

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*"To know and to share Jesus Christ"*

*The Grapevine*

May 2014

**CONTACTS:**

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

**Website:** www.allsaintsvendee.fr



*Preface*



Dear Friends,

The wonderful feast to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord is now over, although one former Bishop of Salisbury reckoned we should drink champagne for breakfast for at least a week after Easter! He did serve champagne to the many that turned up for the dawn service. He felt that Easter needed the sort of long celebration that we give to Christmas.

An adult that I was preparing for confirmation asked which season I felt was most important for the church, Easter or Christmas? It took some thought, I had never before considered that question.

I settled on Easter, what do you think? My reasoning didn't end up being terribly theological, Incarnation/Resurrection, very difficult. We became quite practical, discussing how, particularly before DNA testing, birth parentage could always be challenged, however so many people confirmed Jesus' death, so many saw him afterwards, but some didn't recognise him initially, the disciples admitted their doubts and in the end many died horrific deaths because of that belief. It was an interesting debate with the group that evening.

Myths have stories of gods coming to earth, but Jesus is the only one who died, an innocent man, to save the rest of us who are sinners. God wanted his people, his creation, to be restored to him again, to be in relationship with him, to know his great love. Christianity is the story of love, of relationship, of having our God ever present with us, because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In May there is our Synod in Brittany, a confirmation service to which we are sending 2 young people, also in Brittany and I am having a week on holiday, so I will be difficult to get hold of, emails will probably be best. My mobile number 0780 094480 can be used for emergencies except the week I am on holiday! (Which is the week of the 11th to the 17th.) Please pray for Anna and Thomas as they prepare for the important choice they are making.

We are also having a Parish `away day` on May 10th. It will be held in Mouilleron en Pareds and it will be a chance for everyone to contribute to the vision, the planning that will take us forward over the next few years. With God there is no staying still, we are asked to grow, to share his love with others. It seems important that that is something we all need to agree to, and as I am newly among you, it is a chance for me to hear from you. I may be able to help you take your vision, your plans forward, but I am not here to impose my views on you. That is not to say I won't have ideas, but it is your parish, much as I love being here, in theory I am just passing through, helping you to build a legacy to leave for others. So PLEASE try and make it a priority in your diaries.

God Bless

*Caroline*

## MAY into JUNE 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>4/5/2014</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2: 14a+ 36-41	<b>HC</b>	<b>Easter 3</b> Epistle: 1 Peter 1: 17-23 [Psalm 116: 1-3+13-10-17]	<b>LCP</b> Gospel: St Luke 24: 13-35
<b>11/5/2014</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 2: 42-47	<b>HC</b>	<b>Easter 4</b> Epistle: 1 Peter 2: 19-25 [Psalm 23]	<b>PDS</b> Gospel: St John 10: 1-10
<b>18/5/2014</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 7: 55-60	<b>HC</b>	<b>Easter 5</b> Epistle: 1 Peter 2: 2-10 [Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16]	<b>LCA</b> Gospel: St John 14: 1-14
<b>25/5/2014</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 17: 22-31	<b>HC</b>	<b>Easter 6</b> Epistle: 1 Peter 3: 13-22 [Psalm 66: 7-18]	<b>PDS</b> Gospel: St John 14: 15-21
<b>29/5/2014</b>		<b>Ascension Day</b>	
<b>1/6/2014</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson: Acts 1: 6-14	<b>HC</b>	<b>Easter 7</b> Epistle: 1 Peter 4: 12-14+ 5: 6-11 [Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35]	<b>LCP</b> Gospel: St John 17: 1-11

LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau,

MW=Morning Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship); BCP=Book of Common Prayer

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*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,*

*followed by a Bring & Share Lunch*

*Everyone is welcome to join us - even if you have not brought anything*

*There is always enough to go round!*

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

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## *Dates for your Diary*



**6<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday, `Filling Station`, La Roche sur Yon, 6.30pm** [Please see details below]

**9/10/11<sup>th</sup> May, Louange Côte Ouest - Praise West Coast.** For more information, see the website [www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr) or contact Revd Caroline.

**10<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday, Parish `Awayday`** Please see below `All Saints, Vendée Vision Day`

**11<sup>th</sup> May, Resto du Coeur gift collection at Puy de Serre church.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May, Thursday, 2.30pm: Ladies Circle** at Moulleron en Pareds. For more details, please contact Joan Stewart on 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 Resto du Coeur in Coulonges.*



**And looking ahead:**

**6<sup>th</sup> June, Friday, 6pm, Quiz**

Don't forget that Diary Updates are available on our Website:

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



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

Through the coming days, please remember especially in your prayers:

**Geoffrey Colman:** Geoffrey has sent the following news:

`I'm doing fine. Up and about with my Zimmer and wheelchair feeling great. I've been put down for our Easter service, only doing the minimum. The thought of just my head appearing above the altar is curious! Please tell the prayer man the news - he still has me down as 'very weak'!

I remain deeply appreciative of the continuing prayerful support of so many people and it's been a real help throughout the treatment to date.

Praise God!

**Peter Hutchinson:** Peter was rushed back to Fontenay hospital (from La Châtaigneraie) after falling again and fracturing his leg - the same one as before. This is a terrible setback for him in his already very fragile situation. Please pray for him, for the staff who are caring for him, and for those who have responsibility for his future care.

**John Matthews:** John has sent this news:

`On Monday I had a consultation at Poitiers followed by what turned out to be the final session of chimo, as the doctor told me I should now move on to radiotherapy at Niort. I have a consultation with the radiotherapist on Friday, 11th April, and will then have 3 to 4 weeks (Mon-Fri. each week) of radiotherapy starting in a couple of weeks time. So prayers are being answered and things are moving on. I'm certainly feeling much better in myself.`

Since then he has a setback, a back pain problem concerning vertebrae. Please pray for him and Barbara as his difficulties continue.

**Ian Wallace:** Ian continues to explore his vocation for the ministry. Your prayerful support in this will be appreciated.

**Celia Houghton:** Celia is somewhat isolated in a care home in England but her family may soon be close by.

**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](mailto: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*

# Lent Lunches

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the Lent Lunches programme over the last few weeks; that is*



- Caroline who first launched the idea
- 6 hostesses who made the soup and invited the guests
- their 'support staff' (including Jennifer, Trudy, Carol, Gini and Pat who helped at the quiz)



- the people who provided the raffle prizes
- the people who 'sponsored' soups for the quiz night where we fed 60 people and lastly,
- the people who attended the functions and gave very generously to such a good and deserving cause

*In the end, we raised 1298.35 euros which has been split and is on its way (or has arrived) at the organisers of the Restos du Coeur at Coulonges sur l'Autise and St Hilaire de Riez*

*I am sure this will be put to good use.*

*Polly Ward*

*And we say...*

*A BIG THANK YOU...  
Not only to all the kind people who held the Lent Lunches  
in their homes,  
but especially to Polly  
for all her hard work making gallons of soup,  
organising the Raffle  
and, of course, the very successful Quiz night...*

*The amazing total of 1298.35 euros was split between  
the two Restos du Coeur we support:  
Coulonges sur l'Autize and St Hilaire de Riez*

*Brilliant!*

# All Saints, Vendée Vision Day

## "Where now?"



Discuss / explore with your fellow Christians  
where our future lies

Saturday 10th May 2014  
1000 - 1600  
(Coffee from 0930)

Bring and Share lunch  
Barbecue available (with Hot Dogs)

Salle du Temple  
Rue du Temple  
Mouilleron en Pareds  
(Parking in the main square and Rue de Beaulieu)

*(If possible, please complete the ASV Survey at the end of this edition of "The Grapevine" and return it to Revd Caroline before the "Away Day" on 10th May)*



*Are you waiting to be confirmed?  
Are you wanting to be confirmed?  
Are you thinking about being confirmed?*

*If so, please contact Caroline as soon as possible.*

*A Service of Confirmation will be taking place on  
Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
at Dinard, Brittany*



## Notes from our Church Wardens

I have received this letter from the Rev. Clifford Poole and his wife Jean. Clifford was the first locum we had after Brian left and he and Jean were with us for three months. Their time with us was most enjoyable and much appreciated and it is lovely to hear that they too have happy memories of that time. We send them our best wishes and thank them for their kind thoughts.

*"A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all in the Vendée from your former locum and his wife, Clifford and Jean.*

*We hope you are now settled with your new chaplain and that all is going well. We still think of the good days we enjoyed with you. We are currently on locum duty in Lyon; we return home after Easter after being here since January.*

*All is well with us and we are very blessed to be able and fit enough to still continue our ministry in the Diocese of Europe, this time in another part of France we didn't know before.*

*Please pass on all our best wishes to those who still remember us.*

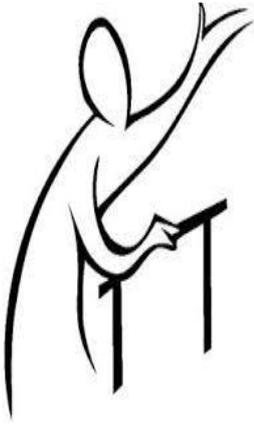
*Every blessing,  
Cliff and Jean"*

We should like to thank everyone who managed to attend the AGM and took the opportunity to speak or vote or get elected. Maggie and Polly were re-elected to the Church Council. [Thank goodness we still have our Treasurer and Social organiser!] We welcome three new members – Liz Jond, Colin Grimshaw and Suzanne Patterson. The largest part of our free discussion concerned housing for Caroline. We are actively pursuing a permanent solution and look forward to having some good news before too long.

We have a very busy month ahead with the Archdeaconry Synod taking place and the Service of Confirmation being held in Dinard on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Two children from our Church will be being confirmed by the Bishop.

*Barbara and Joan*

## ASV Website News



### Have you had problems recently accessing the ASV Website?

If so, it may be that, following a change in the routing that we had been allocated in this part of France, you will from now on be able to view the ASV website! So, please try it by entering: [www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr) in your Search Engine.

Remember, it is now possible to view sermons and talks from those church services you may have missed and to keep up-to-date with any STOP PRESS messages, as well as photos of church events which appear in the GALLERY.

Did you miss Revd Caroline's Easter Message at La Chapelle Achard? It's there to be read! at: [www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr), under "Notices" then scroll down to "**Sermons you may have missed**".

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

*Jacqui Stainton-James - (Website Co-ordinator)*

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*Those of you who were at the AGM may remember the discussion about the demise of the ASV Fête. You may also remember a small group volunteering to take it on board.*

*Now they would like to hear from **YOU**....*

## Fate or Fete?

PLEASE, please take a minute to reply with your opinions

As most people are aware, the annual Summer Fête for the Church of All Saints, Vendée, was not held at Puy de Serre last year. It appears that it was felt that support was dwindling, and the burden of organisation was being carried by the same small team of valiant workers, so it was time for a change. However, several friends have said that they have "missed" the event, and quite a lot of these are not church members. It is perhaps a pity to cease spreading this social side of our ministry, and also to lose the income generated from those outside our congregation. Therefore we write to find out if there would be support for a replacement event, from both the previous workers, and also from new members. As we have many people on holiday at the traditional Summer Fête time, people away in UK on half term "Grandparent-Duties" late October, and Christmas gets very hectic for many, we are proposing an Autumn Fair, possibly early in November.

As this would be predominantly an indoor event at this season, we are considering a smaller but quality event, calling on all the craft expertise, perhaps the Ladies' Group will feel able to support this. Christmas decorations/cards, and perhaps your unwanted but new presents which other people might find attractive as Christmas gifts, an up-beat vide grenier! Light refreshments could be served and of course we will need a cake stall and raffles. These are just a few thoughts but we welcome ideas. Initially, however, we need to assess whether there is support for this, because if not, then we will pursue the idea no further.

If you feel you are prepared to commit support to this, please will you let one of the steering committee below have your name, preferably before the end of April, so we can determine whether to continue with this venture. Jennifer asks to let it be known that she has lots of ideas and free patterns for craft work for anyone wanting to support the craft stall.

Thank you!

*Jennifer Wilkinson*  
, - [wilkinsonjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:wilkinsonjennifer@gmail.com)

*Marian Rackham,*  
- [richard.rackham@cegetel.net](mailto:richard.rackham@cegetel.net)

*Maggie Calton,* - [magandant@orange.fr](mailto:magandant@orange.fr)

*Peter Somerville,* - [somhope@free.fr](mailto:somhope@free.fr)

## Letter from The Editor

### Here we go ...

~Here we go round the mulberry bush,  
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush,  
Here we go round the mulberry bush  
On a cold and frosty morning..~



Do you remember singing this when you were children? Holding hands and skipping round in a circle? Then doing the actions - `this is the way we brush our hair/clean our teeth/wash our face?

When I was a child, I had some friends that lived in a house with a large garden and in the middle of the lawn was a real mulberry tree. I remember it was not very tall, but the shape was neatly rounded. I found it almost magical! I remember seeing the ground beneath it stained red with fallen berries and picking the ripe fruit....

It was probably because of this memory that I always wanted a mulberry tree in my own garden. And here, at La Morandiere, my wish was fulfilled and we planted a little mulberry tree.

I wish I could tell you that each year it groans under the weight of delicious mulberries, but that has not happened so far! It has only managed to produce one or two and the birds get them before I do. However, just knowing it is there is a happy thought. And each Spring I worry that it has made it through the Winter...

I am delighted to tell you that the buds are opening and the leaves are beginning to unfurl and this is the reason that I am writing this!

Did you realise that a mulberry tree appears in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"? In the play performed by Bottom and his friends, the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe, the two young lovers who were forbidden to wed arranged to meet secretly - under a mulberry tree. They both perished under that tree, and it is their blood that is supposed to have stained the white berries dark red.

The mulberry is, apparently, native to Asia, Africa and Asia. We all grow up knowing that silkworms feed upon mulberry leaves in China! Rather odd, then, that in Britain, we have this traditional rhyme. Even odder when we know that mulberries grow on trees and not bushes! It is thought that the rhyme may have originally concerned the bramble bush, but if you try singing that, you will find it just does not sound as good!

These days mulberries are being promoted as good for your health. They are full of vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants. My tree may be a bit magical after all!

*Joan Stewart*



*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 Resto du Coeur in  
Coulonges.*

*Our last 'Lent lunch' took place at the Quiz. Monsieur Pierre Grit,  
who runs the Resto at Coulonges-sur-l'Autize attended and was presented  
with 930 euros,  
the amount we had raised.  
Carole has translated a letter received from him:*

*'The volunteers of Restos du Coeur, Coulonges-sur-l'Autize, thank you for  
your invitation and the warm welcome that you gave them at the reception  
on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Puy de Serre.*

*During this evening you gave a donation of 930 euros which will enable us,  
in particular, to acquire different commodities that, during the Easter  
holidays, will be appreciated by the beneficiary families in our association.*

*All the volunteers and myself thank you sincerely for your generosity and  
your support.*

*Wishing you a good reception of this letter, ladies and gentlemen, please  
accept the expression of our best feelings.*

*Monsieur Pierre Grit`*

*Bill Stocking*



*Ian Wallace has sent us a message outlining what he hopes to achieve in the coming months:*

Thanks for your support

Over the last 6 months I have been starting to explore what God might have in store for me as a priest. What has been a nagging idea over the last 5 years or so has now come into sharper focus which has now taken on a more defined role in the formal process of testing this vocation. It does mean a lot of work on my part with the support, advice and guidance of Caroline and John Mathews and a number of others in the church family here as well as friends from the UK

First of all my many and heartfelt thanks to all in the church here in the Vendee for all your prayers, words of support and encouragement and financial assistance in attending my vocational conference at Church house and Westminster Abbey and the extra expenses of travel as I undertake this process.

As I go through this journey it was felt that sharing this journey with my fellow Christians would be good for both me and the church. Some of this sharing will be in updates on what is going on. Some of it through other writing, to further develop my thinking and for this to be commented in a more public setting through feedback, comments and thoughts. This I believe can only be of good, even if they are sometimes difficult to hear, but then that is the nature of ministry.

As well as lots of reading and writing during the process I will also undertake some extra church duties which will directly feed into the vocation process. This will include leading services and preaching as well as some one off projects.

Some of you were present when I led and preached the Mothering Sunday Service, which was slightly different from our normal style, and to my view worked well - this is where you are invited to comment and feedback as this is the way we can build upon what we do and develop and grow in what we do to reach out to our wider family

Another project I want to undertake is to establish a men's day programme - this is something I undertook in Sheffield and with some tinkering something I feel will help further develop our provision here in the Vendee. Initially I would like to host a men's day for those in church and those who don't regularly attend - it would be centred on a good meal and fellowship. The day will give those coming a chance to talk through some topics that can lead to some lively but friendly debate- definitely not a day to be being talked to but a day to talk together. As far as I am concerned no topic is off discussion but subjects like Creation and evolution and the Big bang, Where is God when we are not near a church, how to make church relevant. where is God when you need him most.

The great thing would be for us to gather with not just those normally linked to church but those on the fringe and outside who would love to ask the questions they want to ask, which is probably the same for those regularly attend church, the freedom to discuss and question in a loving and safe environment – it is not a day to necessarily find an answer but to expand and share our thinking. I will email out some details very soon and look forward to hearing from you. Based on this idea of a men's day I saw this poem the 'Heavenly Banquet' attributed to St Brigid - it gave me a good image of what I see us as church - with the first verse something close to my heart !!

I would like to have the men of Heaven  
in my own house;  
with vats of good cheer  
laid out for them.

I would like to have the three Marys,  
their fame is so great.  
I would like people  
from every corner of Heaven.  
I would like them to be cheerful  
in their drinking.

I would like to have Jesus, too,  
here amongst them.  
I would like a great lake of beer  
for the King of Kings.

I would like to be watching Heaven's family  
drinking it through all eternity.

*Ian Wallace*

Details of our May Filling Station meeting:



'Living, walking and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit'

with our guest speaker David Champion

Date: Tuesday 6th May 2014

Time: 7pm

Venue: La Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre

85000 La Roche/Yon.

David was brought up in a Christian family, dedicated to the Lord in April 1945, born again in 1957. Worked as a social worker/counsellor for over 48 years.

For the past 20 years he has worked with men addicted to heroin and has seen lives changed by God's grace, mercy and salvation.

He was part of the senior leadership team at Revival Fires for over 15 years and now launching into a new venture named "Pastor in the Park".

Living in a park home near Bournemouth and bringing the presence of God into an estate for the over 50's. The new ministry is called "Acorns2Oaks Ministries."

Inspired by God's hand upon their move to the South of England.

David has spoken throughout the UK and France and has a prophetic ministry. Many people have benefited from his gentle and Spirit led ministry.

Come and be spiritually filled at your local Filling Station meeting!

Other dates for the diary ... 10th June, 8th July 2014

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

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**Please send your contributions and letters for the June issue to:**  
**"The Grapevine" Editor at: [jpsmorandiere@free.fr](mailto:jpsmorandiere@free.fr) before 15<sup>th</sup> May.**  
*Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)*



## All Saints Vendée Congregation Survey

As we are preparing for our Away Day "What Next?" and as we look for a vision for the future of All Saints Vendée and a plan to act on this, and I am newly arrived with you, it was thought to be useful to repeat the questionnaire that you completed some time ago.

There are a few slight changes to it and new questions and it would be useful if as many of you as possible could complete this survey. You can either do it online and return it to me by email (revcarosack1@gmail.com) or print it and hand it in to me, Caroline, or to a Church Warden. We won't promise that we will act on everything, but we will promise to read your responses carefully and considerately.

Thank you for taking the time to do this.

1	Where do you attend services?  (Please tick appropriate circle)	<input type="radio"/> La Chapelle Achard <input type="radio"/> La Chapelle Palluau <input type="radio"/> Puy de Serre
2	Where, if anywhere, is an ideal place to worship for the whole parish?	
3	Would you like to worship weekly?	
4	What hinders you from being able to worship every week?	
5	Which style(s) of service do you prefer?  (Please tick appropriate circle)	<input type="radio"/> Holy Communion <input type="radio"/> Word and Worship <input type="radio"/> Evensong <input type="radio"/> Informal <input type="radio"/> Celtic <input type="radio"/> Taizé <input type="radio"/> Healing <input type="radio"/> Other - please state
6	What do you like about the present services?	
7	What do you find unhelpful about the present services?	
8	Do you have any suggestions that you feel would improve our services?	
9	How would you like our Parish to look in	1 years time? ..... 3 years time? ..... 5 years time? .....
10	What could you contribute to help make that vision happen?	
11	Any other comments?	

April 2014

Please use the back or another sheet if you need more room for your comments.