

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

October 2015

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

Doug Green: 05 49 72 18 46, email: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

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

Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr



Preface



Dear Friends,

I have missed a lot of September due to illness; I have had the chronic condition M.E. for more than 20 years and nowadays usually manage to control it, and as long as I remain sensible (!) and take care of myself, especially as I pick up so many bugs, I can function. I have been taken by surprise by this relapse though. However when I reflected on what this last 18 months has been like, I realised that perhaps my body was trying to tell me something. Of course there is always stress starting a new job and moving to a new area with all that that involves, but we had the added problems of no permanent home here and living in three different houses until we finally moved into the new ‘Vicarage’ last August. And then of course the renovation work started. It is nearly finished now, but hasn’t been easy. So, my body, with its poor immune system and chronic illness, said enough. I am recovering though, and it will be so much easier for whoever eventually follows me into this post, you can genuinely offer a “House for Duty” post. Hoping to catch up with you all properly soon.

I have been very impressed by all that is springing up at grass roots levels to help the refugees flooding across Europe. The Diocese of Europe is joining in as are many charities but there are thousands of ordinary people collecting things, delivering things, volunteering, translating; it is a massive, uncoordinated, messy affair and must be making some of the professionals despair, however it is demonstrating the compassion and humanity some have for strangers and how much they are prepared to give of themselves and their resources to help. Of course mistakes will be made, of course there will be problems, of course some people will not be genuine refugees and of course some will not have altruistic reasons for joining in, that is the nature of humans. However as in any crisis, the kindness and care of ordinary people has come shining through the awfulness of what has been happening.

.../...

.../...
 What is coming up! November has lots on offer, and adverts are also included elsewhere or will be in November's Grapevine this is just to help you plan.

- 17th October our Bazaar please support this major fundraising event.
- 1st November "All Saints Day" our patronal festival and also our "All Souls Service" – please let me have any names of family or friends you would like read out at this service and come and join us for a moment of quiet and thanksgiving as we remember our loved ones.
- 8th November "Remembrance Sunday" our annual service held at Puy de Serre. Last year we read out the names from the war memorial in the church. We wondered if perhaps again any of you would like to remember any of your family who have died in wars and have their name included? Also if any of you have stories from family members or even of your own that could be told in church they could also be read out. {please let me see a copy for timing reasons!}
- 11th November Crash Site Service.
- 21st November "The Gospel: Good News" a teaching day organised by Faites le Plein/Filling Station at Bournezeau and led by the Revd. Brian Streeter the Regional Director for France. Full details to follow.
- 29th November "Advent Sunday" our church away day as it's a fifth Sunday. We will be meeting at the Maison du Diocese in La Roche sur Yon for a work shop on "Forgiveness" led by Jan and Bill Graham and a service of Holy Communion. Please put this day in your diaries and full details will be in November's Grapevine.

God bless you all,

Caroline

OCTOBER into NOVEMBER 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]

4th October	LCP	Morning Worship	11.00	Trinity XVIII
Genesis 2:18-24		<i>Psalm 26 or 8</i>	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	St Mark 10:2-16
11th October	PdS	HC	11.00	Trinity XIX
Amos 5:6-7,10-15		<i>Psalm 22:1-15 or Psalm 90:12-end</i>	Hebrews 4:12-16	St Mark 10:17-31
18th October	LCA	HC	Luke the Evangelist 11.00	
Acts 16:6-12a or Isaiah 35:3-6		<i>Psalm :147:1-7</i>	Timothy 4 : 5-17; 5:1-10	St Luke 10:1-9
25th October	PdS	HC	Bible Sunday 11.00	
Isaiah 55:1-11 or Jeremiah 31:7-9		<i>Psalm 126 or Psalm 19:7-14</i>	2Timothy 3:14-4:5 or Hebrews 7:23-end	St John 5:36b-47 or St Mark 10:46-end
1st November	LCP	HC	All Saints Day 11.00 & 15.00	
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9		<i>Psalm 24:1-6</i>	Revelations 21:1-6a	St John 11:32-44

(There may be last-minute changes to the readings so please check with Revd Caroline 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).





Dates for your Diary



2nd October Friday **Quiz** at Puy de Serre (Contact Polly 02 28 13 01 93)

17th October Saturday **Autumn Bazaar** at **La Chapelle Palluau** (See Page 6)

22nd October Thursday Ladies Circle, 2.30pm Mouilleron-en-Pareds "Craft with Olga" (Contact Joan Stewart 0251 00 34 70)

...and planning ahead...

1st November Sunday **Patronal Festival** 11.00 **All Saints Day Service** at La Chapelle Palluau

15.00 **All Souls Service** at La Chapelle Palluau

6th November Friday **Quiz** at Puy de Serre (Contact Polly : 02 28 13 01 93)

11th November Wednesday pm **Service at Halifax Crash Site & Cemetery**, Angles with Tea afterwards at Sally's house in Longeville.

21st November Saturday: "**The Gospel: Good News**" a teaching day organised by Faites le Plein/Filling Station at Bournezeau (Contact Caroline)

29th November Sunday : "**Advent Sunday Away-Day**" at the Maison du Diocese in La Roche sur Yon



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.

For more details and updates of all these Events, please visit our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

FORWARD PLANNING FOR OCTOBER INTO NOVEMBER

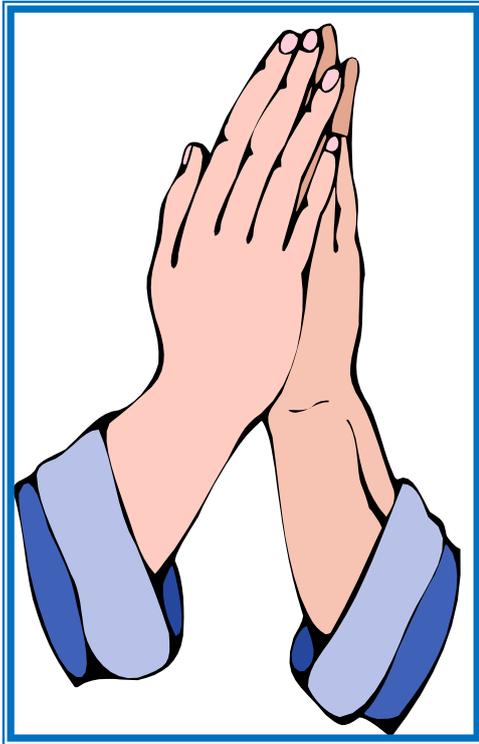
This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible.

If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.

Responsibility (Organiser)	4 th October LCP	11 th October PdS	18 th October LCA	25 th October PDS	1 st November LCP 11am & 3pm
Welcomers (Polly Ward)					
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		Ken and Jean with Bill and Anne		Bill and Anne with Richard & Marian	
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)		Jenny		John and Carol	
Musicians +/-Organist (Polly Ward)				Stuart	

Names on our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers:



- Caroline and Bob Sackley
- Peter Hutchinson
- Jean Mylod and Mike
- Paul Brechet and Anne
- Tony Carlton and Maggie
- Joëlle Gosselin and Bernard
- Des Vine and Elizabeth
- Tamsin Webb and her husband.
(Tamsin is the daughter of Jack and Val Goadby)

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.*



Notes from our Church Wardens

1. As we write this, Caroline is resting in order to recover from a reaction to some medication and we wish her a speedy recovery. During her absence, all urgent enquiries should be directed to us in the first instance.
2. The refugee crisis in continental Europe continues to make the headlines. Bishop David Hamid has published details of how individuals and churches can respond to this crisis and we reproduce below the details.

Us (formally USPG) has issued an appeal for donations to fund the Diocese in Europe as it reaches out to refugees arriving throughout the continent. A statement on the Us website reads:

"The Diocese in Europe is working on the frontline with refugees, and has asked Us to be the official agency for Anglican churches in Britain and Ireland to channel donations for its work; and we can receive donations from any country.

Your donations to our [Rapid Response Fund](#) will help the diocese to provide emergency medical support, food, shelter and pastoral care for refugees.

Bishop David Hamid writes: 'Thank you so much for your support at this critical time. 'Due to staffing limitations in our diocesan office, it would be best if Us could collect the funds and transfer consolidated funds to the diocese for use in Greece, Hungary and where there is need. We have an efficient process agreed that will help our partners working on the ground.'

Please make a donation to our Rapid Response Fund today.
Your donations will be focused on Greece and Hungary.

One estimate states that 160,000 people have arrived in Greece so far this year, with many fleeing conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea. The need for healthcare is particularly acute. Many refugees, including the elderly and children, are arriving in need of urgent medical care, but Greece's overstretched public resources, and a lack of medicines in the country, mean many refugees are going untreated. Your donations will help.

In Hungary, volunteers from church and community have been distributing aid packages. At the weekend (5 Sep), members of St Margaret's Anglican Church in Budapest gave packages to refugees at Keleti International Train Station. The Revd Dr Frank Hegedűs said: 'The refugees appeared well dressed and groomed, though also obviously exhausted from their journey. The language barrier was sadly formidable, but there was absolutely no sign of violence or disturbance.'

The "Rapid Response Fund" can be found on the Us website www.weareus.org.uk . If you enter this website a series of changing images appears at the top including one titled " Help us support refugees arriving in Europe" . If you click on this image, the donation form for the Rapid Response Fund can be found.

We hope you will be able to support this appeal.

Barbara and Doug

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!!!**



A Note for your Diaries - our *Autumn Bazaar 2015* will be on the 17th October in the Salle at La Chapelle Palluau. *FISH AND CHIPS* will be available as well as light refreshments

There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, Christmas cards, jewellery, cakes and preserves, amazing crafts, raffles and so much more. Something for everyone.

Please be sure to save the date and to invite your neighbours, friends and family.

If you would like to help on the day or if you would like to bake a cake, make jam/chutney, or share another talent you may have, please let us know - we would love to hear from you. You can email Suzanne on pattsuzanne@gmail.com with any helpful suggestions you may have.

Donations please

for the TOMBOLA which Richard and Marian Rackham are running for the Autumn Bazaar as they don't have many items left from previous events!

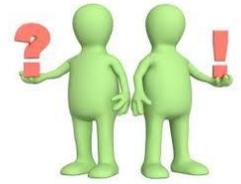
It is a general stall, not just a "bottle" Tombola, so anything new is welcome.

[Keep up the good work, which is much appreciated by far more people than I think we realise!

Love Marian xxx



Questions and Answers



This is YOUR page.....

I have received a number of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine so, read on, and see what you can discover:

On the final pages of this Grapevine you will find Marian Rackham's reply to The Revd Gareth Randall's "Inflections" AND there are 4 more items from Michael Knight!

*Have you a question to ask or information to share?
Suggestions or an announcement to make?
Praise or criticism of anything affecting All Saints Vendée?
Maybe you can solve another reader's problem.....*

Send your questions...and answers....and comments to me, Jacqui, at : sjfamily66@hotmail.com

Sunday Club

Sunday Club re-starts on Sunday the 27th September 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. on the 27th. They will be most welcome. We are beginning our new session with a PARTY! I don't know who is the most excited by this, Jenny and I or our lovely Sunday Club children!

Barbara

COËX HOMEGROUP



All are welcome to the next meeting at 2.30PM on Thursday 15th October 2015, Chez Suzanne, 109 La Maigrière, 85220 COËX, where we shall continue our study of the BOOK OF ACTS. If you would like to come and need directions, please call Suzanne on: 0244366290 or email: SiSuPatter@neuf.fr.

SEE YOU THERE!

Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP



We have just finished an intensive, very interesting and very enjoyable study of JOHN'S GOSPEL. We are now going to commence a similar study of MATTHEW AND BECOMING A DISCIPLE.

We meet each Monday afternoon at 2.30. Everyone is welcome and we meet at our house at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79). Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85.

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.*



Before John and I return home for the winter we wanted to express our thanks and appreciation to all at Puy de Seme. We have found the services - both by ordained and lay preachers - to be at times moving, inspiring and thought provoking. We have been so impressed by the quality of the worship and the fellowship and welcome which we have received. We shall miss you all but will continue to support you by our prayers. We look forward to spring 2016 when we can renew our friendship and until then leave you in the love and care of God and trust that He will continue His work here through you all
With very loving
Marlene - John Thacker

And, finally, at the very last minute, just as I was about to publish.....



You are warmly invited

to our next "Faites le Plein" meeting which will be held in La Roche sur Yon on Wednesday 7th October.

We are pleased to welcome as a speaker, Sheldon Rempel, a Canadian missionary living in Paris with his wife Laurie and 2 of their 4 children. They are counsellors and advisors for other missionaries in Europe, and they themselves have a ministry to children using drama and music. They have started several groups for children in the area of Paris where they live.

The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments followed at 7.30pm by a time of sung worship, then Sheldon will speak to us.

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)

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

Thank you to all the Contributors and

I look forward to hearing from you next time

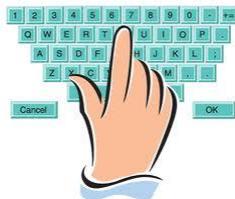
SO.....

send your contributions and comments

for the November "Grapevine" to:

Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

before 15th October, please



Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to:

Jacqui Stainton-James at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES, TOGETHER WITH YOUR REPLIES, HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION IN GRAPEVINE BY OUR READERS, SO PLEASE, READ ON.....

Food pt1

One of the real delights in living in France is the food ! Have you a favourite restaurant(s), somewhere where you like to go to eat? Here, in Dinard, we are spoilt for choice.

What do you look for in a good restaurant? Michelin Stars? A great view? A wide menu? Specialities? For me, as much as I enjoy great food, one of the gifts is to be known by the owner, the waiter, the chef. To be able to say hi to Laurent, François, Peggy, Christophe, Franck, is a sign that you are known and they are known to you. The gift a good waiter brings to a meal is the attentiveness of his or her service. 'Garçon' is the French word and sometimes in an upmarket place the service can be churlish, as if they are doing you a favour by deigning to serve you in the first place. Still that's the exception rather than the rule and mainly, in this part of Brittany, the moule, the oysters, the fish is exceptional. Sea bass is an absolute favourite of mine but occasionally, like any good Brit, I hanker after fried fish and chips too!

So what do you like to eat? Where do you like to go? I'm sure Jacqui would love to know.

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



Last month Revd Gareth wrote about our heritage, our English Language. Here is Marian's reply:

This is my response to Gareth's letter (*entitled "Inflections" in the September issue of "Grapevine"*):-

Gareth, you are a man after my own heart, metaphorically speaking of course! Your article *Inflections* stirred me to write about my own grievances of "massacring what was once Standard English".

My grievance is slightly different and concerns the English grammar, which Government assures us they would like to be taught correctly in schools. I can quite happily accept television and radio commentators who are employed to speak on their areas of expertise, football, dance, science etc. and who may not be able to use correct grammar. I can accept that common usage now means that it doesn't matter if we end our sentences with prepositions, that we must listen to "different to" as opposed to "different from", but "different than"? Surely not! My concern is with the amount of reporters and journalists employed solely to announce the news and give similar reports who speak appalling grammar. How can this be an example to our next generation? We frequently hear:- the best of the two teams, no one have the right, the Greeks are queuing at ATM machines, it is given to you and I and if I was him, to mention just a few examples.

In response to your question Gareth, and at the risk of being too negative, that is what irritates me about the UK today. Who else would like to send their contribution to Jacqui? I'm sure she would appreciate your opinions too.

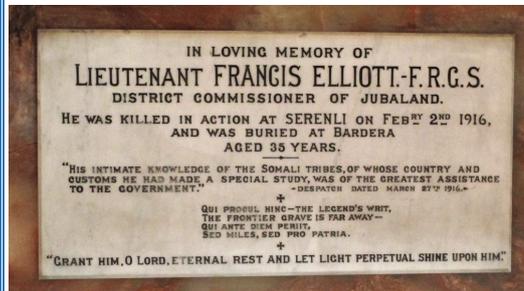
Marian G Rackham

Mike would like to point out that he has researched all the following articles which have been published by All Saints, Gainsborough, in their monthly magazine.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your research with Grapevine readers here in the Vendée.

Jacqui

Lt. FRANCIS ELLIOTT, F.R.G.S.



A plaque on the North wall of All Saints Parish Church, Gainsborough refers to a long forgotten incident by the river Juba in Somalia. The river Juba flows into the sea near Kismayo some 400 miles South East of Mombassa in an area that was known as Italian Somalia. This is where Lt Francis Elliot FRGS was killed and buried. The area is now overgrown, place names lost, and a search for the grave in 1996 proved unsuccessful, an earlier search in 1941 was more successful and this is Dougie Collins account of that trip.

At sunset several of us took the opportunity of visiting Lieutenant Elliott's grave near the banks of the Juba River and over a drink that evening heard how the young officer had met his lonely death at the hands of the Aulihan, a powerful Somali tribe of the Bardera District.

'Aiee,' said the old Somali interpreter. 'Iss ka eg!' (Harken).

'It was on the 2nd February 1916, and the day before, the Serenli Aulihan, some three hundred strong, raided the Marehan and seized eight hundred of their camels, killing eight Marehan warriors.'

He meditated, and continued. 'Ilahow! (O God), I remember so well. When you young sahibs get to know our country and people you will learn that these two tribes are the most savage and their battles the fiercest. No mercy is shown or asked and the victors always mutilate the prisoners, who fall to their knives.' He paused again, slowly counting off the beads on his rosary as he unfolded his story to his attentive listeners.

'When the Elliott Sahib heard the news of the raid he left his camp at Serenli early and reached a water-hole called Hagaghabli when the sun was so high.' he pointed to the galaxy of stars above us. 'The sahib sent for the headman of the Aulihan as the raided camels were close at hand. He also sent for Abdurrahman Mursal and told him that if the looted camels were not returned straight away he would be sent to Kismayu and imprisoned. Abdurrahman, you must know, at that time was Chief of the Aulihan and thought himself all-powerful in Jubaland. The sahib gave Abdurrahman three days in which to return the looted camels and to pay an additional fine of eight hundred camels as "dia", or blood money for the eight Marehan killed. You will also know that the life of a man in the Somalilands is worth one hundred camels and that of a woman fifty. Abdurrahman said that he would consult his headmen and after telling them of the sahib's instructions complained bitterly that he favoured the Marehan as opposed to their own tribe, the Aulihan. He then put forward a plan to attack Serenli fort and swore all his headmen on the Koran to keep faith with him. Meanwhile, the sahib, angry at being kept waiting so long, returned to Serenli.

About two days later, Ali Mohamed, a Herti trader who was about to marry Abdurrahman's daughter, came to the Elliott Sahib and told him that Abdurrahman had warned him to tell the Herti askaris to leave the fort the next night as the Aulihan would attack and did not wish to kill Herti. The sahib thought the whole matter "fitina" and then Ali Mohamed came here to Bardera and told his story again to the Italian Residente (Commissioner), for at that time Bardera was under the Italians whilst Serenli was on the Inglesi side of the border. The Italian Residente sent a note to the Elliott Sahib, warning him.

The day of the attack the Elliott Sahib's company-sergeant-major (here the interpreter smiled reminiscently) informed him that Abdurrahman had sent in a black bullock, a black goat and a black sheep for meat. The sahib told him to have the bullock and goat killed for the men and to send the sheep to his kitchen. The sergeant-major said that the present of three black animals meant bad trouble, signifying in Somali custom, hostility. The askaris had refused to touch the meat. He also said that they should prepare for an attack, at any rate letting the men keep their rifles with them during the night instead of placing them in the guard-room at night. The Elliott Sahib was brave but foolish. He picked up an egg, dropping it on the ground with the words, "A Somali shauri (affair) breaks up like that. They will not dare do anything."

.../...

.../...

The second day Abdurrahman collected five hundred warriors of the Aulihan sections Rer Ali, Rer Afwa, Tur Addi, Rer Afgab, and Wafatta, telling them he was going to raid the Marehan again. The war party camped that night at Helishid. The sahib heard of the gathering of a large war party but thought, as they gave out, that it was a raid on the Marehan in preparation.

That night at about 11p.m. Abdurrahman left Helishid and marched close to Serenli which he reached at about one in the morning, when he told his men that he was leading them to attack the fort to show that he was no slave to the Government. Three hundred men were to attack the fort, fifty men to surround the sahib's house fifty men to loot the bazaar. The war party of fifty approached the sahib's house and were challenged three times by the sentry who suspected them. They answered "Friend" twice and the third time not at all, on which the sentry fired and turned out the guard. The Aulihan put in many shots which killed all the guard. Then the sahib, taking a lamp in one hand and pistol in the other came to the window and looked out. He too was killed.

That is how the Elliott Sahib died, shot not once but many times, then stabbed and slashed.'

Dusk had now fallen. The Somali, his story told, his swarthy, ravaged face a dark blur in his head-dress, relapsed into Somali, 'Bismillih, Wan shegaya, meshas bu ku dinte' (By God, I am telling, he died at that place).

The plaintive notes of Lights Out sounded from Bardera. The Somali rose to his feet, salaamed, and with a 'Nabad Gelyo' (Good-bye) stalked off into the night.

'What a splendid-looking old man,' someone remarked.

'Yes,' agreed the District Commissioner who had been invited in camp for a drink. 'His name is Mohamed Egal, a Marehan, and now my interpreter. He was Elliott's C.S.M. when he was killed. He managed to escape with a machine-gun and himself killed some half-dozen Aulihan during the raid.'

Mike Knight

TWO CONNECTED STORIES

Story 1.

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Al Capone had a lawyer nicknamed 'Easy Eddie.' He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal manoeuvring kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Al Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help, and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block.

Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object.

And, despite his involvement with organised crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.

One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done.

He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al 'Scarface' Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

.../...

.../...

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read: 'The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still.'

STORY 2.

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realised that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenceless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he'd over into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 calibre blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.

Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft.

This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Congressional Medal of Honour.

A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and, today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honour. It's located between Terminals One and Two.

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?.....

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

Mike Knight

From a flight attendant on Delta Flight 15, written following 9-11:

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic. All of a sudden the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit, immediately, to see the captain.

As soon as I got there I noticed that the crew had that "All Business" look on their faces. The captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta's main office in Atlanta and simply read, "All airways over the Continental United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination."

No one said a word about what this could mean. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly. The captain determined that the nearest airport was 400 miles behind us in Gander, Newfoundland. He requested approval for a route change from the Canadian traffic controller and approval was granted immediately — no questions asked. We found out later, of course, why there was no hesitation in approving our request.

While the flight crew prepared the airplane for landing, another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some terrorist activity in the New York area. A few minutes later word came in about the hijackings.

We decided to LIE to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There was much grumbling among the passengers, but that's nothing new! Forty minutes later, we landed in Gander. Local time at Gander was 12:30 PM ... that's 11:00 AM EST.

There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to the US.

After we parked on the ramp, the captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason."

Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the US. There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. The captain informed passengers that Ground control in Gander told us to stay put.

The Canadian Government was in charge of our situation and no one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near any of the air craft. Only airport police would come around periodically, look us over and go on to the next airplane.

In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, 27 of which were US commercial jets.

Meanwhile, bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in DC.

People were trying to use their cell phones, but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada. Some did get through, but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed.

Sometime in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Center buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm.

We had only to look out the window at the 52 other stranded aircraft to realize that we were not the only ones in this predicament.

We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes one plane at a time. At 6 PM, Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would be 11 am the next morning.

.../...

.../...

Passengers were not happy, but they simply resigned themselves to this news without much noise and started to prepare themselves to spend the night on the airplane

Gander had promised us medical attention, if needed, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word.

Fortunately we had no medical situations to worry about. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took REALLY good care of her. The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th a convoy of school buses showed up. We got off the plane and were taken to the terminal where we went through Immigration and Customs and then had to register with the Red Cross.

After that we (the crew) were separated from the passengers and were taken in vans to a small hotel.

We had no idea where our passengers were going. We learned from the Red Cross that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander!

We were told to just relax at the hotel and we would be contacted when the US airports opened again, but not to expect that call for a while.

We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started.

Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. They started calling us the "plane people." We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we got that call and were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days.

What we found out was incredible.....

Gander and all the surrounding communities (within about a 75 Kilometer radius) had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travelers.

Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and pillows set up.

ALL the high school students were required to volunteer their time to take care of the "guests."

Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 kilometers from Gander where they were put up in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women-only facility, that was arranged.

Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were taken to private homes.

Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility. There was a dentist on call and both male and female nurses remained with the crowd for the duration.

Phone calls and e-mails to the U.S. and around the world were available to everyone once a day.

During the day, passengers were offered "Excursion" trips.

Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbors. Some went for hikes in the local forests.

Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests.

Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools. People were driven to restaurants of their choice and offered wonderful meals. Everyone was given tokens for local laundry mats to wash their clothes, since luggage was still on the aircraft.

In other words, every single need was met for those stranded travelers.

Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. Finally, when they were told that U.S. airports had reopened, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single passenger missing or late. The local Red Cross had all the information about the whereabouts of each and every passenger and knew which plane they needed to be on and when all the planes were leaving. They coordinated everything beautifully. .../...

.../...

It was absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time.

Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses.

And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers approached me and asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. We never, ever allow that. But this time was different. I said "of course" and handed him the mike. He picked up the PA and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days.

He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers.

He continued by saying that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewisporte.

"He said he was going to set up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewisporte.

He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travelers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone numbers and addresses, the total was for more than \$14,000!

"The gentleman, a MD from Virginia , promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta Corporate and ask them to donate as well.

As I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has assisted 134 students in college education.

"I just wanted to share this story because we need good stories right now. It gives me a little bit of hope to know that some people in a faraway place were kind to some strangers who literally dropped in on them.

It reminds me how much good there is in the world."

"In spite of all the rotten things we see going on in today's world this story confirms that there are still a lot of good people in the world and when things get bad, they will come forward.

This is one of those stories that need to be shared. Please do so...

Mike Knight