

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

 *The Grapevine* 

August 2014

CONTACTS:

Priest: Reverend Caroline Sackley: Phone number: 02 51 40 49 82, e-mail: revcarosack1@gmail.com

Church Wardens: Barbara Kenyon: Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, e-mail: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Joan Stewart: Phone no: 02 51 00 34 70, e-mail: jpsmorandiere@free.fr

Readers: Robin Kenyon: Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, e-mail: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

John Matthews: Phone no: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr



Preface

Hello everyone,

Another Grapevine issue composed sitting on the veranda with the sun shining beautifully. It is one of those days that reminds me of Genesis 1:31 “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” We have had two Gospel readings about harvest in July, both with similar themes of a crop growing well and strong. In the first some of the seeds fell on ground that for one reason or another could not sustain growth, and in the second there were the weed seeds that were sown amongst the crop by the evil one. Both these parables of course were talking about our Christian life and growth and also about how we spread the good news of God’s love for us. Jesus used a lot of parables about country life, it was something that everyone could understand.

In Hebrews 2:1 we are told “Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” In the summer it seems to me that it is easier to drift away from reading plans and prayer time, there are the distractions of visitors (however good it is to see them), social occasions, gardening to name but a few. Some people may find the opposite and that while outside in these beautiful surroundings it is easier to praise God and give thanks for his bounty. The Hebrews reading echoes what we have been told on both those Sundays; “Let those who have ears listen”.

One of our distractions over the next few months is that at last, after several delays, the parish now owns a Vicarage. Bob and James have started work and I am about to send out a list of help needed in the short term. Please don’t worry if there is nothing you can help with on this list or because the timing is wrong, there is plenty to do!

Our full address and telephone contact numbers will be posted on the web site as soon as we are there more or less full time. On the subject of the web site it seems that not many of the parishioners visit it, but it is there that changes to plans or new events are posted and you may miss some information if you don’t visit it from time to time. If you find any problems with it please let Jacqui know.

Enjoy the August days,

God bless

Caroline

AUGUST into SEPTEMBER CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

All Services start at 11am except where indicated

[We have also included the Psalms for each week, as they may inform your own reading at home]

3/8/2014 1 st Lesson: Genesis 32: 22-31	HC	LCP Epistle: Romans 9: 1-5 [Psalm 17: 1-7, 16]	Trinity 7 Gospel: St Matthew 14: 13-21
10/8/2014 1 st Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4,12-28	HC	PDS Epistle: Romans 10: 5-15 [Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22,45b]	Trinity 8 Gospel: St Matthew 14: 22-33
17/8/2014 1 st Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15	HC	LCA Epistle: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 [Psalm 133]	Trinity 9 Gospel: St Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28
24/8/2014 1 st Lesson: Exodus: 1:8-2:10	HC	PDS Epistle: Romans 12:1-8 [Psalm 124]	Trinity 10 Gospel: St Matthew 16: 13-20
31/8/2014	Celtic Communion	PDS [Readings to be announced]	Trinity 11
7/9/2014 1 st Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:7-18	HC	LCP Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 [Psalm 65]	Harvest Thanksgiving Gospel: St Luke 12: 16-30

*LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau,
MW=Morning Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship); BCP=Book of Common Prayer*

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*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,
followed by a Bring & Share Lunch
Everyone is welcome to join us – even if you have not brought anything
There is always enough to go round!*



(Unfortunately, when there is a service on the fifth Sunday in the month, the hall is not available).

Dates for your Diary



- 10th August, Sunday, 11am: Restos du Coeur collection at Puy de Serre**
12th August, Tuesday, 6pm, Ploughman`s supper at Polly Ward`s [For more details please contact Polly on 02 51 51 64 29]
18th August, Monday, 6pm, Bring and share at Polly Ward`s, followed by a trip to Prieure de Grammont to hear Gregorian chant by candlelight [Please contact Polly for more details]
22nd August, Friday, 3pm Walk followed by tea at La Pardiere [Please contact Geoff or Maggie for more details on 05 49 72 27 72]
28th August, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds. For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34 70
31st August, Sunday, Celtic Communion

A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!

*Don`t forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Resto du Coeur in Coulonges.*



And looking ahead:

- 12th September, Puy de Serre, Friday: Quiz night**
19th September, Puy de Serre, Friday: Harvest Supper

Don`t forget that Diary Updates are available on our Website:
www.AllSaintsVendee.fr



Names on our Prayer List.....

**We are so pleased that
Geoffrey Colman, John Matthews and Celia Houghton
continue to do well.**

We give thanks for God`s healing hand

However, please continue to pray for **Peter Hutchinson** who is now very frail.

Our Prayer Co-ordinator is David Pearson. Please let him have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers. ☎ 02 51 61 05 04 ✉ david.sally@orange.fr

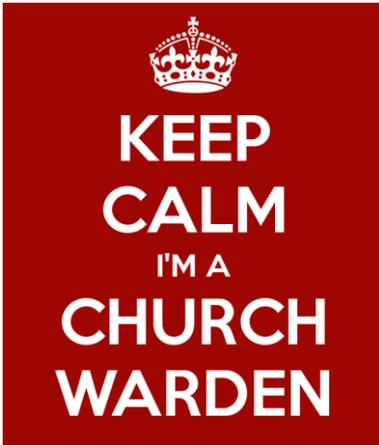
“Thank you all for your continuing prayers”

You may sometimes hear of members or friends of our congregations who are not wanting to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.

In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.

Tel: 02 51 61 05 04

Notes from our Church Wardens



Saturday 19th July 2014 is a day that will go down in the history of A.S.V. as a "red letter" day.

Caroline, Joan and I met at the Notaire's Office in St. Etienne du Bois to sign for OUR HOUSE! There was a little trepidation on our part just in case we had failed to get some of the paperwork and translations correct - however - we made it and you are all now the proud owners of a Vicarage.

We are pleased to tell you that, following our letter to members, donations have begun to arrive to pay towards the cost of refurbishment. This money is needed urgently as the work on the house has already begun. All you need to do is make out a cheque payable to "The congregations of All Saints, Vendée" and give it to Caroline, Barbara or Joan or send it directly to the Treasurer, Maggie Jelley, at La Pardiere, 79380, La Fôret sur Sèvre. Remember that our target is 10,000 euros so please be as generous as you can. The vicarage is our pledge for the future...

Financial donations are not the only way to support and help the renovation process which has already begun. You will be kept fully informed of it all as it goes along and when working parties etc., are needed. Keep an eye on your email or telephone Caroline if you able to give some time.

We are also delighted to report that the congregation at La Chapelle Palluau has increased over the past few months.

During the summer holidays we do not have Sunday Club but it will start again in September when the children go back to school..

All those who went to Maureen Willis's Cream Tea afternoon had a lovely time, thank you Maureen!

Enjoy the summer,

Barbara and Joan

I hope you didn't forget Maureen's Cream Tea!

It was absolutely delicious with scones, jam, clotted cream, cakes and sandwiches – all enjoyed with a delicious cup of tea!

Mmmm!

Thank you Maureen and all your helpers.

It was such a lovely afternoon...

Don` t forget the Fair/Fête/Bazaar!

The date is fixed: 15th November, 2014

It may seem a long time away, but we all know what time is like !

If you are making jams, jellies or chutneys this summer, then please make one or two extra...

It`s time to start making things for the Craft Stall...

It`s time to look out unwanted jewellery and gifts...

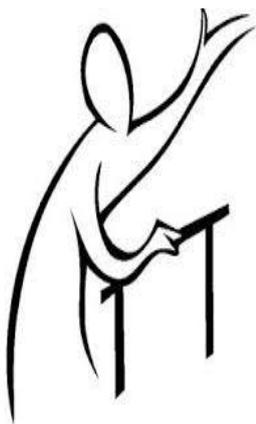
It`s time to collect bottles [full!] for the tombola...

And don`t forget to create some time to make those cakes nearer the date!

[If you have items for the bazaar or are able to help or support in any way, then please contact Maggie on 02 51 29 00 75, Marian on 02 51 27 64 67. Jenny on 0549069790 or Peter on 02 51 94 32 84]

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ASV Website News



Don't forget the website is there for you!

You'll find
STOP PRESS messages
EVENTS that were received too late for the Grapevine deadline,
SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED
and even previous editions of THE GRAPEVINE.

So, if you are unwell or away from home, it's one more way to keep in touch!

Jacqui Stainton-James - (Website Co-ordinator)

Letter from The Editor

FLOWER POWER

No, not the hippy movement of the sixties and seventies with its bright flowing kaftans, long loose hair and headbands - but the joy of seeing flowers growing in our gardens and along the hedgerows. The power of flowers is to make us feel happy, to promote a feeling of wellbeing with colour and scent and evoke memories, hopefully happy ones... After all, we celebrate most big occasions with flowers.

In my garden at the moment, fruit trees are beginning to groan under the weight of plums, greengages and mirabelles, but these are the same trees that gave me such pleasure in the Spring when they were in full bloom. The pink and white beauty of fruit trees in bloom – cherry, apple, plum and quince.

It occurs to me that I am a very lucky woman, my garden provides me with a succession of flowering trees. It starts with the Judas tree – fuschia pink pea like blooms on the stems just before the leaves appear. Then I have the fruit tree and the photinia, followed closely by the wisteria, blue and pink. Then it is time for the big flowers to come out and join in this wonderful display.

The first of these show-offs is the Indian bean tree, *catalpa bignonioides*. Though still small and recovering from a limb broken by severe winds last year, its beautiful scented flowers simply thrilled me. This variety has large heart-shaped leaves that are bright green in colour. A native of the southern states of America, apparently. As soon as the *magnolia grandiflora* smells the scent from its flowers, **it** then decides it is time to shine and start opening the tight buds that have been patiently waiting their turn.

I love these magnolias. My mother-in-law had a wonderful specimen in her garden and, every time I visited, she would pick me flower and I would bury my nose in its fragrance. I would always take it home, knowing that its beauty would fade very quickly, the petals and stamens would fall, leaving just the shiny evergreen leaves and the strange red seed head that looks almost prehistoric. Another native American!

Flowering now in the garden are the fantastic bright orange blooms of the pomegranate. Unfortunately too far north and too cool to bear full grown fruit. The butterfly bushes are tempting any winged insect flying past their purple or white tresses but the crowing glory of La Morandiere is the pink silk tree, *Albizia julibrissin*.

I first saw these here in the Vendée when on holiday many years ago. I just thought they were absolutely beautiful with their delicate mimosa-like leaves and clusters of bright pink fluffy flower heads. I always worry until I see the leaves begin to appear, always the last of the trees here to do so. My garden here is too open and exposed for mimosa [which I have tried a number of times] hence my worry. Isn't it amazing, though, for in my garden east meets west. *Albizia* is a native of southern Asia.



Being so lucky, I should therefore be content. However, I rather think I have started to have a hankering for a jacaranda. After all, there is one that I watched blooming this Spring at the `Cinq Chemins`.... That blue would look great in the garden here!

Enjoy the beauty of flowers wherever you are this August!

Joan Stewart



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Dear Friends

Our first collection for Restos du Coeur at Puy de Serre was 11th August 2013. I then hoped that over a period of time we would collect 1000 items of food. On that occasion we contributed 80 tins of food, 5 items of clothing, 12 items of baby clothes, 2 duvets and 2 pillows.

2 Weeks later our friends at Parthenay and Ranton joined us and although small in number they have always been very generous. And by 12th November 2013, so far exceeding my expectations, together we reached our target of 1000 tins of food and the collections continue to grow by small amounts each month

Last Autumn in our local bar we sold many excess plants from the garden and the price for each one was a tin of food for Restos. "Pause" Tearoom in L'Absie raised a considerable sum by holding a raffle. Many ladies knitted little yellow chicks for Easter. We provided 40, one for each child of needy families and each chick contained a Cadbury Cream Egg.

I want to say how grateful we are to Polly for all her hard work in raising money for Restos. 1500 euros handed over at the quiz night. Enough money raised by the Harvest Supper to purchase a large cool box in which to keep the fresh foods given by Super U plus a chicken or turkey for each family for Christmas and a present for each child for Christmas. Also thank you to all who gave children's presents for Christmas.

The same ladies have also knitted many small cardigans and woolly hats and continue to do so. A lady in England makes very pretty tree decorations and small items of jewellery which she sends over for us to sell and she also made 2 beautiful Teddy Bears that we raffled.

Oh man of little faith ! Once or twice in the small quiet still times of sleeplessness I have thought "What if nobody brings anything ?" but in doubting, doing and serving, God brings us to a greater faith and a deeper knowledge of his love.

Much of my knowledge of the needs of the poor and hungry comes from contact with the English Trussell Trust but speaking to Restos volunteers, I learn that the problems in France are perhaps just as great as those in England if not greater than in England with a million more unemployed here in France where the well organised larger food banks don't think in terms of 100 items of food or even 1000 but in millions, the need is so great.

As the rich become richer, disgustingly so and the poor become even poorer, let us thank God that, in His name, to His Glory and because of His grace, we can all help and be blessed by Him.

Carole and I want to thank everyone who has given us so much help and support in the last year.

Bill Stocking

The Young Continentals

They came, they saw and they conquered!

If you missed either of their performances on the 23rd and 24th of July, then you missed a real treat. This group of young Christians from Holland, aged 13-16 years gave performances full of energy, drive and enthusiasm.

We are really happy that they came to the Vendée as part of their Summer Tour which continues to Switzerland and Germany before returning to Holland.

They come from all over the Netherlands and are brought together to spread word of their strong Christian faith. As well as performing they spend time in prayer and bible study.

This from a note left by two of the girls:

Thank you for everything! It was nice to meet you and we had a great time here...'

Thanks to Polly they enjoyed a good evening meal and she also prepared their packed lunches for the following day. Thank you, too, to the host families who provided places to sleep and the next day's breakfast. Using all that energy certainly gave them very good appetites! But what delightful youngsters they were. Thank you, too, to `Le Pas Opton` for looking after them all so well the previous day. They had really enjoyed their time there.

If I heard right, there is a definite chance that they may return next year... Great!



The next Filling Station meeting will take place in September.

Enjoy your Summer break!

For more info: liz.jond@wanadoo.fr
<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>



Please send your contributions and letters for the September issue to:
“The Grapevine” Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th August.
Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at: sfamily66@hotmail.com

