

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

August 2015

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Preface



Dear Friends,

When I felt that God was calling me to work in the Vendée I believe that the work I had to do was connected to reconciliation and unity as I have probably told you all many times! Of course I had no idea of the history here, either in the Vendée or within 'The Congregations of All Saints Vendée'.

I was used to multi church parishes and how each differed in identity and traditions and how few people travelled between churches, even when the distances were no more than a couple of miles. There, as here, I try to encourage a sense of togetherness even if we can't often achieve it physically!

What has brought this to mind recently is the last 'Faites le Plein' (Filling Station) meeting we had. Père Dominic Lubot was speaking on unity. He spoke about how important it is, how it is one of the things Jesus commanded us to do, "To love our neighbour as ourselves" (Mat19:19, Mark 12:31, Lk 10:27,) and also "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34 – 35). It is very thought provoking; how far have we, as individuals and the church been obedient to this?

History and traditions continue to split Christ's body today. It is easy to think that we are right and all the others are wrong. The church is Christ's body, it is one body. We who are living here also have language to cope with as another difference, another opportunity for division and we come from many denominational backgrounds. One other point Dominic made was that we need to work for unity at whatever level in the church we are. I can only work towards this from where I am, only you know where you are and only you can decide how you can work towards unity. But unity has to be worked at by those of us on the ground, as individuals, within our own church community and then as churches committed to unity with other Christians.

Some of his parishioners sat up when he said that there was one thing that often caused a problem and division in his church! He sent us to James 3 for the answer. It applies the world over I think and has caused many a problem. The tongue is a small part of the body but causes a lot of trouble. Gossip, back biting, boasting and lies can destroy a family, a community, a church. Sometimes through maliciousness, sometimes through carelessness and lack of thought. James writes "with the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and curses. My brothers this should not be." (3:9-10)

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In this matter we all sin intentionally or not. We all need to repent and ask forgiveness, we all need to try to change. God is our judge, it is not a competition to see who worships him best, whose 'rules' are right, God will judge us on how we have loved him, how we have obeyed him, how we have served him, how we have tried.

I will continue to work with all my brothers and sisters of all denominations and nationalities, we meet, we talk, we worship together, we study God's word together, and we remind ourselves that it is one God we worship, it is the same God we worship, and we are all made in his image. I struggle with the language from time to time, these are complex thoughts and issues in one's own language let alone a foreign one! Sometimes I worship with them in a traditional French Catholic service, sometimes an English charismatic service, sometimes French protestant and sometimes just a casual gathering for word, praise and prayer, all very different, always a great privilege to share and to experience the sincerity of the worship. It certainly keeps me on my toes and so that worship does not become just a habit or routine.

As I end this piece, I beg you, please do not allow division amongst ourselves or other Christians, God is the judge not us, and the best way of helping others to know and love God is by example. "As I have loved you, so must you love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples."

God bless, have a good August,

Caroline

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**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]*

<b>2nd August</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity IX</b>	
1st Lesson: Exodus 16:2-4,9-15			2nd Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16	Gospel: John 6:24-35
			<i>[ Psalm 51:1-13 or 78: 23-29]</i>	
<b>9th August</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity X</b>	
1st Lesson: 1Kings 19:4-8			2nd Lesson: Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51
			<i>[ Psalm 130 or 34:1-8]</i>	
<b>16th August</b>	<b>LCA</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity XI</b>	
1st Lesson: Proverbs 9:1-6			2nd Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20	Gospel: John 6:51-58
			<i>[Psalm 111 or 34:9-14]</i>	
<b>23rd August 11.00</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity XII</b>	
<b>18.00</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>Evensong</b>		
1st Lesson: Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18			2nd Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20	Gospel: John 6: 56-59
			<i>[ HC: Psalm 34: 15-22]</i>	<i>[ Evensong : Psalm 116 or 116:10-17]</i>
<b>30th August 18.00</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Trinity XIII</b>	
1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9			2nd Lesson: James 1:17-end	Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14,21-23
			<i>[Evensong: Psalm 119: 9-16 ]</i>	
<b>6th September</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity XIV</b>	
1st Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a			2nd Lesson: James 2:1-17	Gospel: Mark 7:24 -end
			<i>[Psalm 125 or 146 ]</i>	

*(There may be last-minute changes to the readings so please check with Revd Caroline if you are a Reader)*

*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 always available).*





# Dates for your Diary



**12th August: Council Meeting** 3 pm at the Vicarage.

**18th August.. An Evening of Poetry and a little Wine.** (For more information see page 7)

**23rd August Sunday- Evensong 1800 LCA**

**24th August. 21.30 Prieuré de Grammont. Musicale Nocturnes.** (For more information see page 6).

If you would like to join a group for one of the performances and picnic supper beforehand, please contact Polly Ward. The charge is 8€ per person

**27th August. Ladies Circle 2.30 pm MEP Candle-making** with Jane and Jenny (Contact Joan Stewart for more information 02 51 00 34 70)

**30th August Sunday, 1800 Evensong PDS**

and, planning ahead....

**4th September Friday Quiz** at Puy de Serre

**11th September Friday Harvest Supper** at La Chapelle Palluau

**25th September Friday Harvest Supper** at Puy de Serre

**2nd October. Harvest Supper at LCP**

**2nd October Quiz** at Puy de Serre

**17th October Saturday Autumn Bazaar at La Chapelle Palluau** (More information is on page 8)

**6th November Friday Quiz** at Puy de Serre



## A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



*Don't forget your gifts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.*

*Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in Coulonges.*

For more details of these Events, please visit our Website: [www.AllSaintsVendee.fr](http://www.AllSaintsVendee.fr)

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*Here is for Forward Planning Rota which displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible.*

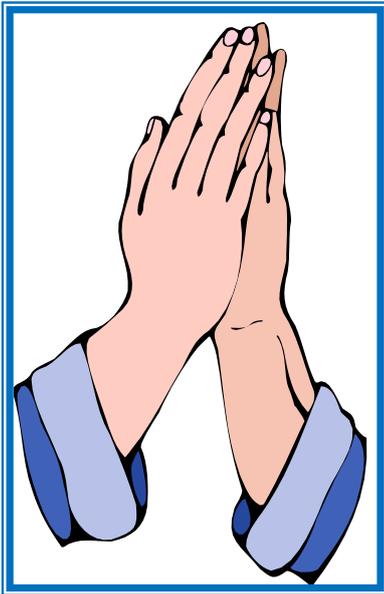
*If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.*

## FORWARD PLANNING FOR AUGUST INTO SEPTEMBER

Responsibility (Organiser)	2nd August LCP	9th August PdS	16th August LCA	23rd August PdS 11.00 LCA 18.00 Evensong	30th August PDS 18.00 Evensong	6th September LCP
<b>Welcomers</b> (Polly Ward)	MW+PP	PW+CL	LiG+JW	AC+BC		
<b>Salle Setup/ Clearing away</b> (Chris Green at PdS)		PW/ Kent		Kent/ Carlton		
<b>Refreshments after the service</b> (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)						
<b>Musicians +/-Organist</b> (Polly Ward)		Stuart		Stuart	Stuart	

## Names on our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers :



- **Peter Hutchinson** who is still in hospital
- **Jean Mylod** and Mike
- **Paul Brechet** and Anne
- **Tony Carlton** and Maggie
- **Pat Darley** and Roy
- **Joëlle Gosselin** and Bernard
- **Tamsin Webb** and her husband.  
Tamsin is the daughter of Jack and Val Goadby.

And please continue to remember  
all those whom we know and whose names do not appear here,  
who are in need of prayerful support at this time.

**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.*



## **Notes from our Church Wardens**

**1. The Vicarage** – As you know ASV purchased a house in Saint Vincent Sterlanges to be used as a Vicarage. We have to provide accommodation for our Priest-in-Charge and by buying a property we acquired an asset and avoided “dead” money on renting a property. The house was ideally suited geographically and was at an affordable price but needed a lot of renovation work. Caroline’s husband Bob was prepared to do this and he has completed most of it, assisted by their son James, and we continue to thank them for their hard work. An appeal was launched last year for donations to pay for materials and many of you responded. Unfortunately these donations only cover a small fraction of the costs so far and the costs are still rising.

We were hoping to cover some costs with a legacy but this has been subject to 70% tax obviously leaving a much smaller amount. We are therefore appealing again for donations to cover more of the costs as our church finances are stretched to the limit. Please remember that if you pay tax in France, and make a donation, then this money can be claimed in the next tax year on your tax form and up to two thirds is offset against your tax that year. So you pay less tax but ASV retains the full amount. Please consider carefully if you can make a donation now – every bit helps – and please talk to us or any member of Council if you need more information. Thank You

**2. Membership List** – A question has been raised as to what use will be made of the information on the membership list that is being compiled by Chris Green. We can assure you that the information is strictly confidential to ASV and is not for general publication. The information will only be used WHEN it is needed, and then only an extract will be used. As an example a Worship Leader may need to contact someone to read at a service or we may need to track down the owner of some jewellery left after a service, as happened recently. In the event of very extreme weather, such as a hurricane (remember Xanthia?) we will cancel a service and contact everyone we can think of to avoid unnecessary travel. Often mobile phones work even if the telephone lines are down. We hope this has reassured those who have not yet filled in a form and can now do so. We would like details of everyone please who attends any of the churches. Forms are available at services or contact us for more details.

Thank you for your continued support of ASV.

*Barbara and Doug*



## **Do you pay French taxes?**



If so, did you know that for every 100 euros that you give to our Church the taxman will reduce your tax bill by 60 euros thus a 100 euro donation will only cost you 40 euros (and you will be able to increase your donation!!!)

**You simply need to make your donation in a recordable manner.**

You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount on your tax return (no need to send proof, just keep your certificate in case you are asked for it) and the taxman will reduce your tax bill by a figure equal to 60% of your donations.

Donations to the vicarage renovation can also qualify for tax relief if made through A S V.

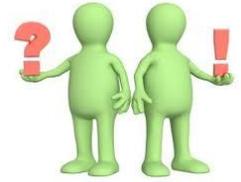
**Start planned giving now and let the taxman help our Church.**

Contact Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)  
Or Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

**To find out how easy it is!!!**



## Questions and Answers



**This is YOUR page.....**

*As a result of my request to everyone in the previous edition of Grapevine, I am delighted to have receive a number of articles which pose "Questions" and provide "Answers" for publication. So, read on and you will soon discover articles from:*

*The Revd Gareth Randall entitled: "Guardian Angel?"  
Tonie Chandler, entitled: "Mothers' Union", and  
Bill Stocking, entitled: "Memoires de Taizé" + a suggestion!*

*Have you a question to ask or information to share?  
Suggestions or an announcement to make?  
Praise or criticism of anything affecting All Saints Vendée?  
Maybe you can solve another reader's problem.....*

*Here is your chance to share your opinions and ideas with other "Grapeviners",*

*Send your questions...and answers....and comments  
to me, Jacqui, at : [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)*



On the **24th August**, Polly is planning an evening at the **Prieuré de Grammont** as in previous years. She is looking for a venue for a picnic first then on to the event at 21.30. The Prieuré will be lit by candles and there will be a full

evening of sacred music and Gregorian chants sung by the 4 male voices of Les Chants de Garonne. The cost is 8 euros. It has been a very enjoyable evening in previous years, some have described it as "magical with the Prieuré lit by the flickering flames of the candles and the Monk-like singing wafting through the air." (Contact: Polly)

*Doug*

The priory is situated just off the D9608 between Chantonay and Pouzauges. The concert starts at 2130 and finishes around 2300. This is not a fund-raising event but admission to the Priory costs €8 for adults

*(Please note: Quizzes will restart in September).*



**A Note for your Diaries** - our LCP Autumn Bazaar 2015 will be on the 17th October in the Salle at La Chapelle Palluau. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, as well as the familiar cake/preserves stall, the amazing craft stall and so much more. Please be sure to save the date. If you would like to help on the day or if you would like to bake a cake, make jam/chutney, or share another talent you may have, please let us know - we would love to hear from you.

You can email Suzanne on [pattsuzanne@gmail.com](mailto:pattsuzanne@gmail.com) with any helpful suggestions you may have.

## An Evening of Poetry and a little Wine

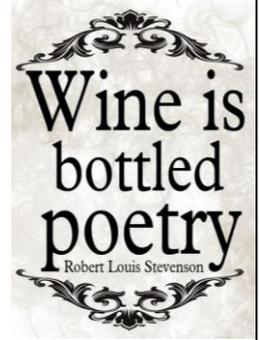
This was suggested by Marian Rackham, and Geoff Kent and Margaret have offered to host it in their home at La Fôret sur Sèvre

The idea is that we can nominate a favourite piece of poetry which we could either read or bully someone else into reading.

There will be drink and nibbles and donations will be invited to cover the costs.

Proposed date is **Tuesday 18th August**.

Contact Geoff and Margaret: maguyjelley@gmail.com or phone: 05 49 72 27 72



## *Do you believe in Angels ?*

In the Bible, we read of Gabriel and Michael - archangels - as well as numerous, unnamed angels and seraphim. In the Apocrypha, there's the archangels Raphael and Uriel. But what do you think about the possibility of you, personally, having a guardian angel ?

It's Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. I'm travelling south west to Réminiac to take a wedding. The journey from here in Dinard is long and difficult, south to Rennes, westwards round the Rocade, then west on the N24. I don't have a Sat Nav so I'm relying on Michelin maps. I'm out of my comfort zone, unfamiliar with the Vannes road and where exactly Le Manoir de Fresneye is once I get to Réminiac.

Arriving at last in the village, I drive around in vain looking for signs to the venue. I stop the car. I try to phone the groom. His phone is switched off. Across the road, a dog barks at me. I walk across to the couple sitting in their garden and call to man in my best French asking for directions to Le Manoir. He tells me I can speak English to him – he's English too ! And Ken McNab from London tells me simply to keep going down the road, to turn right at the T junction and the Manoir de la Fresneye is immediately on my left. Result ! I do and it is and I'm there.

Clearly, Ken is who he says he is. He has a house, wife, dog and garden. But in this manifestation, was he a manifestation of my guardian angel ?

So what do you think ? And have you ever had an encounter with a stranger that got you out of a difficult spot ? I'm sure Jacqui would love to hear your story too !

*Gareth Randall  
Priest-in-charge  
St Bartholomew's Dinard*



*If you need proof, here it is.....*

*The Happy Couple were delighted to let "Grapevine" have a photo showing us that Revd Gareth arrived both in time and at the right place, to officiate at their wedding service, all thanks to Ken, his Guardian Angel!*



## "Memories de Taizé"



The Taizé cross



Prayer in the Church of Reconciliation at Taizé



Small discussion groups



Taizé "Gathering"

My first visit to Taizé is, many years later, still a vivid memory.....

It was a Sunday and we were going to morning service. We pulled into a large field where there were already many cars and about 40 coaches with many more arriving.

The Taizé Community was originally based in a small church and over time, as numbers grew, the gable end of the church was demolished and canvas extensions were added until hundreds of people could be accommodated. Cloisters appeared to be wooden poles with corrugated iron sheeting for a roof and walls. That surrounded a grass courtyard in which there were huge cooking pots in which people were cooking stew to feed the hundreds of pilgrims that were camping there. On the grass many people were sitting in discussion groups.

We entered the service area and picked up a Taizé song book, printed in many languages and a leaflet with the creed in our own language. We then picked up a small stool each about a foot high on which one sits with one's knees bent and legs underneath.

There were many clergy who were so far away in the distance, the song numbers were shown on electronic screens, around the area. The wonderful cantors sang each verse in different languages and the congregation then sang the choruses with beauty and enthusiasm.

Holy Communion was taken and the many ecumenical clergy spread themselves around this great crowd, who all received Communion in a very short time.

As you will see from the accompanying internet Taizé notes, the Community runs worldwide missions in which tens of thousands participate.

When Taizé first began, the area around the little church was incredibly poor. The community of monks built up farming enterprises until they had businesses worth millions which they gave, lock stock and barrel, to the local community.

Taizé has been for many years and continues to be a wonderful testimony to the Glory of God and the incredible joy of His Blessings.

*Please note: The photos are taken from both the Taizé and the Wikipedia websites. If you would like to know more about the Taizé Community (in English), please visit: <http://www.taize.fr/en> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiz%C3%A9\\_Community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiz%C3%A9_Community)*

**Bill asks: "When shall we introduce Taizé singing into our worship?"**

Many thanks to Tonie Chandler for the following article:



The Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner in 1896, as a society for the support of women in their role as mothers, She was a mother of three, and was all too aware of the burdens and responsibilities of parenting; of the feelings of inadequacy that could swamp young mothers. Mary recognised that good parenting was more than providing for the physical needs of the child and she believed that the primary responsibility was to raise children in the love of God.

Mary's connections within the Anglican Communion soon led to Mothers' Union branches quickly being established in parts of Wales and England, followed by branches overseas in Dublin, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Canada, India and Madagascar. By 1900 Mothers' Union had nearly 170,000 members.

Needless to say over the years, many changes have been made. Modernising but remaining relevant to members has seen new initiatives. New programmes were set up to meet the needs of the times: *Away From It All Holidays* were established so that members could provide holidays for families who would otherwise never have the opportunity. New objects and more relaxed membership rules were introduced, importantly to include membership of ladies who are not mothers, and also allowing men to join. The Mothers' Union prayer has been updated to make it more relevant.

During 20th Century, the rapidly changing face of society brought great changes within the Anglican Church and therefore to members of Mothers' Union. New issues, such as the ordination of women, homosexuality, increased awareness of acute poverty in the developing world and our global responsibilities to address the inequalities within both developed and developing world societies all became issues where Mothers' Union members wanted to witness and answer God's call within their sphere of ministry.

By 2013, the Mothers' Union's range and depth of work far exceeds Mary Sumner's original vision of a circle of prayer upholding family life. It now has four million members in 83 countries. These members seek to serve people in their communities through outreach projects and various programmes. Members work tirelessly, offering Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background.

Yet prayer continues to be at the heart of the witness of members who in the Wave of Prayer maintain constant chain of intercession across global membership. Members continue to promote family life through parents' group work, marriage support and advocating for family-supportive policies whilst at the same time upholding families affected by poverty, homelessness, imprisonment, relationship break-down and prison sentences.

***But the plans of the Lord stand firm, the purposes of his heart through all generations (Psalm 33:11)***

Here in France, the Mothers' Union is part of the Diocese of Europe, with branches in many of the European countries. The main differences between branches in the UK, and France are distance and numbers. Usually, branches meet once a month, but for example, at our nearest branch in the Charente, they meet once every two months at different venues, because of the distance members have to travel. They are still able to have fund raising events, providing two holidays a year to families in need, and take part where possible in some of the other Mothers' Union activities.

For members like myself, (I have been a member since 1979), where there is no branch, there is the option to become Diocesan members, where we can stay in touch with events, and although it is difficult to take part practically, we contribute with our prayers.

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As from the beginning of 2016, I have been asked to take over as President of the Mothers' Union for the Diocese of Europe. Although we do not have a branch here in the Vendee, (who knows what the future holds) I ask for your prayers and support. Caroline, who is also a member, has given me her blessing.

**The Mothers' Union Prayer:**

**Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen**

The work of the Mothers' Union is far more extensive than I can do justice to here.

Please look at the websites for more information :

<http://www.mothersunion.org/> or <http://muenterprises.org/europe>

*Tonie*



*Thank you, Tonie, for telling us about yourself and for sharing your experience of "finding All Saints Vendée...."*

*We moved to the Vendee six and a half years ago after retiring, leaving our youngest son and two daughters and their families living in the UK. Shortly after we moved to France, our eldest son and his family moved to Cape Town, South Africa.*

*One of our main criteria for finding the area we wanted to move to, was that there was a church. So I did some internet research on the C of E web site. When we found ourselves living in St Christophe, the church was only at Puy de Serre or Chapelle Achard, so we started to attend an alternative group. Eventually, All Saints Vendee started to have services at Chapelle Palluau, and we were also invited to join the Home Church group who meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. For the last four years, we have enjoyed and valued the worship, the fellowship, and the friendship at All Saints.*

*Tonie & Chris (Chandler)*

*Are you already a member of the Mothers' Union or interested in joining? Why not contact Tonie and, perhaps, as Tonie says: "who knows what the future holds?"*



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

*Thank you to all the Contributors who have helped to make this edition possible and I look forward to hearing from you next time*

SO.....

**Send your contributions and comments  
for the September "Grapevine" to:  
Jacqui at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)  
*before 15<sup>th</sup> August, please***



*Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to:  
Jacqui Stainton-James at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)*