

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*“To know and to share Jesus Christ”*

*The Grapevine*

July 2015

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Preface



Dear Friends,

I am writing this on a miserable wet day in the middle of June, so I hope that by the time you are reading this summer may be here!

While I was away I attended a series of morning talks based on 2 Corinthians 3: 17 “and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” I’m sure there will be a sermon there sometime when the readings are right; but it was a liberating time for many people. Of course we have many ways of imprisoning ourselves as we discussed at the Retreat Day I had with the French Catholic ladies and came up again in these sessions. What does to be free in the Spirit of God mean to you? For some it will be the freedom to worship God in tongues, in dance, in allowing the Spirit to direct the service. For others it may be to be free from the past, where constraints, memories, traditions can keep us trapped. My maternal Grandparents were lovely people but were very constrained by routines and ‘what the neighbours might think’. We can also get trapped by our own self-doubt or lack of self-worth. How many of us sub-consciously want to please people, sometimes those who aren’t even around anymore? And of course there are all the ‘shoulds’ and ‘oughts’ that we inflict upon ourselves. Perhaps being free in the in the Spirit of God is about being able to be constantly living in him, to be offering every part of our lives to him. James 1:25 says that “The perfect law that gives us freedom” and Galatians 5:13 says “You my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature” and this message of being free, but not free to do what you want, is repeated on other occasions in the New Testament. And we have read stories of people who have won a fortune on the lottery and thus been free to indulge every whim but have ended with nothing. It sounds contradictory to be free but not free to indulge our every desire. But living in the Spirit of God can make choices easier and being freed from the worldly constraints into the Spirit can feel like freedom.

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That was probably an inadequate summary of six hours of work, but it is interesting to ask God what you can be freed from in order to allow you to enter into something. Because that is what is important that movement from being trapped into the freedom of doing things differently.

I am hoping that by the end of July the worst of the internal work on the Vicarage will be done, at the moment we have regressed into living in an awful mess again as the downstairs work is being done, but after that perhaps we can get clean and tidy! Thank goodness that at the moment we have no visitors planned, although I know that some of you will start being very busy with people arriving and departing. Enjoy the summer, remember to take time to smell the roses!

God Bless,  
*Caroline*

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**JULY into AUGUST 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>5th July</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity V</b>		
1st Lesson: 1 Kings 19.19-21.		2nd Lesson:- 1 Peter 3. 8-15a		Gospel:- Luke .5.1-11	
<i>[Psalm 84. 8-end]</i>					
<b>12th July</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity VI</b>		
1st Lesson:- Genesis 4.2b-15		2nd Lesson:- Romans 6.3-11		Gospel:- Matthew 5.20-26	
<i>[Psalm 90. 12-end]</i>					
<b>19th July</b>	<b>LCA</b>	<b>MW</b>	<b>Trinity VII</b>		
1st Lesson:- 1 Kings Ch.17 v 8-16		2nd Lesson:- Romans 6 v 19-23		Gospel:- Mark Ch 8 v 1-10a	
<i>[Psalm 34.11-end]</i>					
<b>26th July</b>	<b>PDS</b>	<b>MW</b>	<b>Trinity VIII</b>		
1st Lesson:- Jeremiah 23.16-24		2nd Lesson:- Romans 8.12-17		Gospel:- Matthew 7.15-21	
<i>[Psalm 31 - 1-6]</i>					
<b>2nd August</b>	<b>LCP</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>Trinity IX</b>		
1st Lesson:- Numbers 10.35-11.3		2nd Lesson:- 1 Corinthians 10.1-13		Gospel:-Luke 16.1-9 or Luke 15.11-32	
<i>[Psalm 95]</i>					

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

*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



1st July. **Faites le Plein.** La Roche sur Yon. (See details later on page 5)

6th July. **Church Council Meeting.**

13th July. **Church Wardens' Meeting.**

14th July to 25th August. **Prieure de Grammont. Musicale Nocturnes.** If you would like to make up a group for one of the performances, please contact Polly Ward. The charge is 8€ per person.

15th-21st July. Revd Caroline will be away on a Training Course

23rd July. **Ladies Circle.** 2.30pm. Chinese meal and shopping in Fontenay-le-Comte.

(Contact Joan Stewart for more information 0251 00 34 70)



## 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)



## 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 Calton** 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**

The "Notes from the Church Wardens" were originally started during the Interregnum as a means of keeping everyone up to date with progress in finding a new Priest and finding Locum Priests to take services. We do not feel now that we need to write something every month which is why there were no "Notes" written last month. This month, however, we need to say "Thank You" to a few people.

The first "Thank You " is to Joan Stewart who has retired as Editor of Grapevine, a job she has done for many years. Coupled with this is a "Thank You" to Jacqui Stainton-James who worked with Joan from the beginning and produced Grapevine each month. They started with what was really a Pew Sheet and developed Grapevine into a monthly Newsletter/Magazine and the two of them really deserve heartfelt thanks from all of us for all their hard work - Thank You Joan and Jacqui. So what about the future of Grapevine ? Here is another "Thank You" to Jacqui as she has agreed to compile and publish this edition with material sent to her for publication. She will only be able to publish what she receives so it is up to regular contributors and anyone else who wishes to write an article to submit "copy" by the 15th of the month. Any late news or changes to information will appear in the "Stop Press" section of the ASV website which we encourage everyone to look at as often as possible. Again "Thank You" to Jacqui for her work with this website.

June's Car Treasure Hunt was a great success and there is an article elsewhere in Grapevine. We must thank Marian and Richard Rackham for organising this event - it must have involved hours of work sorting out the route, finding a restaurant and compiling the question sheets - Thank You Marian and Richard.

*Barbara and Doug*



It has been suggested that a Rota should be available in Grapevine 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 JULY INTO AUGUST SERVICES**

<b>Responsibility</b> <i>(Organiser)</i>	<b>5th July</b> <b>LCP</b>	<b>12th July</b> <b>PdS</b>	<b>19th July</b> <b>LCA</b>	<b>26th July</b> <b>PdS</b>	<b>2nd August</b> <b>LCP</b>
<b>Welcomers</b> <i>(Polly Ward)</i>	Grimshaws	Ticia & Caroline			Maureen & Peggy
<b>Salle Setup/ Clearing away</b> <i>(Chris Green at PdS)</i>		Greens/ Martins		Martins/ Polly	
<b>Refreshments after the service</b> <i>(Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)</i>		Jenny W or Martins			
<b>Musicians +/-Organist</b> <i>(Polly Ward)</i>		Stuart		Stuart	Jane S



## 'Faites le Plein' !

**Wednesday 1st July  
at 7pm for refreshments,  
for a 7.30pm start**

With Père Dominique Lubot, Priest in Charge of the Catholic Parish of La Roche sur Yon.  
Please join us for an evening of worship, a talk and a prayer time.

*All welcome  
at the Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre, La Roche sur Yon  
in the large restaurant at the back of the parking area, on the right hand side.*

**We look forward to meeting and greeting you !**

Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team

For more info: [liz.jond@wanadoo.fr](mailto:liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)  
<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>

*Please note: the next FLP will be in September.*



## 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.

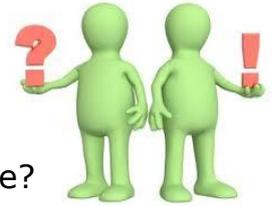
**Start planned giving now and let the taxman help our Church.**

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.....**

Have you a question to ask or information to share?  
Suggestions or comments to make?  
Praise or criticism of anything affecting  
All Saints Vendée?

Maybe you can solve another reader's problem.....

This is your chance to share your opinions  
with other "Grapeviners",

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

Here are some contributions I have already received:

*The Grapevine*

**From Marian and Richard Rackham:**

I'm sure many friends would like to join Marian and Richard in officially recording their thanks to both Joan and Jacqui for their stalwart service in the production of The Grapevine for many years, and to Jacqui for agreeing to hold the fort until a new editor volunteers to undertake the job. Your work has been greatly appreciated.



### **Urgent request!**

***A sit on mower is still urgently needed for the 'Vicarage ' garden.  
Does anyone know of one needing a new home please?  
Our neighbours use a little robot mower,  
one of those keeps it really trim!***



***Seriously, we do need help with this, so would appreciate you keeping your ears open.  
Thank you!  
Caroline***



### **Singing round the piano.....again?**

Some of our previous "We-are-not-a-Choir" members have been asking if Stuart would re-start "Singing round the Piano". Please let us know if you would be interested. If enough, say 10 or 12, are keen, we would propose getting together with new friends, like we did previously, once a month on a Wednesday afternoon, in our basement, in Mouilleron-en-Pareds. What do you think?

*Stuart and Jacqui SJ  
([sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com))*



## June 9th 2015

The Church Treasure Hunt was held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, and was attended by 48 competitors in a dozen cars. As this is aimed to be a social event, rather than a fund raiser, it was good to have a mix of both All Saints Church members, and visitors. Several groups got quite lost during the proceedings whilst others reached the destination without using their answer crib-sheet, albeit well outside the allotted time! The

outright winners were Maggie Jelley, Geoff Kent with Chris and Doug Green, all Puy de Serre members. Well done them! The drive was followed by an excellent meal for 49 of us at L'Hotel de Lac. The owners had taken over only six months ago, and really "did us proud" at a most reasonable price, so our thanks go to them for rounding off the afternoon so well. Although not designed to be a "fund-raiser" we are pleased to have raised 277.60€ for Church funds.

We thank all of those who participated as there couldn't have been a treasure hunt without you.

God bless you all,  
**Marian and Richard**

### ....and this from Doug Green:

On June the 9th, 2015, twelve teams set off in their cars from L'Hermenault car park at 10 minute intervals. Their mission ? To find their way around a route set by Marian and Richard Rackham and answer as many questions as possible within a two and a half hour time limit. This sounds quite straight forward doesn't it ? Well it was once you managed to get out of L'Hermenault ! One or two teams found this first part tricky "Is this the third right or was that the third right back there?" I think some had to go back to the car park and start again. Once on the right route, you then had to answer the cunning questions which did require some of the knowledge needed for Pointless, Countdown and other TV quiz programs but some were just finding the right information like the number on a yellow post ! One question required lateral thinking "is the washing out to dry?" and across the field was a wind-sock (Sock, washing, get-it?). Another question was "Has there been a high tide here? and you turned the corner to find a boat outside a house. Marian and Richard were so glad the owner had not moved it before the event. At one point you were required to park in a village and look for clues on foot. What had not been allowed for was that there had just been a funeral and the Treasure Hunters were mingling with the Funeral Party walking down the main street!

In case of emergency - i.e. you were completely lost - each team had a sealed envelope giving the location of the finishing point where most people stayed to enjoy a delicious meal and chat to the other treasure hunters. We were all impressed by the professionalism of the youngsters serving, the quality of the food and the excellent value for the price. Six teams managed to finish the whole route, albeit all out of time, and the winning team was "Kent's DS Krew" which was expertly lead and chauffeured by Geoff Kent.

This was a great social event and a huge thank you to Marian and Richard for organising it.

**Doug Green**



49 sat down to a delicious meal at the Restaurant Le Lac



The winning (Deux-Sèvres!) team with their Treasure Chest Prize

*Jenny Wilkinson has recently started helping out at the Sunday Club and would like us all to share in the enthusiasm and fun that the members experience whenever they meet.*

I have recently volunteered to help with the Sunday Club at Puy de Serre and although I am still learning, I am finding it a joy to work and play with the children. They are so eager to learn and enjoy all the tasks they are given by Barbara, who recently gave them email addresses, to contact like-minded children of a similar age and interests, at her old school. The Club members found this most interesting, and we get their report each meeting of what they have been doing since the last time, all in their own words.

We have recently obtained a notice board so that any recent work done by the group can be displayed for all the congregation to see. We do hope you look at this which, when possible, will be displayed in the Hall where we have refreshments. The last session was pictures drawn around our feet depicting the lesson of "Footprints in the Sand". Combined with the fun involved, hopefully, it will be as memorable for them as it was for me.



*Jennifer*

## Footprints in the Sand

**One night I dreamed I was walking along  
the beach with the Lord.**

**Many scenes from my life flashed across  
the sky.**

**In each scene I noticed footprints in the  
sand.**

**Sometimes there were two sets of  
footprints,  
other times there was one set of  
footprints.**

**This bothered me because I noticed that  
during the low periods of my life,  
when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow  
or defeat,  
I could see only one set of footprints.**

**So I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you,  
you would walk with me always;  
but I have noticed that during the most  
trying periods of my life there has only  
been one set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most,  
have you not been there for me?"**

**The Lord replied,  
"The times when you have seen only one set  
of footprints, are when I carried you."**

*(based on words by Mary Stevenson)*

## May 2015 Lincolnshire Pilgrimage, Mike Knight.

**Definition:** Pilgrim, one who strives to obtain salvation of their soul through a physical journey in which caritas, love for God; and not cupiditas, love for material things, drives them.

In September last year a pilgrimage walk went through Gainsborough where we now live. Our church was asked to provide accommodation for the pilgrims and I decided to join them for a couple of days. I found this very rewarding and at the end Ian Silk asked if I would organise something for this year.

I thought about this and decided to arrange two pilgrimage walks visiting redundant churches along the way. The planning was made easy by the help of our neighbours who are keen walkers and have a much greater knowledge of the paths in Lincolnshire.

The pilgrimages are a personal journey of reflection and anticipation, a short distance walked may be a large distance travelled along your path to salvation.

Visiting unused Churches along the way gives time to stop and reflect on the frailty of man. I hope that after each day everyone feels they have been walking towards God and on the last day they can now be with God.

It is now two weeks since the pilgrimage and I have enjoyed the planning, reconnoitring and preparing the publicity, I am now thinking of doing something similar for the next pilgrimage when we return to the UK. Although we were small in numbers we must remember that this is not important, Jesus went alone into the desert (was this the first Christian pilgrimage?) after he resisted the temptations offered by the devil and many go on pilgrimages alone.

Walking through countryside in the spring is inspiring and the quiet times we had for prayer and contemplation in the churches along the way brought peace to my heart and led to thoughts about how some of these buildings have for many years resounded to the sounds of worship. Now they are empty, not used and regarded as a drain on scant resources. There must be a way to bring these beautiful buildings back into a useful role for the good of the communities they serve.

### Lincolnshire Wolds Pilgrimage, 25th to 29th May 2015.

**Day 1,** The Pilgrimage started with a service at St. Martin's Church Waithe, the first service there for many years. The Church dates from the 10th century and has been renovated several times, there are tiles with biblical texts running all round the Church. A few years ago it was in a bad state, overgrown with brambles and pigeons nesting inside. In 2005 the Church was restored and is now in a good state of repair.

The service was led by Rev. Cannon Ian Silk who led some of last years Pilgrimage walks, prayers were given by a local retired priest, Father Terry.

Just three of us then set out heading roughly South we passed by huge fields of rape and other crops, walked along the disused railway track and just missed seeing the steam train at North Thoresby station. We crossed the meridian line at Fulstow and made a slight detour to visit Covenham reservoir but were disappointed that no-one was sailing there.

Covenham is a village divided by with two parish churches. St Bartholomew's is a strange looking church with a very low central tower, it was originally built in the 14th century as a cruciform, however the North transept no longer remains. In South Covenham stands St Marys, a 14th century church with an imposing 15th century West tower. We had lunch in a play area opposite a disused Methodist Chapel.

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We then proceeded on and just before Yarburgh we came across a charming scene of a lady with her young daughter in a field tending three huge cows, two of whom had recently given birth. We ended day 1 at Yarburgh and went to St John the Baptist Church, the walls are of ironstone and chalk rubble whilst the roof has strange pointed "fish scale" tiles. The tower has three bells, the oldest being from 1370.

**Day 2,** Now we were two and we started from Yarburgh and soon came to Alvingham Mill and through the farmyard with noisy pigs being loaded onto a truck to Alvingham. There are two churches there, St Marys, which was originally a chapel belonging to Alvingham Priory, parts of the existing church date from the 13th century and it shares a churchyard with the only church in England dedicated to St Adelwold. This church is built on the site of a Saxon church which was also dedicated to St Adelwold.

Walking on through farmland we followed a disused canal with the remains of barrel locks, all in a sorry state now. We paused to look at a swan family with five young cygnets on the opposite bank.

A short diversion from our route took us to St Andrews Church, Stewton which is Robert's Church, it is one of three town churches and three village churches belonging to the Team Parish of Louth. They are busy preparing for the official opening of new facilities over the weekend and based on previous years they expect 300+ visitors. I admired the new toilet facilities and thought we should use the redundant churches we had visited more for community activities.

We continued on our way through Legbourne down a delightful little lane to a ford and path along the small river to St Helens Church, Little Cawthorpe. This church was built with red bricks in 1860 to replace a much earlier church. The nearby 17th century manor house gives an idea of the construction of the earlier church. We then retraced our steps to All Saints Church Legbourne for tea and refreshments.

**Day 3,** Robert and I decided to do just a short walk in the afternoon, so we set off from Little Cawthorpe and were soon up in the hills, I thought Lincolnshire was flat! Skirting ancient woodland and then dropping down to Burwell where there is an old butter market, all closed up and decaying unfortunately, we looked around St Michael's Church where Robert had sung many times as a boy. We were joined by Mike who showed us a tiny door in the tower which opened onto a spiral staircase. Up we went to the clock which we wound and then up an even smaller ladder through a hatch and onto the roof with splendid views all round, a great way to end the day and my pilgrimage.

I handed over the leading of the two remaining days to Jennifer and Jonathan.

*Mike Knight*

*Photos of each day of Mike's Pilgrimage can be viewed on the following 3 pages or you may prefer to view them on the website at: [www.Allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.Allsaintsvendee.fr). (Apologies, Mike, that I was unable to name each photo individually, but I trust they are in date order!*

*- Jacqui)*

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**MESSAGE FROM THE GRAPEVINE COMPILER:**

I hope you have enjoyed this July edition of Grapevine.

It is a few years since I dealt with the entire production so, all being well, I look forward to hearing from you next time...

Please note that **STOP PRESS** items will be published on the ASV website at:

**[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)**

**Send your contributions and items for the August Grapevine to me, Jacqui, at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com) before the 15<sup>th</sup> July if possible, for publication on the 20th July**

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



# May 2015 Lincolnshire Pilgrimage, Mike Knight

## Day 1



## Day 2



Day 2 .../Continued....



Day 3

