

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

June 2016

CONTACTS:

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

Polly Ward: Phone no: 02 28 13 01 93, email: wardpolly@outlook.com

Assistant Church Wardens: Maggie Jelley (PdS) 05 49 72 27 72

Keith Fowler (LCA) 02 51 49 83 25, Jo Collinson (LCP) 02 51 55 84 56

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

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Preface



Dear friends,

I do hope the weather improves, at the time of writing it is grey and damp, not my preferred weather for May! After the celebrations in May of Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, the Church's calendar enters into ordinary time, we have more time to study and reflect on Jesus' ministry and his adult life on earth. Well known stories perhaps but sometimes a point, a word or a meaning hits us anew and takes us deeper into our faith. It often helps to read the readings in different translations as well, some of you of course may be able to read them in Greek, Latin or Hebrew, but just using other texts can help.

Ascension Day was a beautiful sunny day and we enjoyed a lovely informal Communion, fellowship and picnic on the Mont des Allouettes. There are photos on the web site. It was a timely reminder, as we were climbing the hill, albeit in a car, that Jesus and his disciples were on a mountain top, and of course the views were glorious.

I am taking Beccy on her holiday again to Le Pas Opton at the beginning of June, she loves the special club they have in the mornings, the activities, the pool and the social life of a camp site. God has answered our prayers in that she is much more mobile again so as we give thanks, we pray she will be able to enjoy her holiday to the full. This means I will not be available for work

between the 1st June and the 16th although I will be taking the service at La Chapelle Palluau on the 5th of June.

I will have been to Synod by the time you receive this and I am also going on a Church Leader's Retreat to Le Pas Opton at the end of May, 23rd-29th so will need to do lots of catching up in the second half of June – please could you save any problems until then?!

All our new Council was, of course, elected at the Annual Church Meeting and it was also decided that we would appoint, as we are able to, Assistant Church Wardens for each church so, in case of a query or a problem in my absence there are several people you can contact: Polly Ward (CW), Barbara Kenyon (CW), Maggie Jelley (Assistant CW PDS), Keith Fowler (Assistant CW LCA), Jo Collinson (Assistant CW LCP).

We are also very grateful to Jacqui who fields a lot of enquiries via the website. Please, please can I encourage you to check our website regularly, we include last minute news and changes, events, photos and you can even read my sermons(!), which should come with the warning that they are never exactly what I said. I am just starting to put 'special' services on there as well, so if you cannot be with us for any reason you can read it through, perhaps at 11.00am?

May God bless you all,
Caroline

MUSICIANS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!

I am sure we all agree that live music enhances the quality of our worship. But for this to happen we need musicians. Stuart and Simon do a sterling job, but are not always available. Polly can often play the tune line with one hand but she also has multiple jobs to do on Sundays. Unfortunately the quality of some recorded music is not always the best, and there are often differences in words and numbers of verses.

If any of you are shrinking violets with musical talents please consider whether you could help us out, we are not too difficult really!...
but our situation is critical.

Of course if we had multiple instruments that would be a bonus. 'The All Saints Band' anyone???

If you really cannot play and don't know anyone who can,
please pray that God will send us musicians.

Thank you.
Caroline

And a great big thank you to Stuart, Simon and Polly for all that you do.

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning



I would like to thank Marian and Richard for their hospitality and hard work which made the Coffee Morning so enjoyable and successful. Marian would be the first to say that a lot of people helped out and so they did, both on the morning and in the preparations beforehand, so thank you, thank you, thank you. It was cold and wet as usual, and apparently that's my fault(!), but many people came, old friends met up, there was chatter, coffee and cakes, things were bought, prizes won and it seemed that a good time was had by all. So thank you all, but especially Marian and Richard.

God bless, Caroline

JUNE INTO JULY CHURCH SERVICES WITH LECTIONARY 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]

5th June	2nd Sunday after Trinity	LCP	11.00 am	HC
1Kings 17:8-24,	Gal 1:11-end	Luke 7:11-17	(Psalm 146)	
12th June	3rd Sunday after Trinity	PDS	11.00am	MW
1Kings 21: 1b-21a,	Gal 2:15-end,	Luke 7:36-8:3	(Psalm 5:1-8)	
19th June	4th Sunday after Trinity	LCA	11.00am	HC
1Kings 19:1-15a,	Gal 3:23-29,	Luke 8:26 -39	(Psalm 42)	
26th June	5th Sunday after Trinity	PDS	11.00am	HC
2Kings 2:1-2, 6-14,	Gal 5:1, 13-25,	Luke 9:51-62	(Psalm 16)	
3rd July	Trinity 6 St - Thomas the Apostle	LCP	11.00am	HC
Hab 2:1-4,	Eph 2:19-end,	John 24:19-end	(Psalm 31:1-6)	

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

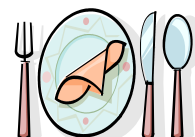
LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau,
MW=Morning Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship);
BCP=Book of Common Prayer.

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



Sunday Club

Sunday Club takes place at Puy de Serre.
If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m.
They will be most welcome.

Barbara

*[Please contact Barbara if you require more information:
Phone 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr]*



Dates for your Diary



1st June Wednesday 19.00 for 19.30 **The Filling Station** at Maison de Diocèse,
La Roche sur Yon (See Page 5)

6th June Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group**
(Please email: carole.stocking@gmail.com)

9th June, Thursday 2.30pm **Sewing Circle**
(Please email: jpsmorandiere@gmail.com or view the schedule in the April "Grapevine")

13th June Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group**
(Please email: carole.stocking@gmail.com)

20th June Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group**
(Please email: carole.stocking@gmail.com)

23rd June Thursday, 14.30 **Ladies Circle**
(Please email: jpsmorandiere@gmail.com or view the schedule in the April "Grapevine")

27th June Monday 1500 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group**
(Please email: carole.stocking@gmail.com)

...and looking ahead...

July 24th Sunday 10.00 **Commemoration Ceremony** for the 75th Anniversary of the Loss of the Crew of a 35 Sqn followed by Lunch at Angles. (for information contact Revd Caroline)

October 2nd Sunday 11.00. **Revd Caroline's Farewell Service.** We have now received confirmation that Revd Caroline's official leaving date is now 3rd October. This is so that she can officiate at the **Harvest Festival in La Chapelle Palluau** on Sunday October 2nd. This will therefore be her farewell service and I hope it will be well-supported (More details from Polly)



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 Restos du Coeur in
Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.*

For more details and updates of all these events, please visit our Website:

www.AllSaintsVendee.fr



Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We are now studying MATTHEW AND BECOMING A DISCIPLE.

*We meet each Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at our house
at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79).*

Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

*Please give us a ring if you would like to join us and we will give you directions to the house if
you don't already know where we are.*

Carole and Bill Stocking.

JUNE FORWARD PLANNING

*This Forward Planning Rota 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.*

Responsibility (Organiser)	5 th June LCP	12 th June PdS	19 th June LCA	26 th June PdS
Welcomers (Polly Ward)				
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		Miller/Parkyn		Parkyn/Condie
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)		Jenny W		Dee & Curtis
Musicians +/- Organist (Polly Ward)		Stuart	Stuart	Stuart
Readers (Polly Ward)				



**You are warmly invited to our next "Faites le Plein" meeting which
will be held in La Roche sur Yon on Wednesday 1st June 2016.**

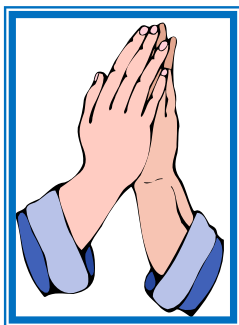
The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments,
followed at 7.30pm by a time of sung worship, in French and English,
then our guest speaker **Sylvia Epifanic** will share her message, with a translation.
Sylvia is from the Paris Area, she is pastor of the Église Eau Vive in Boulogne-Billancourt
(*Union d'Assemblées Protestantes en Mission*).

Anyone who would like personal prayer ministry, offered by a qualified team,
can receive that at the end of the meeting.

The meeting is held at the Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre (the entrance to this site is
opposite the Boulangerie Potier which has a red frontage, through the large gateway, into the
car park). Look out for the "Faites le Plein" signs directing you towards the restaurant.

Hoping that you may join us!

Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team.
liz.jond@wanadoo.fr



Prayer List

Regular readers of Grapevine will have noticed that the usual list of names for prayer has not appeared this month. The ASV Ministry Team has decided that this and the reading out of names during intercessions should be discontinued, mainly in the interests of privacy and to avoid unnecessary embarrassment. In future, names will only be published, or read out in church at times of crisis such as bereavement or an operation and, of course, always with the express consent of the person(s) or family involved.

You may be interested to know, however, that there is an e-mail 'prayer circular' operating. If you don't already subscribe, why not join us? Just e-mail me at:

davidlpearson@orange.fr

with your request and I'll make sure you're included.

Thank you all,

David Pearson.



NOTES FROM YOUR CHURCH WARDENS

Change of face

As most of you may be aware, at the AGM, Doug Green did not stand for re-election and Polly Ward and Barbara Kenyon were elected as Church Wardens. At a recent Council meeting, Assistant Wardens were also appointed to help at the various churches – they are Margaret Jelley (Puy de Serre), Keith Fowler (La Chapelle Achard) and Jo Collinson (La Chapelle Palluau)

Change of date

Caroline's departure date has been changed from 30th September 2016 to 3rd October 2016. This is so that she can officiate at the Harvest Festival at La Chapelle Palluau on Sunday 2nd October. This will, therefore, become her farewell service and you may like to note the date in your diaries

Safeguarding

I understand that there will be a mention of this issue elsewhere in 'Grapevine' so we will just address the issue from a practical point of view.

Last weekend, we nearly had to cancel the Sunday Club at Puy de Serre because of a scarcity of people with the necessary qualifications. In order to ensure that this (and our other services to vulnerable people) continues, we will be checking the qualifications of everyone involved.

We are also encouraging all Council members and as many church members as possible to complete the Level 1 on line course as well as those in the front line of work with children (such as Sunday Club) and adults (visits to homes or hospitals) for whom it is a requirement. This training and the DBS checks (Disclosure & Barring Service, formally CRB) are renewable every 3 years. We have to raise awareness in all congregation members of safeguarding issues. If you wish to be added to this list, please remember to allow time for these things to become effective – police checks have never been quick!!!

Barbara and Polly

[Revd Caroline has requested that her Synod Report be circulated in "Grapevine" with the proviso that it was done hastily between returning from Synod and going on retreat! Jacqui]

The Archdeaconery of France
Synod 2016 St Jacut de la Mer
May 18th-21st

This year's theme was very topical "Migration" and we had some excellent speakers with solid reputations in their fields. We also had speakers from the Diocesan Office including Adrian Mumford the Diocesan Secretary and Ian Carter the Safeguarding Officer and Bishop David Hamid.

The Bible Study sessions were led by The Reverend Dr Richard Briggs who is the Lecturer in Old Testament and Director of Biblical Studies at Cranmer Hall in Durham and author of several books. He was an engaging speaker who brought the Old Testament to life and took us through Jonah and Daniel. One of the things he suggested was that often the Old Testament stories were concerned with 'us and them'. The Israelites in the story of Jonah had to consider the possibility of God calling all people, and it makes us think what do we really want God to do for other people and do we really want foreigners? Daniel was thrown suddenly into a situation and shows us that we can be thrown into unexpected, unwanted circumstances and makes us question how we and our faith could cope under pressure. But it also shows how constancy in prayer and immersion in God's word produces fruit in season.

We heard from two people working with the mass migration in Europe, looking at it from different perspectives. Max McClellan has a background in human rights law and policy and has worked in various places with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. He is just back from Greece where he is currently working as a Consultant to the Anglican Church in Greece and was able to give us first hand accounts of the problems there and photographs of the people he met. He spoke of the lack of information for people and how, if able to be done legally, flights are much cheaper than being smuggled. There are also problems for some of the larger aid agencies because of legal definitions concerning refugees and migrants. There are still shortages in Greece, especially as they are struggling financially as a country and in the Detention Centres there is too little food and it is often sub-standard. The Anglican Church take in 400 meals once a week. Many churches and denominations are working together, for example the Salvation Army run a Day Centre and the Anglican Church has provided funds for an interpreter. The latest figures show that there are approximately 53,900 people stranded in Greece in temporary camps. It is often the most vulnerable who remain as the rich have managed to buy onward travel legally or illegally.

Doris Peschke has also been involved in racism and migration for many years. Since 1999 she has been General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, an ecumenical agency engaged with migration, asylum and anti-racism. The World Council of Churches commissioned this agency and it is working with the concept of 'The other is my neighbour'. They do a lot of research so that accurate figures can show the real situation as it is felt that if numbers are exaggerated there is an increase in fear. This is not the worst migrant situation in Europe since WW2 but it is the worst global situation with many refugees in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The major refugee hosting countries are: Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Kenya. It is felt that closing borders leads to more smuggling and that every refugee has the right to have their application fully examined although not necessarily granted. One of the catch 22 problems for people is that legally to be granted asylum you have to have arrived in the country, it is not possible to apply before. It is agreed that the process of integration can take years for some although others can

contribute to their new society much earlier, but as Christians and remembering Daniel's story we have to think; 'What would I feel like as a refugee?' and 'How would I like to be treated?'

Ecumenical work is especially important in our Diocese and we are often reliant on the hospitality of the Catholic churches and Protestant churches for places of worship. We heard from Pasteur Christian Krieger about the Reuilly Contact Group and its work and hopes for deeper ecumenical relations. We also heard about the work of French ARC (a mandated committee of Anglicans and Roman Catholics) from members of that group. There is a booklet produced in both French and English "O, Lord open our lips" (which is available as a PDF download as well in English) looking at the common usage of morning and evening liturgical prayer and encouraging the shared celebration of these services in ecumenical meetings. We also had the privilege of updates from Pasteur Jane Stranz (Fédération Protestante) and Père Emmanuel Gougoud.

Another important topic for us was input from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Ian Carter, a former police officer and then Safeguarding Officer for the Diocese of Chelmsford. He has a 2 year contract to help improve our policies, training and actions. This has become a very high priority for the Church of England and we will be audited by an external auditor at chaplaincy/parish level in 2017. The new clergy discipline measures will extend to Church Wardens who are now duty bound to uphold the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. It is also putting an emphasis on congregational responsibility for safeguarding and we are to encourage as many members of the congregations as possible to do the on-line Level 1 safeguarding training. We are to remember that safeguarding is not just for children and young people but also for vulnerable adults. There will be a need for a renewal of police checks every 5 years and training every 3 years. A level 2 training is being developed and this will train trainers, we will have 4 in France. Although criminal activity will come under local laws, the Diocesan investigations and restrictions will apply if policy is breached. This will cover actions within church buildings, during church activities and/or involving church personnel. It was emphasised that we are all vulnerable not only to being the recipients of abuse but also to being charged with it and so our actions must be considered and thought through so that we are not open to charges. Protocol, policies and the Level 1 training can all be found on the Diocesan website. We have no option but to ensure that all policy, paperwork, checks and our actions comply. There is a lot of work ahead. We are all asked to co-operate as no excuses (eg not knowing, no Priest, incomplete paperwork) will not be acceptable. This is all being taken very seriously at all levels of the Church of England and vast budgets have been set aside.

Adrian Mumford (Diocesan Secretary) asked us to remember that any tax payer paying in sterling to our churches can apply for gift aid. He also reminded us of the availability of the European Anglican Magazine and told us the website for the Diocese is being updated and there should be easier navigation. The Yearbook (which has caused us so much trouble!) is being withdrawn, there will be a leaflet but all information will be on the website. He gave a vote of thanks to all Treasurers and told us that all contributions to the Common Fund were paid in full. Our Diocese has the smallest running costs of all the Dioceses in the Church of England despite the huge distances involved.

The Archdeacon, Ian Naylor, informed us he was retiring at the end of September and thanks were given to him. Bishop David also is changing his role within the Diocese and will no longer be lead Bishop for France, Bishop Robert is taking over that role, he was also thanked.

During the Eucharist on Friday Patrick Sturges was admitted as Reader and on St Alcuin's day we were told of the re-inauguration of the Chaplaincy of St Alcuin in Tours on Sunday 22nd May. The

worship 3 times a day was led by various people and it was thought provoking and of great blessing. As were the beautiful surroundings of L'Abbaye.

We had meetings of the Chapter of Clergy and of the Chapter of Laity, here are some of the topics discussed by the clergy! The training and development of Church Wardens was felt to be really important whether they were new to the job or had been in post for years (!); it is a dual listening role and a legal office. We also discussed the Prayer Diary, any on the ground experience of the use of the leaflet 'O Lord open our lips', the situations faced by colleagues in Paris, Calais and Dunkirk and heard a little more about our new colleagues. A proposal went to the whole Synod that, if passed would be sent to Diocesan Synod regarding Charitable help for clergy from UK charities. I'm sure there was more but the hour went very quickly!

It is so good to meet colleagues from all over France and Monaco, to catch up with their news to share experiences and to support one another. There were light hearted moments (and some dreadful jokes!) and serious discussion. I hope this brief report has done justice to it.

Caroline Sackley

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!

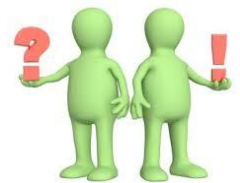
Contact..... Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
or..... Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

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



These are YOUR pages.....

Once again, my thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine" so, read on, and see what you can discover:



You will discover

Messages received from friends of ASV, including:

"Brexit" from Revd Gareth;

*Press Coverage and photos of the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning;
and much, much more....*



A big 'Thank You' from Sally Mills for the beautiful Alstroemeria Plant you all so very kindly gave me after the Church Service at La Chapelle Achard last Sunday. The flowers are a striking colour and so many of them! It will be placed in the garden at the end of its flowering season, for me to enjoy in the future.

OUEST-FRANCE Autour de Fontenay-le-Comte

Thiré

06 MAI 2016

Signature.

06 MAI 2016

Signature.

Le Coffee morning atteste d'une communauté bien intégrée

Richard et Marian Rackham, ressortissants britanniques vivant dans la commune, ont ouvert leurs portes pour une vente de charité, samedi. Une occasion d'échanger avec nos amis anglais.

Richard, secrétaire du concile paroissial de l'Eglise anglicane en Vendée, et Marian Rackham, tous deux ressortissants britanniques, ont ouvert leur maison, samedi 30 mai, comme chaque année, pour une vente de charité au profit de l'Eglise anglicane. C'est l'occasion de rencontres et de discussions avec nos amis anglais sur leur façon de vivre, leurs problèmes, leurs préoccupations.

Brexit or not Brexit

Parmi celles-ci, la question du « Brexit », référendum sur la sortie éventuelle de la Grande-Bretagne de l'Union européenne. La grande majorité des Britanniques présents dans la région souhaitent rester Européens. Ils craignent, en cas de « non » au référendum, une évolution défavorable de leurs revenus : taux de change, sécurité sociale, régime d'imposition. De plus, la plupart souhaitent également rester en France, même si la Grande-Bretagne devait s'éloigner de l'Europe. Pour eux, l'idéal serait que la Grande-Bretagne adopte l'euro, ce qui assurerait une stabilité de leurs revenus, indépendamment de la situation internationale.

On constate une légère érosion du nombre de ressortissants britanniques dans la région. Les jeunes retraités sont arrivés en France il y a une vingtaine d'années et aujourd'hui, la moyenne d'âge a augmenté. Quelques décès sont survenus. Par ailleurs, les problèmes de communication et de rapprochement familial font qu'il est plus facile, par exemple, de soigner la maladie d'Alzheimer dans leur pays natal qu'en France.



Marian, Caroline et Richard entourés d'amis anglais.

Certains désirent également se rapprocher de leurs petits-enfants.

The French way of life

En revanche, nos amis britanniques sont toujours amoureux de notre « French way of life » (mode de vie français). Ils préfèrent le système de santé français au système britannique. Ils ont souvent acheté une vieille maison, l'ont rénovée avec soin et ont dépensé beaucoup d'argent. Malheureusement, le marché immo-

bilier n'étant plus favorable, ceux qui vendent aujourd'hui le font à perte.

Il y a quelques nouveaux arrivants anglais qui comptent partiellement les départs.

Pour Caroline Sacley, prêtre responsable du secteur vendéen depuis deux ans, « 2015 aura été l'année de mon installation et de l'aménagement de mon presbytère, à Saint-Vincent-Sterlange. Le fonctionnement des messes dominicales a trouvé son rythme de croisière ».

Elle se réjouit de voir de nombreux Français participer au Coffee morning. C'est la preuve de l'assimilation de la communauté britannique.

Comme l'année dernière, 200 personnes sont venues prendre un café, ce matin-là, chez Marian et Richard. De nombreux articles étaient mis en ventes : bibelots, livres, petit mobilier, gâteaux, plantes vertes et des bijoux artisanaux ; des jeux étaient organisés. Et près de 2 000 € auront été recueillis. C'est plus qu'en 2015.

and there's more....



It never rains but what it pours!

“The Lord works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform” and maybe had He given us the following day’s sunshine, a vast number of folk may well have decided to go to the beach instead of braving the elements to attend the Coffee Morning in Thiré. As it was, people travelled from many areas of La Vendée and also from further afield and all deserve a very big “Thank you” for coming out in such inclement weather. Another big “Thank you” must also go to all the helpers without whom this non-annual event would be possible. We had an excellent team of hard workers on the day, and also friends, several of them not church members, who grew seedlings or came to “pot-on” for many days preceding the event. We would have been very hard pressed to have managed without them. The morning raised over 2000€ for Church Funds. . Many of the left over Vide Grenier items and a vast number of books have already been given to two animal charities so will now give further benefit.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in any way for all the support. God bless you all.

Marian and Richard



Ascension Day at Mont des Alouettes

Communion Service

Picnic



More photos are available to view in the website Gallery

*During a recent visit to Biarritz, Stuart and I visited
St Andrew's Anglican Church and this appeared on their website:
[It reminded me of a Sunday School lesson from years ago]*

Teach us to pray... The 5-Finger Prayer



1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty'.

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, nurses and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the government, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nations and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. Your little finger should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



‘BREXIT’

I’m guessing by now you’ll be as tired as I am of the whole affair, the interminable debate:

in/out ?
leave/stay ?
be a part/be apart ?

Whatever the decision later this month, I’m guessing that the majority of we British who live here in France will be happier, much happier, if we remain in the European Union rather than disassociating ourselves from the Community that binds us together.

But it’s the word rather than the idea embodied in the word that’s caught my attention. Neologisms – newly coined words – are one of the delights of the English language and ‘Brexit’ is no exception. Earlier, we had ‘Grexit’ – the possibility of Greece, financially in deep trouble, being forced out of the Eurozone, rendered in effect bankrupt and having ultimately to leave the EU. So to coin a word to sum up the question at the heart of the debate about the place of UK in the EU was hardly that difficult.

A British leave, as opposed to French leave – usually going off without permission – must, in our case, be a majority decision. Democracy necessarily is an expression of the will of the people through the voice of the people. So let’s hope, in this instance, the majority is informed and makes a wise choice.

*Gareth Randall,
Priest-in-charge,
St Bartholomew’s Dinard*



Ascension Service at La Chapelle Achard

Thank you to
Sylvie and Ernie
for these photos.



More photos are available to view in the website Gallery

From Carole Stocking....

WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said,

"This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received."

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section," my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that Opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death... You are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If you can hold your head up and smile You are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and Despair....."

"Ok," I said. "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.....

ATTN: Acknowledge Dept.

"Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."

If you have read this far, and are thankful for all that you have been blessed with, how can **you not** send it on?

Thank God for everything, especially all your family and friends

and finally....



I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for the beautiful flowers that were presented to me at the AGM. I greatly appreciated the kind thought. I will try to live up to your expectations by continuing to produce "Grapevine" and the website. Thank you again Jacqui



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

Thank you to all the Contributors and
I look forward to hearing from you next time
SO.....

send your contributions and comments to:

Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

before the 15th of June, please



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