

Church of All Saints in the Vendée
"To know and to share Jesus Christ"



August 2023

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



CONTACTS:

Chaplain & President:

Revd Hazel Door

Phone: 05 49 87 71 45

e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr

Vicarage:

27 rue de Malvoisine,

85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71

Church Warden & Lay Vice-Chairman:

Doug Green: Phone: 05 49 72 18 46

e-mail: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Church Warden:

Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72

e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

John Matthews:

Phone: 05 49 75 29 71,

e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr



**4-Thought
August 2023**



Some more of my favourite Saints are commemorated in the month of August and as usual Wikipedia is a great source of information. Additionally in this month we, as Christians, observe the Transfiguration on the 6th, and The Blessed Virgin Mary on the 15th. Bartholomew on the 24th and the Beheading of John the Baptist on the 29th. My favourites?? Well, I have a really soft spot for Aiden, Bishop of Lindisfarne on the 31st and last, but top of my list, Clare of Assisi, who founded the order of Poor Clares, commemorated on the 11th August.

Clare was a friend and companion of St. Francis of Assisi. Born into a wealthy family. St. Clare refused to marry when she was 15, and several years later she slipped away at night to join St. Francis and his small band of Franciscans. She and her sister, Agnes, were the first members of the second Order of St. Francis, later known as the poor Clare's. They lived a simple life of great poverty and almost complete silence in a house adjacent to San Damiano. St. Francis named St. Clare the first abbess of the Order, an office she held for the rest of her life. She was much admired for her simplicity and piety, and bishops, cardinals, and even popes came to consult her. So revered was she, that she was canonized just two years after her death. She renounced almost all of the "creature comforts" we take for granted and devoted herself to service and prayer. Few of us may find ourselves called to sacrifice so much, but perhaps we all can find an inspiring example in the simplicity of her life.

Just over five years ago Martin and I joined friends on a pilgrimage to Assisi, and visited San Damiano, the whole visit was one of wonder, and we learned much and through it gained an immense amount of inner peace, serenity and calm. Assisi is a place I would readily recommend to any one for a visit. To this day I have a replica of the Damiano Cross on my wall, and a fridge magnet reading "Pace e Bene". Which translated from the Italian means "Peace and all good!" Both things we are all in need of in this day and age.

Hazel



Grapevine Treasurer's Report: June 2023:

Income: 980.00 €

Expenditure: 741.75 €

We have a positive balance for the month: 238.25 €

It's been a quiet month financially, however ... our quarter-year balance and our half-year balance are both negative (-674.77 € for the half-year).

We need to be vigilant, and start thinking of fundraising activities!

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



Colin and Hester
Ann and Peter (*friends of David and Sally*)
Gini and Martyn
Heidi and **Millie-Jean** and their parents, Joël and Jo
Malcolm (Butcher)

Liam (*Polly's nephew*)
Nel (*Mair & John Pugh's daughter*)
Pat and **Roy**
Polly
Bob (*Rev'd Caroline's husband*)

...and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of
Richard (Dick) Hardwick

The family and friends of
Bill Stocking

The family and friends of
Eelan Hodgson

The family and friends of
Jean Gibbs

*[If you would like a name to be added to the Prayer List, please contact David Pearson.
Tel: 02 51 61 05 04 or Email: davidlpearson@orange.fr]*



Sunday Club



"No one will be turned away,
everyone is welcome

Calling all children, including holidaymakers, to attend Sunday Club.

Do **please** let us know a couple of days in advance, if you'd like to come, so that we can prepare something special for you."

Please contact Jenny if you require more information: email: jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

...and there's much more...
SO
KEEP READING.....



Churchwardens' Notes

For August 2023

KEEPING IN TOUCH

In the June "Churchwardens notes" we invited former members of the congregation to write a short note for Grapevine and let us know how they were getting on. John and Mair Pugh had already done this but we were delighted to hear from Gil and Janet Clarke (from Lincolnshire) and Marlene and John Thacker (Lutterworth). Thank you all for writing to us. We are very pleased to hear from you. Is there anyone else who would like to send Jacqui a short note for Grapevine to let us know how you are ?

VOUVANT CHURCH - SUMMER SERVICES

In July we held a second and very successful Morning Worship service in the beautiful church at Vouvant. There was a congregation of nearly 50 people both English and French. The hymns were sung with volume and feeling accompanied by the recently installed, purpose built new organ. This organ was played by the church organist Yves Rousseau, the former artistic head of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris. After the service we were invited for coffee by Rupert Catell who lives in the nearby chateau and we give our heartfelt thanks to him and his wife for such a pleasant end to the morning. The next service here will be on the 20th August and again we hope we can attract English residents and holidaymakers to join us. So please put the date in your diary, spread the word to your friends and neighbours and bring them along.

RICHARD (DICK) HARDWICK, R.I.P

It was with sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Dick Hardwick during the night of 2/3 July. Dick and his late wife Shirley were very early members of the "Vendée Fellowship" group which progressed into becoming what is now All Saints, Vendée. The funeral took place on the 12th July at Niort crematorium and although not many people were able to be present the messages sent by email have been passed on to Dick's family. Dick's daughter replied "Thank you for the messages you have forwarded to me. They really do mean a lot and it is a comfort to know that so many people cared about Dad."

QUIZ - SEPTEMBER

Dee and Curtis Parkin will be leaving us in the Autumn but , just a reminder, they are setting the questions for a final time at a quiz on the 8th September, 1800 hrs. Please support this event if you can which, we are sure, will be another fun evening.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer and look forward to seeing many of you at our services

With love and blessings
Doug and Margaret



Dates for your Diary



August 2023

1st August Tuesday

Blank lined area for the 1st of August.

6th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

Blank lined area for the 6th of August.

13th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

Blank lined area for the 13th of August.

15th Tuesday **Feast of the Assumption** - Public holiday

Blank lined area for the 15th of August.

20th Sunday 11hr00 **Morning Worship** at Vouvant

Blank lined area for the 20th of August.

27th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

Blank lined area for the 27th of August.

31st August Thursday

Please check with the website and/or the Churchwardens in case of any alterations.



Dates for your Diary

September 2023



1st September Friday

3rd Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

10th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

17th Sunday

24th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

30th September Saturday

Please check with the website and/or the Churchwardens in case of any alterations.

EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

AUGUST INTO SEPTEMBER

| DATE 2023 | VENUE | TIME | SERVICE | PRESIDENT | PREACHER | WORSHIP LEADER | ORGAN-IST | INTERCESSOR | READERS | NOTES |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|-----------|----------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------------|
| Sunday 6 th August | La Chapelle Palluau | 11.00 | HC | HD | HD | | SS-J | | | |
| Sunday 13 th August | Puy De Serre | 11.00 | HC | HD | HD | JM | SS-J | JW | BC CM | |
| Sunday 20 th August | Vouvant | 11.00 | MW | HD | | | Resident organist | | RC | Vouvant Church |
| Sunday 27 th August | Puy De Serre | 11.00 | HC | HD | HD | CG | SS-J | DG | KS JW | |
| Sunday 3 rd September | La Chapelle Palluau | 11.00 | HC | HD | HD | | SS-J | | | |

**IF YOU FIND YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE AT CHURCH ON "YOUR" DAY,
PLEASE TRY TO ARRANGE A SWAP AND INFORM THE WORSHIP LEADER**

FORWARD PLANNING

AUGUST INTO SEPTEMBER

| Responsibility (Organiser) | 13 th August Puy de Serre 11hr00 | 20th August Vouvant 11hr00 | 27 th August Puy de Serre 11hr00 |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Refreshments after the service in Salle at Puy de Serre (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS) | Jenny & Trudy (Please note: No Bring & Share Lunch) | At the Chateau | Jenny & Trudy (Please note: No Bring & Share Lunch) |
| Flower Rota (Contact Barbara Matthews) | - | - | - |

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.



These are YOUR pages.....



My thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine".

Keeping in touch x 2; The Remnants; Ladies Circle;-Resto du Cœur;

Sunday Club x 2; "The Last Hurrah!" Quiz Night; Vouvant Church History; "Now thank we all our God"



Mike Mylod is our link with Restos du Coeur



He will continue to collect your gifts of dry goods, etc. which are particularly important now and which will be delivered to the local depot at Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.

Please phone Mike before leaving goods with him at Moulleron-en-Pareds: 02 51 51 07 36

..... and just to add:

With the rising cost of living, there are more folk than ever in need of basic food, cleaning materials and toiletries. Collections are made at Puy de Serre at the first service of the month there (i.e. the second Sunday of each month).

The local group that we support at Coulonges-sur-l'Autize say that, in particular, they have need for tins of ready meals like Ravioli and Cassoulet.

Please continue to help. Many, many thanks for your continued support.

Maggie K

It's such a joy to hear from Our ASV friends.... Keeping in touch....

Terrific edition Jacqui.

You do such a good job. I am always interested to see the familiar names mentioned. I am sorry to see that Bill Stocking has died.

I remember our time with you all so well. Tim and I enjoyed being with you and getting to know people and we loved the vendee.

Much love

Rosemary (Bravington) xx (Oxford)

Thanks Jacqui,
Yet another enjoyable edition which I have just read from cover to cover, well I would have done had I given it covers! I do like reading them each month. I hope you realise just how much pleasure you give to us all.
So my love to you and God bless,
Marian (Rackham)
(Alnwick, Northumberland)

Thanks, interesting about the Jesuits, they did a lot of harm in their evangelization in South America...albeit I am a member of Jesuit Refugee Services...who along with Calais Light attempt to help refugees and "immigrants". And there are many other Christian organizations helping these desperate people.

Perhaps we could get a mention some time?

Bisous,

Anne (Brechet) (N.France)

Thanks for Grapevine...".
. 5 ants were renting a house,
they were joined by another 5 ants.
They then became tenants.
Jim West (South coast)

Dear Jacqui

Thank you for the Grapevine again. Lots going on as usual. It is really good to see. I loved seeing the photo of the Remnants and would love to have been there with them. C'est la vie!

I had an MRI scan on my leg last Friday with the thought that I may need a Hip replacement operation. I don't think I will, but I won't get the results until the end of next week!

Chris is busy getting our garden looking nice. This has been hard work, but it is starting to look really good. We have also now got some fresh vegetables growing, which will be good come the autumn.

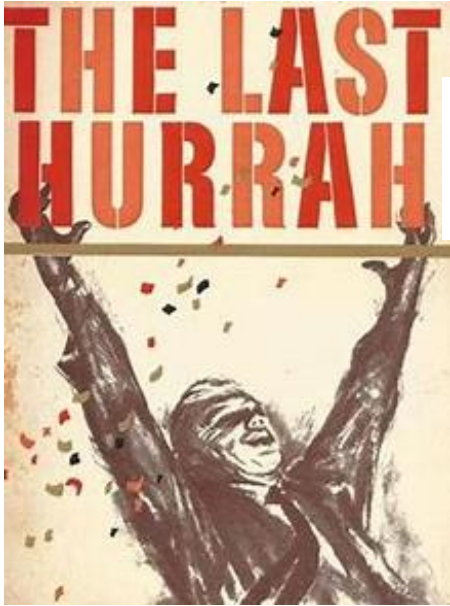
We have got involved in the Benwick in Bloom again this year, so we are getting to know more people, quite a number of whom have returned from France. We have grown lots of geraniums which are now nicely coming into flower, ready for the judges next month. All good fun! The weather is very hot here just now, so plenty of need for the watering cans. Not allowed to use hose pipes.

Take care and look after yourselves.

Love

Tonie & Chris (Cambridgeshire)

Don't forget this "Date for your Diary"



QUIZ

We have had confirmation from the Salle that
Curtis and Dee's Last Hurrah Quiz
will be on
8th September 18.00 hrs
in the Salle at Puy de Serre.

Fiona



ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Womens Fellowship - Ladies Group -
Discussing together our charity quilt.

Always happy to receive new members

Contact Joan Stewart or Jenny at: JennyWilkinson213@gmail.com



Did you know
PREVIOUS SERMONS and
TALKS
can be read at:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr





Sunday Club

Something to chew over



Alcuin of York

“The most learned man anywhere to be found”.

This bold statement from Einhard, the Frankish scholar and courtier to Charlemagne is a touching assessment of Alcuin of York’s reach academically, spiritually and culturally.

Alcuin was an English clergyman and scholar, who became a leading member of the Carolingian Court and a prominent figure in the subsequent Renaissance which emerged.

Born around 732 in Northumbria, Alcuin’s education was classical and he quickly showed himself to be a fast learner with a good memory. He also benefited from being surrounded by esteemed scholars such as Ethelbert, the man who succeeded Ecgbert as Archbishop of York in 766.

Whilst teaching in York, Alcuin and the Archbishop of York travelled to Rome in the 760s. Such trips would continue for the next couple of decades including when he was sent on what would be the first of many missions to the court of Charlemagne.

Alcuin became a notable scholar and teacher as well as religious leader who left behind a great intellectual and cultural legacy. His impact on others and his introduction of new standards of education and learning helped to revive the pursuit of intellectual excellence in the Carolingian Empire and beyond.

He is remembered as a man of great significance who raised standards and made reforms in religion, literature, scholarship and learning.

*[For the full text by Jessica Bain,
see: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Alcuin-Of-York>]*

A Prayer of Alcuin of York)

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,
eternal power, be our support,
eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength
we may seek your face
and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
May God who made both earth and heaven bless us. Amen

Trudy

[Editor’s note: ST ALCUIN OF YORK IN TOURAINE is the CofE Church near Tours: www.churchintouraine.org]



Sunday Club

Something (more) to chew over



The 13th July 2023 was the anniversary of the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope which peers into the infrared portion of the light spectrum, gathering light that couldn't be collected by its predecessor, the Hubble telescope. To mark the occasion NASA published this image of the Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex, the nearest star forming region to the Earth.



One strange feature of the universe is that ***light is eternal***. It gets fainter but it's still there, including the most ancient light, heavily shifted into the infrared portion of the spectrum by the expansion of space that's been happening since big bang, according to the theory.

« ..the LORD will be your ***everlasting light***, and your God will be your glory. » Isaiah 60:19

« When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "***I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.***" » John 8:12

Trudy

The Remnants

La Chapelle Palluau – July 2023

*There will be a meeting on Sunday 23rd July
so there are no updates this month
but
Joyce has forwarded this.....*



A lovely message

Once upon a time! When Window was just a square hole in a room and Application was something written on a paper. When Keyboard was a Piano and Mouse just an animal. When File was an important office material and Hard Drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When Cut was done with knife and Paste with glue. When Web was a spider's home and Virus was flu. When Apple and Blackberry were just fruits - that's when we had a lot of time for family and friends.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

Members of our congregations (and our Organists!) have noticed that **"Now thank we all our God"** has become a favourite hymn both at the beginning and the end of our church services. The words seem so appropriate in these troubled times that it's hard to believe that it was written some 400 years ago! Here is a shortened history of this well-loved hymn. Jacqui



Martin Rinkart was a Lutheran pastor who went to Eilenburg in Saxony, at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War (1618 -1648). The walled city of Eilenburg became the refuge for political and military fugitives, but the result was overcrowding, deadly pestilence and famine. Different armies overran it three times. The Rinkart home was a refuge for the victims, even though he was often hard-pressed to provide for his own family.

*"Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today."*

During the height of a severe plague in 1637, Rinkart was the only surviving pastor in Eilenburg, conducting as many as 50 funerals in a day. He performed more than 4,000 funerals in that year, including that of his wife.

*"O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills In this world and the next."*

Rinkart was a prolific hymn writer. In 1636 "Nun danket alle Gott" first appears as a short prayer before meals. The exact date is debated, but it is known that it was sung at the signing of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.

*"All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns, With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore."*

Catherine Winkworth translated it from the German **"Nun danket alle Gott"**. Johann Crüger published it with the music in the 1647



239.

Nun danket.

Nun danket alle GOTT mit herzen/
mund und händen/ Der grosse din-
ge thut an uns und allen enden/ Der
uns von mütterleib und Kindesbeinen
anzählich viel zu gut/ zu noch jhünd
gethan.

2. Der ewigreiche GOTT woll uns bey
unserm leben Ein innersedlich herz und
edlen frieden geben/ Vnd uns in seiner
gnad erhalten fort und fort/ Vnd uns
aus aller noth erlösen hier und dort.

3. lob/ ehr und preis sey GOTT dem
Vater und dem Sohne/ Vnd dem/ der
beyden gleich im höchsten himmelstyro-
ne/ Dem dreymal einem GOTT/ als er
ursprünglich war/ Vnd ist und bleiben
wird jhünd und immerdar.

Rinkart wrote more than 60 hymns but "Now Thank We All Our God" is his best known. It is a testament to his faith that, after such misery, he was able to write a hymn of abiding trust and gratitude toward God. He died in December 1649 in the place he loved most — Eilenburg.

This summer, we have been worshipping in the Church of *Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption* in Vouvant and Iain has written:

A very brief history of Vouvant church.



The priory church at Vouvant was built in the first decades of the eleventh century, in granite and the much softer schist. For the time it was a vast building, comprising three naves and probably nine nave arches. The church demonstrates a typical architectural style of the early eleventh century, austere, no decoration on the capitals – it is a typical proto-Romanesque building, very similar in style to the late Carolingian church at St Philibert, dating from about 900 AD, not far from Nantes. The first church was consecrated in 1028, with Theodelin present. Today, only three arches are left of the original nave, which extended across the small square to the west which was seemingly cleared during the wars of religion. The very thin walls would only have permitted a timber roof, not being strong enough for a more permanent stone vaulting, then very much in its infancy. The stone vault, which covers the present church, was probably initially erected in about 1150, when the first modifications were made.



In the year 1006 Guillaume le Grand, Count of Poitou and Duke of Aquitaine, came across a rocky spur, surrounded on three sides by a river. He quickly realised the strategic advantages of the site. During this period, he strengthened the defences of Aquitaine, so as to contain the Norman incursions which were threatening the peace and stability of his northern marches. The Normans used rivers as the basis of their raiding parties, and the Vendée and the Mère were being put to the sword around 1000, just as the Vikings had put Paris to the sword in the ninth century. In 911, Count Rollo of the Normans had

been persuaded to leave Paris alone by the grant of “Normandy”, and he now chose to turn his attention to the border lands to the south. Guillaume le Grand and Theodelin therefore combined forces and created castles and churches to help them maintain control of the forest lands around Mervent and Vouvant. Guillaume decided to build a castle at Vouvant (almost certainly initially in wood) on the site of the Petit-Chateau, as well as a monastic ensemble nearby. This enabled him to exercise authority over the Bas-Poitou, and to levy taxes and tolls on the shipping using the river. The building of this castle may well have coincided with the destruction by fire of the castle at Maillezais, between 1007 and 1011. The construction of the castle is mentioned in charters of 1016 and March 1019, but the church is not, suggesting a later date. It is clear that the foundation of the castle and its surrounding settlement date from around 1019, and predate the present church by about 10 years.



He asked the abbot of Maillezais, Theodelin, to bring some monks over to establish a new priory at Vouvant. By 1056, we read of “the monks of Maillezais praising God in the monastery built at Vouvant”. The first mention of the church, is in documents dating from 1028, with the name of Theodelin appearing in the context of both Vouvant and Maillezais. It was clearly finished and functioning by then.

Let us move forward through the twelfth century.

The castle was rebuilt in stone, probably about 1050-1060, and its defences strengthened. In 1190, King Richard I (Lionheart) left on crusade to recapture the Holy Land for Christianity. He took with him a number of vassals, among them Geoffrey de Lusignan, who seems to have been part of the inner circle. Geoffrey's power base was, apart from Lusignan, at one end of his territory, Vouvant. They were both very taken with the innovations they saw in the Holy Land, and, upon their return (Richard was “delayed” by a couple of years), set about modernising their castles. They introduced, among other things, polygonal keeps, round towers, as

opposed to the earlier square ones), staircases hidden in the walls of the keep, and powerful gatehouses. The castles of Mervent and Vouvant were both developed in this new style, 1210-1225.



Sometime around 1150, significant modifications were made to the church - the north porch was rebuilt, to show off the grandeur and the power of Vouvant, and the external walls were strengthened to take the new stone vault. A new transept was built with an apse on both sides of the nave, the crypt was modified, to be used as a place of worship in its own right by the monks. The very imposing north porch, with numerous Romanesque sculptures was created, possibly by the master mason of Ste Eulalie, Benet, or by Giraud Audebert (who worked on Foussais 1140-1160), with two buttresses. The entrance to the church was now through two highly decorated twin doors. A massive tympanum was erected over the two doors, and the sculptures of the Last Supper, the Ascension and Christ in Majesty surrounded by Angels were put in place. Now disappeared, the tympanum was replaced in the twelfth century by two sculptures, of Samson having his hair cut off on the left, and, on the right, Samson killing the lion.



To the east side of the porch is a now much defaced sculpture of the lowering of Christ from the cross after the crucifixion, dating from the same period.

The present church building was very heavily restored 1882-1892.

Text and photos by Iain McGregor, 2023.



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of "Grapevine".
My thanks to all the Contributors.

Please consult the website for updates at
www.allsaintsvendee.fr



Please send your items and comments for the **September edition** to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th August 2023