

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

*"To know and to share Jesus Christ"*

*The Grapevine*

November 2014

**CONTACTS:**

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*Preface*

Hello Grapevine readers and welcome to November's issue.



The busyness of Christmas is getting really close now, so I urge you to go to our Bazaar on November 15th and stock up on your presents, and get into your diaries all the dates for events that are printed here so that you don't get double booked!

For any of you that couldn't make it to La Roche sur Yon to hear the 'jelly fish man' I recommend that you go to his website, it is an amazing story. We were also delighted to be welcomed into the "Bonne Nouvelle" church for this event. It is a warm room with an excellent sound system and we were able to share Ian's message with a wide variety of people both French and English.

It's important for any Christian community to grow in fellowship and knowledge of the Lord together, and, although we are very good at getting together for social events, we are not so good at getting together for spiritual events. The dark evenings and bad weather are approaching so travelling may become more difficult, but please pray to discover what God may have planned for you. It doesn't have to be large Bible study groups, it only needs 2 or 3 of you. It could be getting together to pray together. God will lead you to his purpose for you if you let him. Because of the distances involved living here in France we have to accept that our Church life is more fragmented than it would be in the UK, but if our aim is to work together for the common good, to encourage the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may bear fruit in the church and in the world, God will use us. His word will not return empty.

We start November celebrating our Patronal Festival of All Saints. During the life of the early church all believers were called saints. In those days there were no Saints with a large 's'. But we can celebrate all who have dedicated their lives to God. And also on that day we will remember "All Souls" and have a service in the afternoon to remember before God our loved ones who have died and acknowledge that the loss of a loved one is painful whatever our beliefs. Please let me know if you want a name(s) read out at the service.

November of course is also the time of remembering those who die in war and there will be two services one in Puy de Serre and one at the Crash Site. Please join us if you can.

So, a mixed bag of events in November, solemn and joyful, sacred and social, I hope that you can join us and/or pray for us as we move through the month.

God Bless,  
*Caroline*





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

Please continue to pray for **Peter Hutchinson** who is now in Intensive Care at the hospital in Fontenay le Comte, following an emergency admission.

Anne Brechet has asked for prayer for family members: **Martine** who has lung cancer and **Yvette** who is dying; also for a neighbour, **Jacky**, who is in hospital following a brain haemorrhage.

The Reverend Geoffrey Colman has sent this request for prayer for the **Church at Ranton**: `Please would you include our Church in your prayers as we are navigating some very rough waters. Many thanks....Geoffrey`

**Our Prayer Co-ordinator is David Pearson. Please let him have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers. ☎ 02 51 61 05 04 ✉ david.sally@orange.fr**

*“Thank you all for your continuing prayers”*

*You may sometimes hear of members or friends of our congregations who are not wanting to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.*

*In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.*

*Tel: 02 51 61 05 04*

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## Notes from our Church Wardens

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness----" what we see as we drive around here makes me wonder if France was the inspiration for John Keat's "Ode to Autumn." The early morning mists, the fantastic colours, the "maturing" sun, what a splendid Autumn we are having this year.

What splendid work also is going on at 27, Rue de Malvoisine, where Bob and James are working tirelessly to produce a little palace - sorry Vicarage!

We have a number of events to look forward to this month. On the 15th we have the Bazaar which promises to be an excellent event. Certainly if the work produced by the Ladies' Group and numerous other members of our congregation is anything to go by then Christmas shopping should be no problem this year!

We have a Quiz on the 7th and of course on the 11th our annual act of Remembrance at Angles. A busy month indeed.

We are still looking for help with Sunday School. You won't meet a more delightful group of children anywhere. If you are interested in helping please get in touch. They are our future, we can't let them down.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the website to stay up to date!

*Barbara and Joan*

## Letter from the Editor



### FROM ALL SAINTS TO ST ANDREW'S

30 days in September, April, June and  
November.

All the rest have 31,  
Except for February alone,  
Which has but 28 days clear  
And 29 in each Leap Year.



How useful this little rhyme was when we were children and, I have to confess, I still use it from time to time...

November was originally the ninth month of the year, hence its name – until someone decided that we needed January and February as well, in order to make the year make sense. So here we are, about to start one of the four months that have thirty days...

It has become a month for remembrance. It starts with Hallowtide: All Saints Day and All Souls Day, when we remember all those who have died. Here in France, family graves will be cleaned and tidied and fresh flowers, particularly chrysanthemums, will be left. In Mexico, All Souls Day is known as the Day of the Dead and prayers are said for the whole month.

In the UK, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we also remember the assassination attempt on James 1<sup>st</sup> by burning effigies of one of the conspirators, Guy Fawkes and having huge bonfires and letting off fireworks.

It is the 11<sup>th</sup> November that has become the main focus of Remembrance, however, the day we particularly remember all those who have died in war. `The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month` , the time the Great War ended, has achieved even greater significance since 1914 – for there have been so many wars since that time. This year it is 100 years since the guns fell silent on the ravaged land, but all those involved were also ravaged in mind and/or body.

My own family lost two of its members during the Great War. My Great-uncle Thomas who, I discovered, is buried in Rouen and my Grandfather, William Turner, whose body was never recovered and whose name is carved on the Menin Gate at Ypres, just over the border into Belgium. One killed on the Somme, the other killed `in Flanders fields` - like so many thousands of other young men. Remembered every day...

*'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today.'*

I always find the Kohima Epitaph so poignant, so many young lives lost, so many future achievements crushed and so many families cruelly affected...

It is often forgotten that 11<sup>th</sup> November is also the Saint's Day for St Martin of Tours. The Vendée is full of towns and villages named for him. He was a soldier, conscripted into the Roman army. He found the duty incompatible with his Christian faith. "I am a soldier of Christ. I cannot fight." He was charged with cowardice and jailed. He was later released from military service and followed his path of faith, becoming Bishop of Tours.

What an interesting juxtaposition, both being commemorated on the same day....

*Joan Stewart*



## Christmas Draw 2014

Tickets are now available from Polly

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Vapour steam mop

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Christmas hamper

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Camera

Plus many, many more!



[The draw will take place at the Vicarage Open Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December]



*Proceeds to Medecins sans Frontieres*

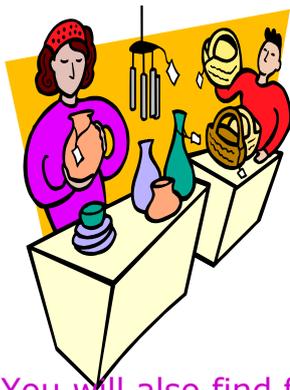
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## Autumn Bazaar 15<sup>th</sup> November

Puy de Serre, 10.00h – 16.00h

and

The Vendée Chippie will be present from 12h00 – 14h00



If you have items for the bazaar or are able to help or support in anyway, then please contact:

Maggie on 02 51 29 00 75,

Marian on 02 51 27 64 67.

Jenny on 05 49 06 97 90 or

Peter on 02 51 94 32 84

You may also bring items on the day.

You will also find flyers at the end of this Grapevine, as well as on the ASV website, for your French neighbours who may like to come along. Please print and distribute the flyers if you are able...

## Tomato Ketchup, Nail Varnish, Tippex and Wine

**What do all these things have in common?**

They all come in bottles and are urgently needed by **Marian** for the bottle stall.

**Maggie Calton** is looking for your unwanted jewellery, as soon as possible.

**Val and Jack** need any "as new" items, suitable for gifts, or just to re-use.

**Jenny Wilkinson and Joan Stewart** are taking in all crafty contributions

**Richard** can use sweets or things suitable for prizes on the side-shows

**Jo Collinson** doesn't need your cakes until the day, but a promise of one, plus any preserves, jams etc. will be gratefully received as soon as possible, please.

Greetings Cards for Birthdays, Christmas or notelets etc..may be handed to **Barbara Kenyon**

You should have received a poster via email recently, in the hope that all those with a printer would run one or two off and display them in their own locality. This will really help the organisers. French Flyers are available to print at the end of this edition of "Grapevine" and French posters are on the website.

**Publicity is of paramount importance!**





# VICARAGE OPEN DAY

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER

11AM - 4PM



**This will be Caroline`s first anniversary with us!  
Her first Service was on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 at La Chapelle Palluau.  
Come and celebrate!**

[Tea/coffee and cake or soup and bread will be available.  
Please let Caroline or Polly know if you are intending to come or are able to help with food]

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## *ASV CHRISTMAS LUNCH*



*Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
at  
JB's  
St Pierre du Chemin*

***PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!***

*[Please get your forms from Mike Mylod or Geoff Kent or download the forms from the ASV website at [www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr) where you will also find the great choice of menu]*

*The price of 21 euros includes 4 courses, plus apero, wine and digestif*

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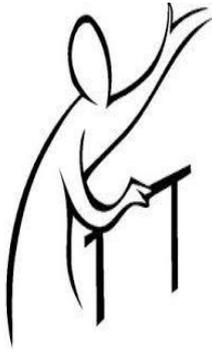
### *A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!*



*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.*



# ASV Website News



Don't forget the website is there for you!

You'll find

**STOP PRESS** messages

**EVENTS** that were received too late for the Grapevine deadline,  
**SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED, PHOTOS** of recent events,  
and even previous editions of **THE GRAPEVINE**.

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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## The Filling Station

**Our October Filling Station meeting will take place  
on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November in La Roche sur Yon.**

**Why not join us for refreshments, from 7pm onwards?**

**Maison du diocese  
l'Escale RIVOLI, 61 Boulevard Rivoli,  
La Roche sur Yon**

***All welcome, quality teaching, wheelchair access, ample parking...***

For more info: [liz.jond@wanadoo.fr](mailto:liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)

<http://www.thefillingstationfrance.com>

## The Filling Station, run by ASV.

On Wednesday 12th November our guest speaker is **Jean-Paul Rouillier**



Jean-Philippe Rouillier is married and a father of 6, living in the Vendée. He was powerfully visited by the Holy Spirit 12 years ago, and his life changed radically. Since then, he has been preaching the Good News and publishing a number of books. His latest: "70 times 7 times" is about forgiveness, and was published earlier this year.

## ‘WE WILL REMEMBER THEM’



*As many of you know, every year, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, we hold a small memorial service to a group of airmen who lost their lives on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1941. For those of you who do not know the story, here it is:*



Here in the Vendée is a small memorial to five young men who lost their lives in the Second World War. They were the British crew of Halifax Bomber, L9527-M. The commemorative standing stone is to be found at ‘Le Terrier du Four’, on the road from Angles to Les Conches, on the spot where the aeroplane crashed to earth. Each year, on Remembrance Day, a short service is held here and at the site of their graves in Angles churchyard.

Theirs is sad story, though full of bravery and courage. The German battleship, ‘Scharnhorst’ had been spotted, moored near La Rochelle, a major threat to Atlantic convoys. In order to remove the threat, a daylight bombing raid was decided upon. Accordingly, on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1941, an attacking force of fifteen Halifax bombers set off from RAF Stanton Harcourt. This type of bomber had only been in service for a few months at this time and they were considered able to defend themselves without fighter support.

They flew to Lizard point in Cornwall, then turned south. The plan was to avoid detection by enemy radar and to approach La Rochelle from the west. Unfortunately, one hundred miles from their target, they were seen by an enemy destroyer who opened fire and so they lost the element of surprise. Chaos ensued.

As they neared the ‘Scharnhorst’ they were met by a terrible barrage of flak from shore batteries. They were fired at by the 51 guns of the battleship itself and its attendant destroyer. Some thirty fighter planes were already in the air attacking them repeatedly. The sky turned black with smoke. Despite all this they continued with the attack..... Four Halifaxes were lost, as were four of the Messerschmitt fighters.

L9527-M was last seen spiralling down to the ground with plumes of black smoke trailing from two burning engines. Two members of the crew managed to parachute out but the other five died in the crash.



They were buried by the Germans in a communal grave in the local cemetery at Angles. Local people were not allowed to attend, but the mayor, the local policeman and the grave-digger had to attend by law. The following morning, the grave was covered with flowers and, drawn on a wooden board, a Union Jack, with a message of thanks and hope.

The two who had managed to parachute out were captured, interrogated and sent to POW camps.

And was the raid successful? Well, partially. Five direct hits on the ‘Scharnhorst’, but it did not sink. Three of the armour-piercing bombs went straight through all the decks and hull without exploding, the others caused some damage and a fire. The battleship was shipping water and was out of action for the rest of the year, but it did manage to limp to Brest for repairs. The German Navy had long considered it a lucky ship and it was still living up to its reputation.

You are probably wondering what happened to the other three Halifax bombers that came down in that raid. Only a few miles away from Le Terrier du Four, south of L’Aiguillon sur Mer, there is another memorial stone to the crew of L 9529. It came down in shallow sea near a jetty a couple of miles south of the town. Of its seven crew members, three were captured and sent to prisoner of war camps. The four others died in the crash. One is buried in the military cemetery at Pornic [in Loire-Atlantique], the other three are buried in the cemetery at L’Aiguillon-sur-Mer.

The crew of L9512 came down on the Ile de Re. All were captured and sent to POW camps. L9517 came down in the sea off La Rochelle. None of the crew survived the crash. Of the four bodies recovered, two were buried in the cemetery at St Martin de Re on the Ile de Re. Two others were interred in the military cemetery at Pornic. The remaining three, whose bodies were never found, are commemorated in the RAF Memorial at Runnymede, near Egham in Surrey.

*Joan Stewart*

***From Carole Stocking.....  
.....just to make you smile:***

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'



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**Historical Walk around Fontenay-le-Comte**



At the end of September, Polly organised a most interesting walk discovering more of Fontenay's Secret Places . These pictures were taken at a rest stop in a wooded park above the town which provided the most exquisite views - an Artist's paradise - if you favour painting roofs!



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





Vous êtes invités au

## le Bazar d'Automne

à la Salle Paroissiale,  
Puy-de-Serre,

**le samedi 15 Novembre**  
**10h00 - 16h00**

Stands, tombolas, jeux, gâteaux,  
cadeaux de Noël, Artisanats  
et beaucoup plus,

Attraction spéciale:

### La Vendée Chippy

avec Poisson et frites à l'anglaise  
12h.00 - 14h00

**Entrée gratuite**

Venez vous joindre à la fête  
l'Eglise Anglicane, La Vendée



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