

## All Saints Vendée Open Forum 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 Les Essarts

**The Forum opened at 4pm** with a presentation by **Keith** about **Our Stewardship**.

When ASV received the Vacancy Pack it was Keith Fowler and Margaret Kent who volunteered to coordinate the task. We had chosen "**Option B**", which allowed the Bishop to recommend a new Priest in Charge to us. It was also the less expensive option. **Keith and Margaret** then had to produce a Profile and a 3 year Budget to attract the right person. **Keith** highlighted our Planned Giving and asked us to consider what €1 a day would mean to us, and if we were to do this for our church, what a difference it would make to our financial position. At the moment a Locum Priest in All Saints Vendée doesn't receive a Stipend/Wage but has the right to ask for €150 per week. Luckily for us no one, has taken up this right. Also at the moment there are 3 other Chaplaincy's in France who are looking for a priest and they are offering a STIPEND! **Thus we need to make All Saints as attractive as we can.**

**We can't be dependent on Fund Raising.** €1 per day ( not over and above what you already donate!) would give us a total of almost €20000 per annum. That would give us an option of offering a small stipend. **Doug** said that there are also tax benefits in France which would give an extra 66% after the first year, so it would enable us increase our donation accordingly. Though this is possibly changing.

The point that **Doug** made was that under French taxation, the individual would get a 66% tax reduction on their donations, thus enabling the individual to increase their donations if they so wished. The same applies to individuals donating in the UK if they so wish.

Also **Keith** thought it important to stress that if anyone chooses to donate via the UK, (because they are in receipt of a Civil service or Crown Pension and therefore have to make a tax declaration in the UK) are able to treat their donations as legitimate expenses and therefore include this in their UK tax form. The UK tax would give an extra 25p.(This does not apply to those who receive the normal State Pension, as they have to declare that as income to the French Tax authorities) **Claims for tax relief can only be claimed once, either in the UK or France.**

**Question is...**Can we do a little bit more or in a more beneficial way, for all concerned?

**Keith** spoke about the Stewardship Organisation in UK, which has been in operation since 1906. They work for other Charities not only churches. We would have to set up an account for All Saints but this is not difficult. Check out [www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

**Martyn** said that Giving is not about finance but is a Spiritual thing. He told about an Indian woman who received payment and then immediately gave back to the church a proportion of this.

**Virement forms** are available from **Suzanne** and there are some Leaflets, which Richard has produced, highlighting the Challenge in front of us.

**Polly** said it was easy to change virements on line, either increase or decrease, should it be necessary.

**Geoff** encouraged everyone to get more people to come to church.

**Stuart** asked if we would get a full time Priest if we offered a stipend? Hazel answered Yes but the on going costs would be very high, including Pension contributions.

**Photos Polly** asked if anyone had any photos from the weekend visit of the **Archdeacon**. Sadly no one has any.

**Marian** asked the question about the **Prayer List** again. There was support for the reading out of names, but not their illness or injury. **David** suggested we use only **Christian names** and no personal details. There should be full agreement from the family or friend who is making the request. With these solutions in place there was no objection to continuing the publishing of the Prayer List. The list should be kept up to date and distributed regularly

Hazel brought the forum to a close with a prayer from the **Community of Iona** and the prayer for **St Anselm**. We joined hands and said **The Grace**.

We closed at 1645h

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