

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*“To know and to share Jesus Christ”*

*The Grapevine*

**May 2016**

**CONTACTS:**

**Priest: Reverend Caroline Sackley:**

Vicarage: 27, rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

Phone no: 02 51 46 39 51 mobile: 06 73 94 40 01

e-mail addresses: revcarosack1@gmail.com and allsaintsvendee@gmail.com

*In Revd Caroline's absence and/or in case of emergency, please contact any of the following:*

**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](mailto:wardpolly@outlook.com)

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

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



Preface



Many of you will now know that the Bishop has accepted my resignation effective as from September 30th. There have been many happy moments and experiences and I have met so many lovely people but there are several reasons for this decision as my contract draws to an end and an important part of this I am not prepared to discuss as it involves other people and I am trying to avoid causing hurt and division amongst members of the Congregations. I also apologise wholeheartedly that my leadership skills were inadequate to deal with this situation.

On a happier note we had a joyous celebration at Easter after several activities in Holy Week including a wonderful Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday, thank you Keith and Anthea. The Lent lunches were also very successful this year with great fellowship and a healthy amount of money raised for Restos du Coeur. Thank you all.

We move through the Easter Season towards Ascension Day and then Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God is mentioned throughout the Bible from Genesis onwards. The empowering work of the Spirit is an essential component of our Christian faith. The Spirit of God is dwelling in us, through the Spirit we are helped to pray, to have strength to obey God and serve him, and to have the gifts that will empower and bring to life that service.

These supernatural gifts are considered by some to have been only available to those first Christians, but they are available to all and should be used by all, because by using the gifts of the Spirit we can also bear fruit which will show in our lives and help us fulfil the great commission we are given in Matthew's Gospel. They can be very powerful, but then so is our God, and so can we be.

I will be away at Synod by the sea in beautiful Brittany from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May. Although of course there is time to walk and enjoy the surroundings we will be taking part in communal worship 3 times a day and listening to the speakers and joining in forums so it's not all pleasure!

God Bless

*Caroline*

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAY 2016 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]*

|                            |              |                             |                    |                              |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>  | <b>11.00</b> | <b>LCP</b>                  | <b>HC</b>          | <b>Rogation Sunday:</b>      |
| Acts 16: 9-15,             |              | Rev 21: 10, 22-22.5,        | John 14:23-29      | <i>(Psalm 67)</i>            |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>11.00</b> | <b>PDS</b>                  | <b>HC</b>          |                              |
| Acts 16:16-34,             |              | Rev 22:12-14, 16,17, 20-end |                    | <i>(Psalm 97)</i>            |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>11.00</b> | <b>LCA</b>                  | <b>HC</b>          |                              |
| Acts 2:1-21                |              | Romans 8:14-17,             | John 14:8-17, 25-2 | <i>(Psalm 104:24-36,37b)</i> |

*Nb. 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May Revd Caroline is at Synod*

|                            |              |               |                 |                       |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> | <b>11.00</b> | <b>PDS</b>    | <b>HC</b>       | <b>Trinity Sunday</b> |
| Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31,     |              | Romans 5:1-5, | John 16: 12-15, | <i>(Psalm 8)</i>      |

**29<sup>th</sup> May NO SERVICE**

*(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*



**Please note that The Salle is NOT available after the services on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May**



# Dates for your Diary



Please note: **The Salle is NOT AVAILABLE at Puy de Serre on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

2<sup>nd</sup> May Monday 14.30 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (Please email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

4<sup>th</sup> May Wednesday 19.00 for 19.30 **The Filling Station** at Maison de Diocèse, La Roche sur Yon  
(page 5 for details)

5<sup>th</sup> May Thursday 12.00 **Ascension Day Picnic & Service** at la Mont des Alouettes,  
near Les Herbiers. Everyone is invited.

9<sup>th</sup> May Monday 14.30 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (Please email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

12<sup>th</sup> May Thursday, 14.30 **Sewing Circle** (Please email: [jpsmorandiere@gmail.com](mailto:jpsmorandiere@gmail.com) or view the schedule  
in the April "Grapevine")

16<sup>th</sup> May Monday 14.30 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (Please email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

23<sup>rd</sup> May Monday 14.30 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (Please email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

24<sup>th</sup> May Tuesday **"Exciting" Car Treasure Hunt** (see website and pages 9 & 10 for details)

26<sup>th</sup> May Thursday, 14.30 **Ladies Circle** (Please email: [jpsmorandiere@gmail.com](mailto:jpsmorandiere@gmail.com) or view the schedule in the  
April "Grapevine")

27<sup>th</sup> May Friday **QUIZ** starting at 18.00 as usual with, hopefully, a barbecue meal at half-time (Polly)

30<sup>th</sup> May Monday 14.30 **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** (Please email: [carole.stocking@gmail.com](mailto:carole.stocking@gmail.com))

*...and looking ahead...*

**June 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 19.00 for 19.30 The Filling Station** at Maison de Diocèse, La Roche sur Yon

**July 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10.00 Commemoration Ceremony** for the 75th Anniversary of the Loss of the  
Crew of a 35 Sqn followed by Lunch at Angles.



## 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-sur-Vautize.*

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



## MAY 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<br>(Organiser)   | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>May<br>LCP | 8 <sup>th</sup><br>May<br>PdS         | 15 <sup>th</sup><br>May<br>LCA | 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>May<br>PdS        | 29 <sup>th</sup><br>May |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Welcomers</b><br>(Polly Ward)                                      |                               |                                       |                                |                                       | <b>No service</b>       |
| <b>Salle Setup/<br/>Clearing away</b><br>(Chris Green at PdS)         |                               | Doug & Chris<br>/<br>David & Pat      |                                | David & Pat<br>/<br>Ken & Jean        |                         |
| <b>Refreshments<br/>after the service</b><br>(Jenny Wilkinson at PdS) |                               | <b>The Salle is<br/>Not Available</b> |                                | <b>The Salle is<br/>Not Available</b> |                         |
| <b>Musicians +/-<br/>Organist</b><br>(Polly Ward)                     |                               | Jean & Ken                            |                                | Pat & David                           |                         |
| <b>Readers</b><br>(Polly Ward)  |                               | Stuart                                |                                |                                       |                         |

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

Please remember in your prayers:

**Alasdair Anderson.**  
**Paul Brechet & Anne**  
**Maggie Calton**  
**Geoffrey Cornwall**  
**Joelle Gosselin & Bernard**



**Richard & Marian's daughter,  
Lorna Inglis & her family**  
**Sally's brother, Michael Mantle & Sue**  
**Jean Mylod & Mike**  
**Caroline Sackley & Bob and Beccy**



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 do not want to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need. In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.



**You are warmly invited  
to our next "Faites le Plein" meeting  
which will be held in La Roche sur Yon  
on Wednesday 4th May 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 **Didier Brousse** will share his message, with a translation. **Didier Brousse** is the pastor of the "EPEE" (which in English means "Sword"), a protestant evangelical church in Nantes.

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.

Hope that you may join us !  
Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein" team.  
liz.jond@wanadoo.fr



## **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]*



## 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.*



## 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.**

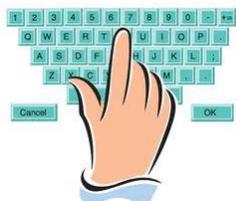
You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount 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!!!



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.....

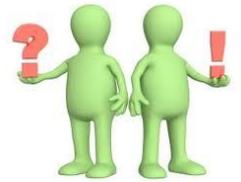
**send your contributions and comments to:  
Jacqui at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)  
before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, please**



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



# 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:*

*Here are the **Minutes of the AGM**;  
**Information about The Electoral Roll, The British Community Committee of France**;  
**Messages received from friends of ASV, Ken and Linda Irvin**;  
**"On the right" from Revd Gareth**;  
**Details of the "Exciting" Treasure Hunt**;  
**an Invitation from Ticia Goode**,  
**Questions from Bill Stocking, and there's more....***

## On the right

How long have you been driving on the right in France?

How long did it take you to get used to your gear stick and handbrake being on the other side?

When I moved here to take up my post as priest in Dinard in January 2007, a priority was to acquire a left-hand drive car. I had a couple of months to run on the insurance of my Nisan Almera and I thought of replacing it with a Citroën. The church flat where I live has a parking space against an unforgiving wall and the exit to street has a stropky pillar that doesn't like me so I settled on a C3 as a sensible size for my new car.

I love the lack of traffic on the roads – a real contrast to the M25 or the outskirts of North London. I love the traffic lights with the well placed, small ones easily seen from a driver's seat. I was wary on any one of the increasing number of roundabouts – you never quite know what a French driver is going to do. In Dinard, pedestrians treat the roads like pavements, stepping off from the kerb without looking and without a thought for what might be coming.

Still, driving in France with a first aid box, spare light bulbs, a set of reflective yellow jackets and my own breathalysers is part of the fun of being an ex-pat. But what do think? I'm sure Jacqui would be pleased to hear from you.

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



Ken requested this photo which was taken after their Confirmation Service at Foussais Payré,



↑                      ↑  
**Linda and Ken Ivin**

*have written from UK, where they now live:*

Linda and I remember the day with fond memories. It changed our lives!

We have dear friends in the Vendée and "The Old Rugged Cross" will live with us for ever more.

We will be back later this year so please send our very best wishes to everyone  
and especially to all of those in Foussais  
who made our lives such an enjoyable event.

Take care.

With our sincere and kindest regards

Linda and Ken

*Ken has promised to send an article for a future edition of "Grapevine" so we look forward to hearing from Ken very soon,*

*Jacqui.*

...and this Invitation to  
"An Exhibition of Visual Arts"  
from Ticia Goode.

Ticia is a member of the  
STOP Photography Group.

Nef Théodelin  
expositions temporaires

f-STOP  
PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

PRÉSENTE UNE  
*Exposition d'Arts Visuels*

Grand Rue, VOUVANT  
18 - 29 Mai 2016

PHOTOGRAPHIE  
SCULPTURE  
PASTEL

Lundi au Vendredi 14.30 - 18.00 h  
Samedi - Dimanche 10.30 - 18.00 h  
Fermé le lundi 23 Mai

ENTRÉE GRATUITE

mailto:stop@gmail.com

## The Church Electoral Roll

At the Annual Meeting this year it seemed that not everyone fully understood the purpose of the Electoral Roll and why they should (or should not) have their name on the Roll. I will try to explain, without going into too much detail, as one reference book needs nearly 4 pages for a full explanation!

Essentially it is the "register" of all eligible members of the congregations of a church who then have a right to attend the Annual Meeting, vote at this meeting for motions or elections and stand for election to Council or other offices. The number of people on the Electoral Roll also affects how many Council members can be elected and how much we pay to the Common Fund of the Diocese so there is a financial implication. It is the duty of the Electoral Roll Officer to revise this Roll and maintain the confidentiality of the information, only publishing an "extract" as necessary. This officer adds or removes names as necessary to ensure it is a true reflection of the "active" members of the congregations.

The Roll is "frozen" for about two weeks just before the Annual Meeting so it is now "open" again if anyone wishes to have their name added (or removed). Please contact me if you need any more information.

*Chris Green, Electoral Roll Officer,  
greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk*



## “Exciting” Treasure Hunt.....

We hope you are seriously thinking about gathering a car full of folk to enter this year's Treasure Hunt.

It will be held during the afternoon of:

**Tuesday 24 May**

It will be followed by a competitively priced meal for those who wish to stay, as well as the announcement of the winners and prizes!

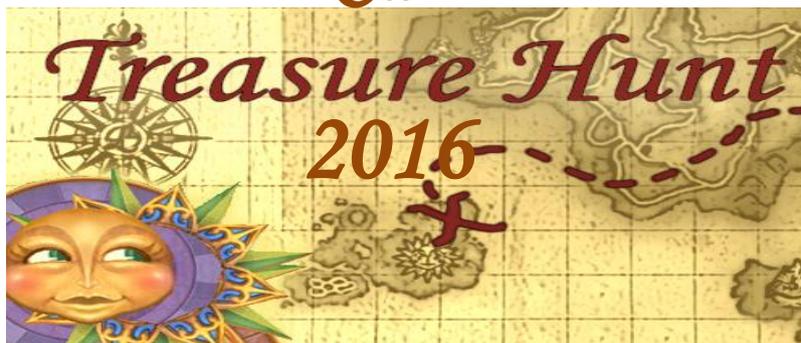
Full details and Entry Form overleaf

For information contact: [greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk) or  
[geoffrey.kent@wanadoo.fr](mailto:geoffrey.kent@wanadoo.fr)

**Lots of FUN for ALL!!**

**[Entry form is overleaf.....➔](#)**

# Car



After winning last year's Treasure Hunt, we have been set the task of setting this year's offering. It will be followed by an excellent meal for those who wish to stay and hopefully will prove to be an enjoyable event for all. As before, this is more of a social event than a fund raiser and is for both Church members and their friends. (On previous events, despite arguments in the car during the "Hunt", everyone remained friends at the end !)  
We hope you can support us this year and ask you to fill in the entry form below:

**Date – Afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup>.May 2016. Start staggered between 2.30 and 4pm.**  
**Start – close to La Chaigneraie (exact location will be confirmed later)**  
**Teams of 4 max. in a car including driver**  
**Cost as last year of 5euros per person plus a small gift for the Treasure Chest.**

A meal will take place in a restaurant at the end of the Treasure Hunt which we have secured at 13.50 euros for 4 courses with coffee and red wine included. We think this is excellent value for an evening meal. The menu is a choice of 3 starters, 3 mains, cheese and 3 desserts. All money will be collected on the day.

- Starter A Salade gesiers, lardons**
- Starter B Salade d'avocats, crevettes**
- Starter C Assiette de crudités; carotte rape, celeri raves, bettraves, tomates ½ œuf.**
  
- Main 1 Filet de poisson (perche ou merlu)**
- Main 2 Cuisse de poulet**
- Main 3 Saute de porc**
  
- Dessert X Iles flottantes**
- Dessert Y Tiramisu**
- Dessert Z Tarte Tatin**

**Team Name .....preferred start time .....**

**Car Reg.No.....Mobile Phone No.....**

Please Complete below: e.g. Doug Green A 2 Z

**Driver .....Meal Choice .....**

**Passenger 1..... Meal Choice .....**

**Passenger 2.....Meal Choice.....**

**Passenger 3.....Meal Choice.....**

Kent's DS Krew – Geoff and Maggie geoffrey.kent@wanadoo.fr 05 49 72 27 72  
- Doug and Chris greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk 05 49 72 18 46

Bill Stocking has written for the "Grapevine" following a question that arose at the Bible Study Group.

### How should the material in Matthew Chapter 25 affect your current priorities?

It is a part of my understanding and growing in faith, the knowledge of how unworthy I am. The realisation of how fortunate I am and by comparison how undeserving.

I think of the ten virgins, the five well organised and the five less well organised but is our mission to people who aren't well organised, who have not been born with a silver spoon and who don't have the many advantages that I have ?

Many Christians give very generously to the poor and much of Christ's earthly mission concerned the "Have nots" of the world.

Has the Church of England become too respectable, too middle class?

Do many people feel that there is no place for them in a church that they think doesn't understand them and a church that they don't understand?

Many people work tirelessly for God and try to base their lives on the Gospels and the teachings of our Lord.

How will we face the situation in the Middle East if it arrives on our doorstep?

All those lost or stolen babies and young children ?

I don't know !

Lead us heavenly Father. Help us to be strong in faith to do your will.

Are we all sometimes sheep and sometimes goats ?



Bill Stocking

### (Jacqui's) SALMON MOUSSE

*I have received many requests for a recipe I regularly use for our Bring and Share Lunches. It is very easy, very quick, very tasty....and very old! (My mother used it for Church Meals in the 50s so I'm afraid we weren't metric in those days – in fact mayonnaise was a luxury item!) It makes a good Starter for 12 people, or it can be served with salad &/or rice for a more substantial portion. You will need:*



- 4 level teaspoons of **gelatine crystals** dissolved in 3 tablespoons of **hot water**.
- 8-oz **tin of Salmon** (or Tuna works well)
- 1 tablespoon **vinegar or lemon juice**
- ¼ pint **mayonnaise**
- ¼ pint **evaporated milk or cream**
- Salt and pepper**

Flake the salmon and mix with mayonnaise, seasoning well. Whip the cream and fold it in, then add gelatine and lemon juice or vinegar. Pour into a wetted mould and leave to set. Turn out and serve.

*If you have a similar "Family Favourite" Recipe which will serve "The 5 Thousand", do please share it with us!*

*As Keith Fowler explained at the Forum following the AGM, we are now members of the British Community Committee of France which has over 100 members. As members, we will be able to record in their diary all services and events associated with All Saints Vendée. Therefore Keith asks that anyone organising an event should e-mail him details so that he can ensure it gets onto the diary. These dates have to be submitted by the 25th of each preceding month for any new activity.*

*Keith has also included two extracts from the Directory of Members which give the background to the Committee and how it came about.*

*Hopefully this new source, together with the publicity we get in the Deux Sèvres Magazine, the Angloinfo website, the Connexion and the Living Magazine will help to get ASV better known.*

*Jacqui*



## **THE BRITISH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE OF FRANCE**

The British Community Committee of France (BCC), founded in 1937, represents the British Community in France. It was first registered as a *Loi 1901* association on 1 July 1939. It has two categories of members:

- 1) associations with a majority British link, whether charitable, educational, religious, social, sporting, professional, etc.
- 2) up to 21 individual members of the British Community who are interested in active participation in the co-ordination of British Community activities.

Membership is open to associations and individuals throughout France and Monaco.

The BCC is the umbrella organisation of British Associations in France at a national level. It operates under the registered logo *britishinfrance* and publicises the existence of its member organisations so that British citizens in France, or those with British interests, know whom to contact to join. It co-ordinates the activities of the British in France by collecting information on events being organised by member associations, highlighting potential clashes of dates between events, and communicating the list to members.

It does not in any way substitute itself for its members in organising events. However, in years when there are major British or Franco-British events – such as the Queen's 80th Birthday Dinner in 2006, the Queen's Birthday Party in 2008 and 2010, the celebration in 2012 of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the BCC combined with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in 2013 the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, and in June 2015 the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta – the BCC may organise and promote the event for the benefit of the whole British Community.

Continued/...

.../continued



The BCC addresses its objectives in the following manner:

- a) Each year, it publishes the Directory of British and Franco-British Clubs, Societies and Institutions, which lists all of its members, with a description of their activities and their contact details.
- b) The Diary Secretary collects information on events being organised by member associations and sends out a monthly summary to inform members and their membership of those events that are of interest.
- c) Its website **[www.britishinfrance.com](http://www.britishinfrance.com)** reaches out to the broader on-line community, providing details of all member associations, and the British Community Diary of Events.
- d) It holds Quarterly Meetings (usually in January, March or April, June, and September or October), attended by a representative from each member association, the individual elected members, and the Regional Representatives elected by member associations in the regions.

Any association in France or Monaco with a British link is welcome to apply to join the BCC. Admission is granted to successful applicants following a presentation of the association to a Quarterly Meeting.

The membership subscription for 2015-2016 is €20.

## **THE BCC – HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

The British Community Committee of France has been the voice of the British in France for over 75 years. The end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 had made it possible for the British to come back to France to live and to pursue their business interests, and pursue them they did – building railways, running banks, property and insurance companies, and bringing British sports such as football, tennis, horseracing, rowing and even cricket to the people of France.

But it was during the period of moroseness following the abdication of King Edward VIII in 1936 that a group of British residents in Paris decided that to cheer themselves up, they should launch a joyous celebration of the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. The celebration was a great success, restoring the traditional *joie de vivre* of the British community in France, at the same time marking the birth of the British Colony Committee, as it was then called, the British community's own umbrella organisation representing British organisations, societies and associations. The British Colony Committee was duly registered as an *association loi 1901* on 1st July 1939.

Continued/...

.../continued



After the war, the renaissance of the British Colony Committee was officially registered with the French authorities on 12th August 1947, with its headquarters at the British Chamber of Commerce in the rue Halévy, near the Paris Opéra. Activities had restarted well before this however; the minutes of the AGM of 8th May 1947 record that the outgoing Secretary, a Mr Foster, was replaced by Lilian Bernice Lynch. In January 1948, Mrs Lynch reported to the Préfecture de Police a list of 26 members, eight of whom were elected and the rest representatives of British organisations. They included the Chaplain of St. George's Church, Fr Neate; the Minister of the Scots Kirk, the Revd Donald Caskie, the manager of Thomas Cook's travel agency on the place de la Madeleine, Mr Hargreaves, and several prominent lawyers, accountants and engineers working in Paris.

In February 1982, the then Vice-Chairman, Beryl Jones, proposed that the BCC change its name to "British *Community* Committee". (The words "of France" were added in 2012.) Beryl had arrived in Paris in 1955, with virtually no knowledge of French, and very lonely. Everything changed the day young Beryl spotted a poster for the BCC's Christmas Party, held at 47 avenue Hoche – open to all British citizens living in Paris, and free of charge. Much of the valuable work of member associations of the BCC still lies in welcoming new British residents in Paris and helping them to assimilate. Beryl recalls a frustrating December Saturday in 1978 when she vainly tried to visit three English church bazaars, all inconveniently held on the same day because there was no-one to co-ordinate the various social events being organised in Paris by and for the British Community. When she was elected the BCC's first lady Chairman in 1985, her first act was to institute the Social Diary, a list of intended forthcoming events that could be consulted in advance to avoid clashes. It continues to this day as the BCC's British Community Diary of Events, published monthly.

Under the Chairmanship of Christopher Mitchell-Heggs, the BCC began to publish *The Digest*, a booklet describing the activities of the various British institutions, such as the schools, churches, sports clubs and the Consulate. That publication became the BCC's *Directory of Member Associations*, a copy of which you are now reading. The website was added later.

According to the IPPR's estimates of numbers of passports held by permanent British residents abroad, the British Community in France is Britain's fifth-largest expat community, and the largest in a non-English-speaking country (just before Spain). So it made sense to extend the BCC's coverage to the whole of France and Monaco in 2004. The BCC currently numbers around 100 member organisations, and can elect up to 21 individual members.

Today, the Directory, the Diary of Events and the website enable British enthusiasts of any activity in one part of France to know what is going on in their field of interest in other parts of France, so they can get in touch, make new contacts, or even be inspired to create a "new" activity. It all helps us to remember that we're all part of one big British family in France.

Keith Fowler

## *The Congregations' of All Saints Vendée*

### **Minutes of the AGM held on 9th April 2016 at 2.30pm in Les Essarts**

1. **Caroline** opened the meeting with a reading from Colossians 4 and prayers asking us to open the doors and make the most of our opportunities, also to reflect on the changing needs of our lives. She warmly welcomed everyone.
2. **Present.** As per attendance sheet. (29 Members)
3. **Apologies for Absence** were received from David & Sally Pearson, Bill & Carole Stocking, Sally Mills, Maureen Willis, Liz Jond, Roy & Pat Darley, Peggy Pitcher, Ian Taylor, Jenny Wilkinson, Ken & Jean Millar, Jim & June West, Jean Mylod and John & Margaret Dorey.
4. **Minutes of AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015** were accepted, with 2 small changes, (Association Culturelle should be **Association Caricatif** and only Robin Kenyon is our Synod representative). **Caroline** then signed the minutes.
5. **Matters arising** Nil.
6. **President's report.** As the Reports had been circulated beforehand people were asked for any comments. **John Matthews** didn't like the wording of "**Our** bilingual version of the Filling Station" so we all agreed to change it to "**The**". **Caroline** then announced her resignation effective from the end of September. She had spoken to the Bishop and the Arch Deacon and given her reasons, including her state of health and other factors that she wasn't prepared to be questioned about. The Bishop accepted her decision, reluctantly. **Jan Gordon** then spoke of her unifying factor in the Anglican Church and speaking for her husband as well gave their whole hearted thanks to Caroline.
7. **Warden's Report.** **Their** report had only one comment, about our not having to worry about Church building maintenance to which Suzanne pointed out that we do have the Vicarage to upkeep. **Caroline thanked the Wardens** for their hard work.
8. **Treasurer's Report.** **Suzanne** reported that we had more prelevements and less envelopes and that we should encourage the envelope people to change as this was beneficial all round. **Keith Fowler** was surprised that there were only 19 out of 54 on the electoral roll who donated in this way, although it was pointed out there were couples in that list. A question of why we're charged bank charges was answered by the fact that we are a commercial a/c not private. Thanks must go to **John Dorey** for his work with the **Association Caricatif**, to **Mike Mylod and Colin Grimshaw** for their continued work on the **Planned Giving** and then to **David Martin** for the **Annual Audit**. **David** asked that there be more details on the accounts and that the form for prelevements needed some alterations and he would help with this. **Caroline** thanked **Suzanne** for all her work.

Continued/...

.../Continued

9. **Electoral Roll Report. Chris Green** appealed to us all to keep updating our information and let **her or Richard (secretary)** know of any changes. There was discussion as to how urgent messages could be distributed and Jacqui suggested we all check the “stop press” on the web page, especially on a Sunday before a service. **Tonie Chandler** told us of someone who didn’t come to the AGM as being on the electoral roll cost the church . **Chris** explained that this was the case but it was generally felt that this was a misunderstanding and all regular worshippers should be welcomed onto the **Roll. Caroline** felt that some clarification was needed for the future.
10. **Home Groups.** There were a variety of texts and readings being studied in the various Home Groups and **Keith Fowler** announced that they had meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the west which were very successful and they were in effect extra “Home Groups”. **Jacqui S-J** asked if these could be advertised on the Grapevine and the web and as they meet at different venues, a telephone number could be included for anyone needing further information, especially visitors who use the web site for services when visiting. **Keith** said they will be in the future.
11. **Ministry Team.** Many present had experienced difficulties in downloading John’s report, so **John Matthews** talked us through it. He said that their next meeting was on 9<sup>th</sup> May and if anyone had anything they wished to be discussed, to let him or any **Worship Leader** know. **Jacqui** asked about the place of music in the ministry. Discussion took place about different styles but essentially the enormous responsibility which was placed on **Stuart and Simon**. It highlighted the need for other musicians to come forward and help in this area. **Caroline** gave thanks to our Musicians who are essential to our worship.
12. **Pastoral Care. David Pearson** was unable to attend the AGM but requested more help in different regions of the parish. **Caroline** explained that helpers were not expected to do all the visiting to hospitals and homes. It was more of a co-ordinating roll.
13. **Ladies’ Circle. Joan Stewart** added to her report that the group had also made a patchwork quilt and raised €150 for Resto du Coeur. **Caroline** thanked the group, which included non-church people for their valuable work towards the Bazaar stall.
14. **Safeguarding officer.** As **Jo Collinson** was away **Caroline and Doug** told us that the Church of England had now appointed a Safeguarding Officer, an ex-policeman, and that the website dealing with the subject was still having problems. Doug said it was not up individual churches to make their own rules; we have no choice but to comply with the official regulations
15. **Synod Report. Caroline** said that after last year’s meeting she was requested and did publish a report and will do the same this year. The meeting is in May and she will try to get the report into the **June Grapevine**.
16. **Social and Fund Raising.** **Polly Ward** added to her report her thanks for the team work for the very successful Bazaar held in the west and that the Hall in St Hilaire de Voust was already booked for November. Even booking this early had given problems over dates. **Polly** was thanked for her hard work in co-ordinating events and for organising the quizzes. People were reminded of the forthcoming **Coffee Morning and Treasure Hunt**.

Continued/...

Continued/...

17. **Grapevine & Web site.** **Jacqui S-J** was thanked for her continued work and praise was given for the quality and content of the magazine, this is greatly appreciated. **Jacqui** exhorted us all to use the web site, especially the **"Stop Press"**. **Caroline** presented her with a lovely bouquet in appreciation of all her work.
18. **Sunday Club.** **Barbara Kenyon** told that **Jenny Wilkinson** had now received her clearance to work with young people. **Caroline** was pleased that the children were brought into Church services and **Keith** told us that the group would be advertised in the **Deux Sevres magazine** next month. **Barbara** also said that she had made contact with her old **C of E school** and the children now had pen-friends and she hoped there would be visits in the future. Thanks were given to **Barbara and Jenny** for their hard work.
19. **Communications.** **Doug** gave thanks to **Keith** for all his work in communicating our Church and its events to the outside world.
20. **Elections.** **Caroline** announced that we needed a new Church Warden, **Barbara Kenyon** was elected again and **Polly Ward** was proposed from the floor by **Tonie Chandler** and seconded by **Peter Somerville** and elected. **Caroline** invited them to declare their wish to be our Wardens. **Doug** handed over the staff of office to **Polly** and told her she could now evict the unruly from church if necessary. **Caroline** then thanked **Doug** for all his work and efforts over the years.

Nomination Forms were received from **Colin Grimshaw, Geoffrey Kent, Chris Green and Doug Green**. These were accepted and each in turn were voted on to ASV Council. With **Polly Ward's** election to Warden, this left a vacancy and nominations were invited from the floor. **Mike Mylod** volunteered. He then signed a nomination form which was also signed by a proposer and seconder and he was duly elected.

**Tonie Chandler** was elected as our **Synod representative** as well as her roll of **Mothers Union in Europe Diocesan President**. Sadly the **Bishop** will not be coming to the **Vendée** to commission **Tonie**, she will travel to **Cologne** for the commissioning. The **Synod Reps** are elected for a **3 year period**, like the **Council members**. At the meeting we were not sure of when the 3 years begin. **Doug has since found that 2016 is the start of the next period**.

**David Martin** was asked if he would continue as our **Independent Examiner**. He agreed subject to the usual proviso, (that he doesn't sell his house!).

**The AGM was brought to a close and refreshments were served during which the new Council gathered for their 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting.**

Continued/...

**Minutes of Open Forum held after the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> April at Les Essarts.**

1.Peter Somerville opened the questions, asking what was the position regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church? Were we still going to use La Chapelle Achard? There were still some problems of people not being able to get to La Chapelle Paluau, if that was the only choice. Also the priest at LCA has been very ill, though at present he is on the mend, thanks be to God. LCA was always cold and he knew the workings of the heating system! The situation is improving as more people get to know the vagaries of the system. Meanwhile the new priest at LCP is very ecumenical and came along to the Good Friday service and asked if it could be the same for next year and could the rest of his flock be invited. LCP would be available twice a month. No decision was taken and the worshipers in the west were to asked again for their thoughts and wishes.

2.Keith Fowler took the floor to give us the information about the organisation "British in France". It had been agreed at a previous Council meeting that we joined the association, cost €20. Keith sent off the application and we have been accepted. It will give us wider publicity as all our event can go on their calendar. Keith said that thanks were due to Jacqui Stainton-James for bringing them to our attention. A round of applause followed. Jacqui will put the relevant information on to our Web site and in the Grapevine.

3.Doug Green announced the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the crashed Halifax bomber at Angles would be celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016. There would be a meal afterwards but we need to inform Caroline if we wish to have the meal. All are invited to the ceremony. A genealogist has traced nearly all the remaining relatives of the crew and they are also invited to the ceremony.

4.Mike Mylod felt that we need to make sure we invite and welcome any new people/visitors in the congregations to join us for coffee and shared lunch. He felt this had slipped a bit! The Welcomers and Worship Leaders to take note.

5.Maggie Jelley asked if there were any dates yet for the closing, due to renovations, of Puy de Serre? Where would we go if/when the situation arises. P de S is part of a group, including Faymoreau, Mervant and Foussais Payré so no doubt we would be invited to follow their lead.

6.No other question were forthcoming.

7.Caroline closed the meeting with Prayers and we all said the Lord's Prayer and joined hands for the Blessing.

*Submitted by Richard Rackham*



## RESTOS DU COEUR

Our Bible Study Group is studying Matthew's gospel. The introduction says "Being disciplined by Jesus. What would it be like ? What would he teach us about relationships, priorities, his coming kingdom ? As we saw him in action, what would we learn about compassion for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the discouraged ?

If you long for Christ's personal touch, then consider Matthew's gospel. Spend time with Jesus learning the true meaning of discipleship.

Praise the Lord, Puy de Serre and Polly, Pompaire and Geoff and all the wonderful Christians who so generously contribute food, clothing and money to the poor in Coulonges and district. Our contributions are increasing and we are making a difference. Christians are pulling together to help less fortunate people.

If anyone wishes to see how the food bank works, I am able to take one observer at a time. Please mention it to Carole or myself.

This week, part of our study has been reading Matthew 25: verses 31 to 46.

"But when the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence and he will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those on the right "Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me.

Then these righteous ones will reply, Lord when did we ever see you hungry and feed you ? Or thirsty and give you something to drink ? Or a stranger and show you hospitality ? Or naked and give you clothing ? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you ?" And the King will tell them. "I assure you that when you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and

*Continued/...*

.../Continued

Sisters, you were doing it to me.” Then the King will turn to those on the left and say “ Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his demons. For I was hungry and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked and you gave me no clothing. I was sick and in prison and you didn't visit me. “ Then they will reply “ Lord when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and not help you ?” And he will answer “ I assure you, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me. And they will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

So very many wonderful Christians and non Christians care so much for the suffering of our brothers and sisters but sadly, and in spite of the fact that we live in a world in which there is so much suffering, there are still a few people who think it better that many many starve, even die, from hunger, rather than one person receives a free, even if it is stale, crust to which they are not entitled.

A Thousand Gifts.....Unlimited Blessings.

Bill.

PS I even got told off the other day for saying “God Bless” to someone.

PPS A character in BBC's “Boomers” said “I am an atheist Thank God “

*I hope you have enjoyed this Bumper Edition of “Grapevine”. Hopefully it will keep you informed of Church Activities as well as up-to-date with reports from recent church meetings.*

*Don't forget that **STOP PRESS** items are published on the website at:  
[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)*

*Please note there is no Church Wardens' Report this month.*

*Please send your Notices and Contributions for the June edition of “Grapevine” to me, Jacqui, at :  
[sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)*