

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

January 2015

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Preface

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you have all survived Christmas as well as can be expected at such a time.

2014 has been an exciting year as I found my way around the Parish and got to know you all and then of course, eventually moving into the Vicarage. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to several couples who have moved on to new adventures, but we have also seen new people join us.

What will the new year hold for our church? I pray that we will grow in our discipleship and our love for God. We have much to learn about God and his mystery and power. If any of you have decided to explore your faith more please get in touch and we can discuss what is available.

Now, with New Year resolutions being made, it's really time to think about what you can offer God and your church community. We will have vacancies and various jobs to do on the Church Council, there are still vacancies for all of the activities that contribute to our services, from reading to making coffee, so, again please contact me if you can offer your skills in anyway. We are still praying for musical skills to become available for services, music is such an important part of our worship.

Our God is the God of the new year at any time of the year, as he is always giving us fresh starts and new beginnings if we turn or return to him. May this year be the year we all move deeper into our relationships with God, when we allow him more power in our lives, when we show his love more deeply to others.

God Bless,
Caroline

JANUARY into FEBRUARY 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]

<p>4/1/2015 HC 1st Lesson: Isaiah 60: 1-6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LCP Epistle: Ephesians 3: 1-12 <i>[Psalm 72: 10-15]</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany Gospel: St Matthew 2: 1-12</p>
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<p>11/1/2015 HC 1st Lesson: Genesis 1: 1-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PDS Epistle: Acts 19: 1-7 <i>[Psalm 29]</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Baptism of Christ Gospel: St Mark 1: 4-11</p>
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<p>18/1/2015 HC 1st Lesson: 1Samuel 3:1-10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LCA Epistle: Revelation 5: 1-10 <i>[Psalm 139: 1-5,12-18]</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany 2 Gospel: St John 1: 43-51</p>
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25/1/2015 Service for Christian Unity PDS

<p>1/2/2015 HC 1st Lesson: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LCP Epistle: Revelation 19: 6-10 <i>[Psalm 111]</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany4 Gospel: St Mark 1: 21-28</p>
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*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;*

**On Sunday, 25th January, there will be the *Service for Christian Unity* held at Puy de Serre at 11o`clock.
This will be an ecumenical Service held with members of local French churches,
led by Père René Claude, Pasteur Michel Parry and our own Reader, John Matthews.**



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



14th January Wednesday, 7.00 for 7.30pm start: Faites le Plein, please see the details on page 5.

22nd January, Thursday, 11am: Ladies Circle at Mouilleron en Pareds.

For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 02 51 00 34 70

25th January, Wednesday, 11am: Service for Christian Unity held at Puy de Serre

,,,and looking ahead

6th February, Friday, 6pm, Puy de Serre Salle: First Quiz of the Year

2nd May, Saturday: Marian and Richard's non-annual Coffee Morning and Plant Sale



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.*

Diary Updates are available on our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

Names on our Prayer List.....



Please continue to pray for:

Peter Hutchinson whose condition is now relatively stable. Please pray for comfort and healing.

Avril Simmons who is now at home. She is in need of continued healing.

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



As we are writing this we are still in festive mood – and what wonderful Christmas celebrations we enjoyed! Thank you to Mike and Geoff for organising such a good Christmas lunch. A great atmosphere and excellent food was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Then there was the Ladies Circle Christmas gathering with fun and laughter as we shared a special ‘bring and share’ lunch. Thank you to everyone who participated. We even had a visit from ‘Secret Santa’! Then there was another excellent gathering, this time in La Roche sur Yon for an evening meal. Another fun-filled evening of fellowship. And those puddings! Wow! Thank you to everyone who helped to make all these occasions so successful.

What a beautiful evening of Favourite Carols we enjoyed, too, thanks to Stuart and Jacqui. The church at Puy de Serre looked beautiful in the light of so many candles and how interesting it was to hear a little of the history of each one. I was astonished at how far back some of our traditional favourites date – and how exhilarating it was to have a good sing! The evening was rounded off with a buffet [including those essential mince pies!] and a beverage... Thank you all who worked so hard to make it such a success.

The Christmas Draw took place on December 1st at the Vicarage and, just in case you need to check, the results are/will be on the website! However, all those who won the major prizes have been notified. Thank you everyone who supported this. You will be pleased to know that a sum of 400 euros has been sent to ‘Médecins sans Frontières’. Thank you, Polly, for making this such a success.

In our last edition, we mentioned the ‘touch of sadness’ at the departure of a number of our members who had all made substantial contributions to A.S.V. I have tell you that Mairi Venables is also leaving us. She has sold her house at last and is going further south, to live in the Lot. Her gentle and dependable presence will be missed. Thank you for your friendship and support, Mairi. We wish you well in your new surroundings.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Barbara and Joan

Letter from the Editor

TWELFTH NIGHT TRADITIONS



On the Twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:

Twelve Drummers Drumming

Eleven Pipers Piping

Ten Lords a Leaping

Nine Ladies Dancing

Eight Maids a Milking

Seven Swans a Swimming

Six Geese a Laying

Five Golden Rings

Four Calling Birds

Three French Hens

Two Turtle Doves

and a Partridge in a Pear Tree



What a Christmas that was! And we are probably all sharing this sentiment! Our Christmas celebrations officially end on the 6th January, the 12th day. Down come the cards and decorations, out goes the tree... It was supposed to bring bad luck if you didn't get it done on that day.

However, for us, this day marks the start of Epiphany. We remember the visit of the Magi to the stable, bringing gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. It was in this way that Christ was revealed to those beyond his own country. Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God, in human form.

As we live in France, we are used to seeing the 'galettes des rois', traditionally eaten on this day, but in Britain, too, the Twelfth cake would be eaten, a rich fruit cake, containing a bean or 'feve'. Whoever found the bean would be king for a day, but other things could also be hidden in this cake. If you found a clove, then you would be the villain. If you found a little twig, then you were the fool and, if you found a tiny piece of cloth then you were of easy virtue!

If you were a child living in Italy, then you would be expecting a visit from Befana! She is usually portrayed as an old lady riding a broomstick through the air wearing a black shawl and covered in soot because she comes down the chimney. She is not scary for she is often depicted smiling and carrying a bag filled with sweets, fruit and other treats.

In Christian legend, Befana was approached by the magi, a few days before the birth of the baby Jesus. They asked for directions to where the Son of God could be found, as they had seen his star in the sky, but she did not know. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was thought to have the best house in the village. The magi invited her to join them on the journey to find the baby Jesus, but she said no, because she was too busy with her housework. Later, Befana changed her mind and tried to find the wise men and Jesus. She was not able to find them, however, so to this day, Befana is searching for the little baby. She leaves all the good children presents, sweets or fruit, while the bad children get coal!



Let's hope we have all been good this past year!

Happy New Year, everyone!

Joan Stewart

'Faites le Plein' !



Wednesday 14th January at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Please meet Steve Blackah, a visiting pastor from Paris :

" Hi, I'm Steve Blackah from Leeds, UK, and with my wife Lynn we have been pastors of Paris Evangile church in the centre of Paris (5th district) for the last 7 years. In June 2012 we opened Healing Rooms as a direct result of God calling me to bring healing back to the heart of the Gospel, and we regularly see pain leaving bodies, legs growing out, backs being healed and a variety of other expressions of the Kingdom here and now. Simply stated, God wants His Kingdom to come and His will to be done here on earth as in Heaven, it's great to be part of what He is doing all around the world."

Steve will be preaching a healing message and praying for the sick at this meeting

Join us from 7pm for refreshments for a 7.30pm start.

Bring your friends too, everyone welcome !

Held at La Maison du Diocèse,
62 rue Maréchal Joffre,
La Roche sur Yon.

Plenty of parking space, in the car park or just outside on the street.

Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team

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

Correction: For `Daily Words` read `Words for Today`!

You may remember that, last month, we invited you to contact Suzanne Patterson if you wanted a copy of the daily Bible reading books `Daily Words`.

I'm afraid it should have read `Words for Today`. Apologies!

Anyway, Suzanne can still obtain them for you!

Please contact her on SiSuPatter@neuf.fr



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.*



*There are several ladies who knit garments for Restos du Coeur.
If anyone has knitting wool that you don't want,
Carole Stocking would be very happy to receive it.
Thank you!*



Thank you all for your continuing donations and thank you, too, to Bill and Carole for collecting it all and passing it on to the Resto in Coulonges!



Graham and Jenny Salt would like everyone interested to know that we have arrived safely at our rented villa in Murcia, Southern Spain and are enjoying the sunshine and blue skies.

We attended our first service at St Nicholas Iglesias last Sunday, it was a service of Lessons and Carols which we really enjoyed and everyone made us feel very welcome.

We should like to thank everyone for the gift of our two beautiful glasses which, when enjoying a glass of wine, will be a constant reminder of the happy times we have spent with you all in the Vendée.

Finally, we would like to wish you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

With Best Wishes

Graham and Jenny Salt

ASV Website News



Don't forget the website is there for you!

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

Have you seen the photos taken at the Christmas Dinner?
They're all there....in the GALLERIES. Just click on: www.allsaintsvendee.fr/GALLERIES

Jacqui Stainton-James - (Website Co-ordinator)



**Please send your contributions and letters for the February issue to:
"The Grapevine" Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th January**

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

