

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

“To know and to share Jesus Christ”

The Grapevine

September 2015

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Preface



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, and some of you followed my adventures on Facebook, I attended a course in Rome for Women Leaders in the Church of England looking at past examples of female leadership, what we can learn from them and take forward into our own contexts and sharing insights into our own leadership situations.

There were over 30 women from 17 different countries, if you count the Isle of Man as a separate country(!), coming from Africa, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, USA and of course Europe and the British Isles. We were a mix of Lay and Ordained, including Lay readers, Archdeacons and Deans and the head of the Mother's Union for an African country and Bishops' wives. That all contributed greatly to the success of the course as we learnt so much from one another and got to hear things that are not making the news.

In a sense the course was divided into two parts as for the first part of the week we did a lot of field work visiting places that female saints had lived in, worked in or worshipped in, we were very privileged as one place was opened especially for us that is only opened one day a year normally. Another privilege was that we had expert input into the history, art and architecture of these places by very, knowledgeable and enthusiastic specialists. The temperatures in Rome were the highest for over 100 years with very high humidity so it wasn't ideal for walking in, even the churches were hot and airless, so we all suffered a bit and consequently were more tired than we would have liked to be. The last couple of days were mainly spent in an air conditioned room (wonderful) as we reflected on the issues that we had, perhaps unconsciously, and the external issues (other people, contexts and circumstances) that affected our leadership. Much of the content of those discussions is, of course, confidential, but it was eye opening in certain areas. One was the very serious situation for Christians in Pakistan, especially women. The struggles (of) some of our African colleagues were highlighted, and, for those who were serving in the Church of England on the British mainland, how different it is in the Diocese of Europe!

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One thing I can share, although I'm not clever enough to reproduce the drawing on a computer, was something that was a light bulb moment for me. The discussion was about leaders going into new contexts and how it is the 'hidden things' that act like a minefield either because they are not told about them or because everyone takes them so much for granted that they are never discussed. These minefields can then do what minefields do and explode! There have been times like that at ASV.....but so far I still have all my limbs!

Here is a précis one of the group drew up about the Saints we heard about.

Female Leadership in the Church

Who?	Context & what she did	Remarkable for...	Drew power from...	Challenges for today
Agnes	Dangerous world – persecution. Sets an example; rocks the boat; challenges the establishment and unreflected status quo; makes a different way thinkable	Recognises and acts on the UNTHINKABLE; impervious to sanctions; moral leadership	Faith; not heeding threats / sanctions / pain	Recognise and challenge the assumptions we take for granted; thinking the unthinkable whatever the cost
Marcella	Time of Christianity in the process of becoming the established church and attacks on Rome. Instrumental in monastic movement c4 and 5 in Rome; example to other women, drawing them into her orbit; challenging the church to be counter-cultural and anti-establishment; theologically enthusiastic; material generosity	Social critique: an alternative way of BEING CHRISTIAN, living in community	Drawing back to the essence of Christianity	Using theology to critique our culture – secular and religious
Paula	Same context as Marcella. Educated; use of wealth to improve others' lives; co-operation with Jerome; establishes monasteries in Bethlehem; manager and organiser	Social critique: PRACTICAL ACTION, organisation and management	Wealth and organisational ability	How do we act practically to love and to serve others?
Catherine of Siena	Messy world, competing powers. Tertiary: monastic <i>in</i> the world; acts of charity; prayer and mysticism; prophetic word to church establishment; practical theologian	Out of a deep life of PRAYER comes the PROPHETIC message into a broken situation; leadership that makes real change	Prayer; courage and willingness to name what is wrong	Naming what is wrong – 'speaking the truth in love', but speaking it nevertheless
Francesca Romana	World in the process of disintegration. Acts of charity, mystical visions, miracles, courage in dangerous situation (guardian angel)	Practical works of mercy on MATERIAL, NATURAL and SUPERNATURAL level; introducing the supernatural into a world that looks as if it is falling apart	Supernatural realm	Need to recover the supernatural; using resources to mend situations for those who are worse off

All in all a fascinating and worthwhile course and very enjoyable.

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Now, as we move into September and all that brings we come to our Harvest Celebrations and Harvest Suppers. Hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to come and join us in our services of Thanksgiving for all of our blessings and the time of fellowship when we enjoy a meal together. Details of all events will appear elsewhere but please support this very English festival! The charity to whom our donations are to be given will be decided by the Church Council at their next meeting, we may not have much in our church funds but there are so many others worse off than us.

Finally, as we start planning church activities for the future please could you let me know what YOU would like and would be willing to put time and effort into. Spiritual growth is a requirement, not an add-on extra, so what would help you? How can we grow in fellowship as a community of Christians here in the Vendée, and what work might the Lord be calling us to do? How can we develop the gifts and talents that we have been given, or discover ones we didn't know we had? What fund-raising would work? What social events do you enjoy? Please let me or one of the others on the Council know, if not I can feel a questionnaire coming on!

God bless you all,

Caroline

AUGUST into SEPTEMBER 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]

6th September Joel 2:21-27	LCP	Harvest Communion <i>Psalm 126</i>	11.00	Trinity XIV 1Timothy 6:6-10	Matthew 6:25-33
13th September Isaiah 50:4-9a	PDS	<i>Psalm 116 :1-8</i>	11.00	Trinity XV James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27- end
20th September Wisdom of Solomon 1:16- 2:1, 12-22	LCA	<i>Psalm 54</i>	11.00	Trinity XVI James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
27th September Joel 2:21-27	PDS	Harvest Communion <i>Psalm 126</i>	11.00	Trinity XVII 1Timothy 6:6-10	Matthew 6:25-33
4th October Genesis 2:18-24	LCP	Morning Worship <i>Psalm 8</i>	11.00	Trinity XVIII Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16

(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



- 4th September Friday Quiz at Puy de Serre
- 9th September Wednesday 7pm for 7.30pm start **FAITES LE PLEIN**, (See Page 7)
- 11th September Friday Harvest Supper at La Chapelle Palluau
- 16th September Wednesday Council Meeting
- 17th September Thursday 2.30 pm **COËX HOMEGROUP** (See Page 8)
- 23rd September Wednesday 10.00-12.00 **COFFEE MORNING** at the Vicarage (See Page 7)
- 24th September Thursday 2.30pm **Ladies Circle** "Painting Bargeware" (Contact: Joan Stewart)
- 25th September Friday Harvest Supper at Puy de Serre

...and planning ahead...

- 2nd October Friday Quiz at Puy de Serre (Contact Polly)
- 17th October Saturday Autumn Bazaar at La Chapelle Palluau (See Page 8)

- 1st November Sunday 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)



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 these Events, please visit our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr



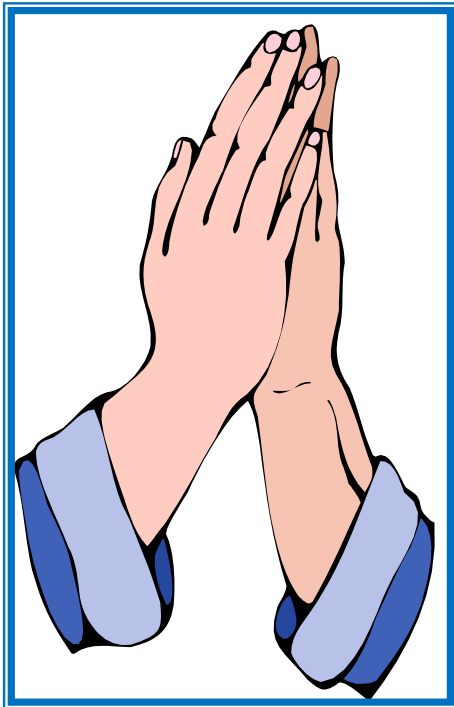
*This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which
make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible.
If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.*

Forward Planning for September into October

Responsibility (Organiser)	6 th September LCP	13 th September PdS	20 th September LCA	27 th September PDS (Harvest)	4 th October LCP
Welcomers (Polly Ward)					
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		No Salle		Dee and Curtis/ Ken and Jean	
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)				Dee and Curtis	
Musicians +/-Organist (Polly Ward)		Stuart		Stuart	

Names on our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers:



Paul Brechet and Anne

Tony Calton and Maggie

Joëlle Gosselin and Bernard

Peter Hutchinson

Jean Mylod and Mike

Sally Pearson

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

At a recent meeting of the Church Council it was felt that the following three items should be emphasised to the congregations:

1. The Vicarage Renovation Fund – As you know ASV purchased a house in Saint Vincent Sterlanges to be used as a Vicarage. It needed a lot of renovation work and Caroline’s husband Bob was prepared to do this and he has completed most of it, assisted by their son James, and we continue to thank them for their hard work. An appeal was launched last year for donations to pay for materials. Thank you again if you sent a gift or promised a donation. Unfortunately some of these promised donations have not been fulfilled and the money received is well short of the costs so far. Again we are appealing for donations to cover more costs as our church finances are stretched to the limit. Please remember that if you pay tax in France, and make a donation, then this money can be claimed in the next tax year on your tax form and up to two thirds is offset against your tax that year. So you pay less tax but ASV retains the full amount. Please consider carefully if you can make a donation now – every bit helps – and please talk to us or any member of Council if you need more information. Thank You

2. Membership List – This list being compiled by Chris Green is building up but is by no means complete. There are several members of the congregations who have not let her have their details so they could not be contacted by Caroline or ourselves if necessary. As we assured you all last month this list is strictly confidential, not for general publication and the information will only be used as and when required. If you have not supplied details to Chris please do so (greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk) – she needs your name, address, phone number fixed and mobile and your email address. If you do not live in France permanently then your British details would also be useful.

3. Communications Officer – You should have noticed from the Website (www.allsaintsvendee.fr) that Keith Fowler is now our Communications Officer. He will be our link with newspapers, magazines etc. and therefore handle publicity for services and events etc. He can only do this if he knows about what is going on so he needs all our help in supplying him with the details of what is happening. Also if you have any ideas of how we can promote ASV then he would like to hear from you antheakeithfow@aol.com

Thank you for your continued support of ASV.

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!!!**



**Wednesday 9th September
at 7pm for refreshments,
for a 7.30pm start**

With Simon Bourn, preacher from the "Eglise Protestante Evangélique de l'Estuaire" (EPEE) in Nantes.

Please join us for an evening of worship, a talk and a time of prayer.

All welcome

***at the Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre, La Roche sur Yon
(in the large restaurant at the back of the parking area, on the right hand side).***

COFFEE MORNING

at

‘The Vicarage’

27, rue de Malvoisine
St Vincent Sterlanges

Wednesday, 23rd September

from 10.00am -12midday

all are very welcome!

Donations to cancer charities in the UK and France



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:

The Revd Gareth Randall has written - entitled: "Inflections"
Michael Knight - "Courageous WW1 Nurses"
Bill Stocking - "Restos du Coeur – The Restaurants of the Heart"

*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*



COËX HOMEGROUP

All are welcome to the next meeting at
2.30PM on Thursday 17th September 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 0244 36 62 90 or email SiSuPatter@neuf.fr.
SEE YOU THERE!



A Note for your Diaries - our LCP Autumn Bazaar 2015 will be on the 17th October in the Salle at La Chapelle Palluau. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, as well as the familiar cake/preserves stall, the amazing craft stall and so much more. Please be sure to save the date. 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.



Inflections ?

One of the things here in France that keeps me in touch with the UK is Radio 4. Long-wave on a Phillips transistor in the kitchen; FM in the lounge on my 22" Sony TV. Easy to listen to at breakfast or washing up.

But one of the things that irritates me, as a Cockney who grew up in London before the invasion of Australian TV soaps, is the annoying habit of raising one's voice at the end of a sentence when it's clearly a statement rather than a question.

Surely, it is questionable to raise your voice when it should be lowered as you conclude a statement of fact?

I guess I'm getting old, showing my age, being inflexible, but it gets on my nerves when I hear a so-called expert expertly massacring what once was standard English.

So what irritates you about the UK today ? I'm sure Jacqui would love to hear from you too !

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



RESTOS DU COEUR – THE RESTAURANTS OF THE HEART

3.6 million meals

Summer time...holidays...the sea and sand between your toes. We all eagerly await this wonderful season...Sadly...not for everyone in England and France particularly. For some it is a nightmare. A period with no free school meals. In some schools there are Breakfast Clubs for children but no mid-day dinner. The inability of many people to survive without assistance.

There is indeed overwhelming poverty. Food poverty. Fuel poverty. Paying for gas and electricity. If you are at the bottom you have total poverty. Parents have to go without meals so that their children can eat. Children and families going without food because the cupboard is bare.

A few weeks ago, The Trussell Trust, a Christian organisation, stood outside Tesco stores in England and collected 3.6 million meals from Shoppers. Some people filled complete trolleys with food and gave them all to The Trust.

When Restos du Coeur collected outside Super U in Coulonges-sur-L'Autize recently, shoppers contributed 1.5 tonnes of food.

Many people are concerned about the desperate poverty of others, often through no fault of their own. Many people work a full week on the minimum wage or on zero hour contracts where sometimes there is no work but the employee cannot work for anyone else because of the terms of their contract. These workers often can only eat and feed their family because of Food Banks.

What sort of community is it that can't feed its poor?

A man spoke yesterday on Radio 5 Live saying he had been made redundant along with many others, from his job as a postman and was now having to work in a Care Home for £6.50 an hour.

In England, youngsters who have been raised by Foster Parents or in an Institution have to leave when they are 17 with no job, no money and nowhere to live. There is recognition that the numbers of these young people sleeping rough are growing to an unacceptable level.

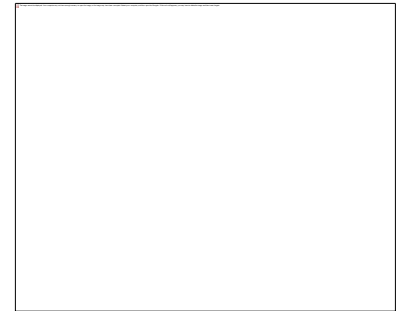
As the need of people and families worsens, there are many people who care, who don't pass by on the other side of the road. Thank you to the good people at Puy de Serre and Parthenay churches. Between us, our generosity is helping to make a difference. !!!!

Bill (Stocking)

[Mike would like to share the following biographies with Grapevine readers. He received them from All Saints Gainsborough]

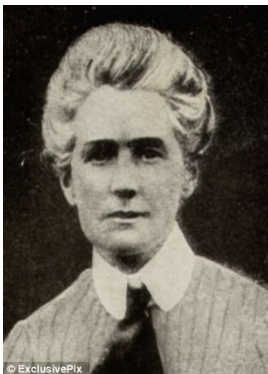
We hear a lot about the brave soldiers who fought in WW1, here are brief details of a few courageous nurses who tended to the many wounded. *Mike Knight*

1] Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Knocker. Sharing a love of motorbikes, two nurses who set up their own illegal dressing station. Mairi Chisholm was a Scottish motorbike fanatic whose penchant for hairpin turns won her an invitation to join the Flying Ambulance Corps in Belgium. She and her biker-friend Elsie Knocker joined forces and were soon doing vital wartime work, ferrying wounded soldiers to a field hospital in Furnes. Mairi was also tasked with taking mutilated corpses to the mortuary. Yet, discouraged by the number of men they were losing, Mairi and Elsie decided to leave the Corps. They found an abandoned cellar in Pervyse and set up their own illegal dressing station, just 100 yards from the trenches. With no affiliation to the Belgian Red Cross, they had to find their own supplies and support. Fortunately, Mairi and Elsie managed to be seconded to the Belgian troops stationed nearby. Together, they saved the lives of thousands of men on the Belgian Western Front - men who would have no doubt died on their way to the Corps hospital. Mairi was awarded the Belgian Order



Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Knocker

2] Edith Cavell. Death by firing squad for helping wounded allied soldiers. Edith Cavell was a British nurse famous for treating countless soldiers, no matter their nationality, and helping as many as 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during World War One. When Brussels fell to the Germans in November 1914, Cavell walked away from her British Secret Intelligence Service recruitment to hide wounded Allied soldiers and sneak them out of the country to safety. The soldiers were given fake identification and hidden until they could make it to the Dutch frontier. In August 1915, Edith was betrayed by German collaborator Gaston Quien. German soldiers arrested Edith for treason and subjected her to a court-martial. Cavell admitted that she had personally harboured about 175 men in her home and helped them to escape. Her actions went directly against German military law. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was sentenced to death and executed by a 16-man German firing squad on October 12, 1915. Edith Cavell's remains were brought back to Britain after the war, and she had a memorial service in Westminster Abbey on 15 May 1919.



3] Linnie Leckrone. Only awarded for her services post-humorously. Linnie Leckrone was one of the unsung heroes of World War One. She was part of a small gas and shock team who worked tirelessly in France during the war. Despite displaying extraordinary bravery caring for the wounded in the face of a tooth-rattling artillery attack, her return home went unmarked. There was no parade and no welcome-home ceremony. Although Leckrone was going to be awarded a Citation Star for her efforts, she was discharged from the army before it was formally presented. Her courageous service was finally recognized posthumously in 2007, when her daughter Mary Jane Bolles Reed accepted a Silver Star in her place. The Silver Star is the third-highest award for bravery granted by the U.S. military, and Linnie Leckrone was one of the first three women to receive it.



4] Dorothie Feilding. Abandoning a life of privilege to help the sick. Dorothie Feilding abandoned a life of privilege to help soldiers and became an ambulance driver with a volunteer unit stationed in Belgium. Dorothie Feilding was born into a rich, aristocratic family in Warwickshire, England.

She was presented to the King and Queen of England when she was 18 years old. But Feilding shunned her entitled upbringing and jumped into the war effort with both feet. She became an ambulance driver with a volunteer unit stationed in Belgium. The Western Front soon provided its own challenges, from driving under enemy fire, to dealing with inconvenient marriage proposals and lice.

Feilding was easy-going and charismatic, even hosting tea parties amongst the ruins of Furnes.

Her bravery earned her a French Croix de guerre (bronze star), a Belgian Order of Leopold II Knights Cross, and the English Military Medal for Bravery.

This last honour was presented to her by King George V at Windsor Castle.



*Recently decorated
with the Order of Léopold II:
from The Illustrated War News, Feb. 1915*

5] First woman to be awarded the rank of major in the U.S. army: Julia C. Stimson

Julia C. Stimson has been described as energetic, charismatic, courageous, and determined; and she needed to be to make a difference during the Great War. Her passion and devotion to excellence were evident at an early age, as she was one of the few young women of her day to get an undergraduate degree. Julia earned a place at Vassar College at the incredibly young age of 16. Her career path eventually led her to the Army Nurse Corps, and in May 1917 she went to France with Base Hospital 21. By 1918, she'd been made chief nurse of the American Red Cross in France. From there, she was pulled back from the front-line to fill a vital administrative role in Paris, orchestrating the nursing service of the American Expeditionary Forces. Through her efforts, thousands of wounded soldiers received good medical care. And as a result, she was awarded the United States Distinguished Service Medal at the end of the war. She continued to work as a nurse after the war and was a key recruiter of female nurses for WWII. She was also the first woman to be awarded the rank of major in the U.S. army



*Stimson being awarded
the DSM by General Pershing*

6] 'The Angel of Siberia': Elsa Brandstrom

Elsa Brandstrom was nicknamed 'the Angel of Siberia' for good reason. She was the daughter of the Swedish ambassador to Tsar Nicholas II and was in Russia during the outbreak of WWI. Determined to help, she volunteered and put her nursing skills to use with the Russian army. In 1915, Brandstrom was in Siberia treating German prisoners of war with the Swedish Red Cross. Matters got more complicated when her Russian work permit was revoked, but that didn't stop her. Brandstrom continued travelling to Siberia illegally for two whole years, until the Russian authorities arrested her in Omsk in 1920. Upon her release, she went back to Sweden and launched a campaign to help POWs. Her efforts included fundraising and founding a children's home with room for more than 200 orphans. Eventually, she married and moved to the United States. But even there she dedicated herself to helping German and Austrian refugees.



*Elsa Brändström as depicted
on a German stamp in 1951*

7] A dedicated nurse and reporter for the BBC: Florence Farmborough



Florence Farmborough was a woman of many talents and she put them to good use during the war. She left Britain for Russia in 1908 and worked as a governess for a family in Kiev. Later, she worked as an English teacher, tutoring the daughters of an accomplished heart surgeon. But when war broke out, she joined the Imperial Russian army as a Red Cross nurse. Farmborough tended to the wounded on the Galician and Romanian fronts. And in the midst of the madness and ravages of war, she was not only a dedicated nurse but also worked as a reporter for The Times and BBC Radio.

8] First nurse to join the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps: Lenah Higbee

Lenah Higbee was one of the first nurses to join the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps when it was established in 1908. This move required sacrifice and perseverance, as many members of the Navy considered female nurses unwelcome pariahs, indeed, they were not even given rank. But Lenah Higbee was determined and gave navy nursing her all. Her hard work was noted and she was quickly appointed Chief Nurse. A few years later, she was promoted to Superintendent of the Nurse Corps - she was only the second woman to hold the position. Higbee was the first female to be awarded the Navy Cross, for her unusual and conspicuous devotion to duty during War Two. And after her death, a naval combat ship was named USS Higbee in her honour. It was the first time a naval vessel had been named after a female service member.



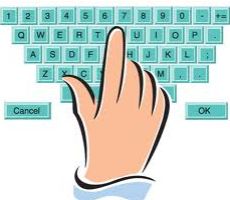
[Mike has written another article about Lt Francis Elliot FRGS which will be published next monthJacqui]



*I hope you have enjoyed this September edition of "Grapevine".
Thank you to all the Contributors who once again have made this edition possible and
I look forward to hearing from you next time*

SO.....

**send your contributions and comments
for the October "Grapevine" to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
*before 15th September, please***



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