch up with anybody who would like to visit me during this time. I don't think I will have a car between visitors however so if you would like to catch up and are prepared to drive then please will you contact me and let me know?

God bless you all,

Marian marian.rackham@outlook.com

And finally,

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the April 2024 issue of

The Grapevine.

Please consult the website for updates: www.allsaintsvendee.fr Next issue contributions, please, to me, Nigel Pearce, at njp78@hotmail.com **before April 15th 2024 !**