



The Grapevine
August 2024

The Grapevine

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Website:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

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The cover photo shows a stained-glass window in the church at Coulon. The subject is the Holy Trinity, with the Father and Son clearly visible, the Father movingly supporting his Son's hands and evoking the form of the Cross. The flame depicted between their two faces represents the Holy Spirit.

*Thank you, as always, to **all** those who have once again contributed to the Grapevine.*

4 thought

With thanks to Rev. Hazel

I know some of us “older folk” have had time in the military, on land sea or air. Additionally, others will have experience in social or charity work. Here in France, many charities are hard at work to support ex-pats in a variety of ways. I know that you have all heard of RBL, RAFA, RNA, and indeed there are other groups working independently. Some of you may even have heard of SSAFA?

(more info on <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/> or <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/france>)

I was contacted recently by a very dear friend, currently co-ordinator of part of SSAFA France, to ask if I could appeal for volunteers to enrol and train as Welfare Case Workers. With a case load of between 40-90 cases per year, and now very few (currently 16) WCW's, the pressure is mounting, and the need is increasing. Each case is individual, and SSAFA are often the last resort for people in need, whether it be emotional, physical or financial.

Why did he contact me?? Well, part of my history is in the Royal Navy, but I am still involved with ex-service organisations, member of the RBL, for a time the Welfare Officer of its Linazay branch, honorary Chaplain to the Royal Air Force Association, and member of the Royal Naval Association, and that branch's honorary Chaplain too. Additionally, John has been a faithful member of Christ the Good Shepherd, Poitou Charentes, since its beginning, so I have known him many years.

Might you be interested? Contact me for a chat about what is involved, and I can put you in touch with the co-ordinator himself.

We all have a role to play in supporting those in need, whether it is in a practical way or financially, or by supporting charities like Resto. It is what we are called, compelled to do, because of our Christian calling, or simply put, the commandment to “Love your Neighbour”!!

Matthew 25:40-45

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

I’m waiting to hear from you...

Hazel

Notices

Ecumenical walk

A reminder, for all those interested, that the Ecumenical Walk takes place on Sunday 28 July 2024, starting at 14.00, in Mouchamps.

Details from Iain McGregor

(Iain has sent full timings etc. to those who have requested them, but here is his email address if you need it : mgregor@lalogette.com)

Vouvant Organ Festival

I am taking the liberty also of reminding everyone of the Organ festival in Vouvant over the next months. It has proved extremely popular, so is very well worth supporting.

The website for the concert series is: www.orgueetmusiqueavouvant.com



Thank you

I took this photo while in a wonderful *centre de ré-éducation* near La Rochelle, while recovering from my heart op earlier this year. The sheep were in a meadow adjacent to the clinic, and the view I was able to enjoy was soothing and calming, as you can imagine, when things were far from certain.

I often thought about the prayers so kindly offered on my behalf (among others of course!), so 'thank you' seems a bit inadequate! But...

Thank you!

Nigel

Restos du Cœur, La Châtaigneraie

Thank you all for a splendiferous collection of food and hygiene products for Resto du Cœur at La Châtaigneraie - 2 🛒 loads!

Resto has increased their client list from 65 to 105 families, all of whom are referred by Social Services or doctors & 60% of whom have children. In a just world food banks would not exist & people would not have to stand in a queue to feed their children, but until then the volunteers were thrilled 😊 Their allotment initiative allowed carrots, salad & and box of rhubarb. The wish list includes personal hygiene items (especially sanitary protection products), shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, loo roll, nappies, small cakes / brioches (to bribe little ones into eating their greens) & food which can be prepared with low energy costs. God bless you all.

Mike & Dominique Mylod

For contributions, please contact Dominique Mylod dominiquemylod@gmail.com
Tel. 0044-7799883514 / 02 51 51 07 36



Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:

Jo and Brian

Colin and Hester

Millie-Jean and her parents

Tim and Sharmila

Maureen

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

Clive and Carole

Pat and Roy

Polly

Bob and Caroline

Chris and Ann

Thanks to David Pearson, as always.



Churchwardens' Notes, August 2024

As I wrote last month, I (Doug) will be the author of this month's notes but before I start, an apology to anyone who has been trying to contact me on our landline telephone number. It has been out of order for some considerable time and, as I write, it is still not repaired ! But at least Orange have given me an Airbox to reconnect to the internet so I can receive and send emails.

VOUVANT CHURCH SERVICES

In July we started our three Summer services of Morning Worship at Vouvant church. The other two services will be on the third Sundays of August and September, which will be August 18th and September 15th. Please come along to these services if you can and bring friends, neighbours and holidaymakers to join with us. Yves will again accompany the hymns on the magnificent pipe organ that was built recently for this church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We always need more people to assist with services whether as Worship Leader, reading the lessons or leading Intercessions. There are also other duties and one very important one is that of Sacristan to look after the Communion vessels and linen and set up the altar. Margaret is Sacristan at the moment as well as Churchwarden and we really need someone to assist her and/or take over this duty. In all cases there will be training given - nobody will be "dropped in the deep end"! Please come forward if you can and talk to one of us about volunteering. In Church life there are always vacancies!

As you read this we hope the sun has now returned and you have a joyful Summer.

With our love and best wishes

Doug and Margaret



All Saints, Vendée Treasurer's report for June 2024:

Income: 933.90 €

Expenditure: 406.26 €

We have a positive balance for the month: 527.64 €

We had very few bills this month!

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV, especially to those who contribute regularly via planned giving - it makes such a difference to have a regular income.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Food for thought ! *Many thanks to Trudy Coates*

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.” **G.K. Chesterton,**

An echo from the last century : "I worry that, especially as the Millennium edges near, pseudoscience and superstition will seem year by year more tempting, the siren song of unreason more sonorous and attractive. Where have we heard it before? Whenever our ethnic or national prejudices are aroused, in times of scarcity, during challenges to self-esteem or nerve, when we agonize about our diminished cosmic place and purpose, or when fanaticism is bubbling up around us—then, habits of thought familiar from ages past reach for the controls. The candle flame gutters. Its little pool of light trembles. Darkness gathers. The demons begin to stir.” **Carl Sagan**



A priest is hunting in the woods. He searches and searches but can't find any animals. Finally, in frustration, he throws his gun down and heads to the stream to cool off. About this time, he sees a huge grizzly bear racing towards him. He falls on his knees and says, « God, please protect me. I'm asking you, God, please convert this bear into a Christian ».

Miraculously, the bear freezes in his tracks, puts both paws towards heaven and says, « Bless us, O Lord, for this gift which we are about to receive from your bounty, and make us truly thankful. Amen ».

A mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. How? About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you don't be quiet, Pastor Charlton is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!" Done!

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mom, our teacher told how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Sunday Club

Sunday club story

The Lion and the Mouse

A lion captures a mouse and plans to eat it.

The mouse begs for its life and promises to return the favour if he gets it go. The lion, amused, agrees and lets the mouse go.

Later, the lion gets caught in a hunters net.

The mouse remembers his promise, and comes to the lion's rescue by gnawing through the net and freeing the lion.

The lion is surprised but so very grateful and learns that even the smallest act of kindness can have a BIG impact

- regardless of size or strength !

The End.

Many thanks to Jennifer Wilkinson for another Sunday Club Story.

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

Dates for your Diary

July 2024	
28th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Puy-de-Serre
August 2024	
4th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
11th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
18th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant
25 th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
September 2024	
1st	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
8th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
15th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant

22 nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

East & West Vendée – Church Service Rota July - August - September 2024

**If you find you are unable to be at church on “your” day
...please try to arrange a swap and inform the Worship Leader !**

	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	NOTES	
Sunday 28th July	PDS	11.00	MW		JM	JM	AM	DP	AH, CH		
Sunday 4th August	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD						
Sunday 11th August	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	AC		MM	BC, MK		
Sunday 18th August	V	11.00	MW								VOUVANT
Sunday 25th August	PDS	11.00	MW			CG	AM	DG	CM, KS		
Sunday 1st Sept	LCP	11.00	HC	HD	HD						
Sunday 8th Sept	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	MK	AM	IMG	DG, FMG		
Sunday 15th Sept	V	11.00	MW								VOUVANT
Sunday 22nd Sept	PDS	11.00	HC	HD	HD	JM	AM	CM	AH, CH		

Forward Planning

This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible. If you feel able to “fill in the blanks,” please contact the Organiser concerned – Jenny (refreshments) or Barbara (flowers).

Responsibility (Organiser)	28th July Puy de Serre 11h00	4 th August Puy de Serre 11h00	11 th August Puy de Serre 11h00
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny W Trudy C	Jenny W Trudy C	Jenny W Trudy C
Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews)	Barbara M	Barbara M	Barbara M

	<p>Did you know PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS can be read at: www.allsaintsvendee.fr See : John Matthew's recent Talk</p>	
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ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The times and places for future meetings will be announced as soon as they can be arranged. Anyone wanting to host these meetings in the future, please contact me. (We can no longer host at Moullierion-en-Germain).

New members very welcome!

Contact jennywilkinson213@gmail.com or Joan Stewart jpsmorandiere@outlook.com

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

September issue contributions, please, to me,

Nigel Pearce, at

njp78@hotmail.com

before August 15th 2024 !