

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

 *The Grapevine* 

July 2020

CONTACTS:

Chaplain:

Revd Hazel Door

Phone no: 05 49 87 71 45 email address: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr

Vicarage: 27 rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

New Vicarage Phone no: 02 51 31 23 71

President & Church Wardens

David Martin Phone no: 02 51 00 92 97 email: davidpat.martin@orange.fr

Doug Green Phone no: 05 49 72 18 46 email address: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Assistant Church Warden:

Margaret Kent (PdS) Phone no: 05 49 72 27 72, email: maguyjelley@gmail.com

Lay Reader:

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

Website:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr



4 thought July 2020



It's raining again. Do you remember last year when there were hosepipe bans and set times when farmers were allowed to irrigate because the water table was so depleted? It just never seems to have stopped. The vicarage roof leaked and we had a waterfall down the wall of the stairs. Other people have, I've heard, had roof tiles damaged by hailstones. But we have had a fantastic year for roses, we've been picking strawberries every day, the peas are safely in the freezer, and the garden looks lovely. I know which side of the rainbow I prefer to be on. (Genesis 9. 13)

God's rainbow is the token and arc of God's covenant to every person on earth, of all nations and kindreds and people, and tongues and colours. God's amazing grace and light in His beloved Son on the cross is available to everyone, both Jew and Gentile – all the colours of the rainbow. Christ is God's rainbow light to all people of every colour who can be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

I recently discovered that a rainbow forms a circle, a wonderful image of eternal love.



Events of recent weeks though horrific, are a wake up call to us all, after all we are told that " Genesis 1:27 New International Version (NIV)

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Here in the Diocese of Europe, lead by both our Bishops, we joined in a Zoom service for peace and reconciliation. Here is one of the prayers from that service:

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

With every blessing,
Stay safe,

Hazel



Following Covid 19: a ?brief guide to resumption of worship.

In my recent letter to you all, I mentioned that there were a number of directives that we are required to fulfil before recommencing worship. What follows is an amalgamation of the guidelines of our Diocese and our host churches. They amount to several A4 sheets of paper.

For individuals attending church: carrying of tissues and using them to catch coughs and sneezes, and binning the tissue continues to be important. In addition to this, it is recommended that each individual or each family carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer.

The use of face masks by the clergy and the congregation is *mandatory* to reduce transfer of respiratory droplets into the environment.

Disinfectants and hand washing/sanitizing facilities should be provided at the church entrance; door handles and hand railings need to be disinfected on a regular basis.

Where possible, entrance and exit doors should be secured in an open position from before the time when people gather for the service until after the last worshipper has left.

All sidespeople/welcomers should wash their hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer. *There should be no handshaking or other physical touch.* The ministry of welcome now assumes additional importance and consideration should be given to ensuring responsible lay people such as churchwardens are directly involved in it.

Attendance on arrival at the service should be noted by each person in a registration book, with a personal, not shared, pen or pencil. This measure is needed only to facilitate any contact tracing.

There must be a one way flow of footfall around the church and this should be clearly marked.

Seating arrangements in churches should ensure that there is a one-metre distance between persons in all directions during a service, whether this is standing or sitting, that means a 4² metre zone around each person.

The calculated capacity for Puy de Serre is 32 people, includes 4 sitting in the area behind the organ. There is no capacity problem for La Chapelle Palluau, but for me the daunting task would be to thoroughly clean and disinfect the church interior before and after each service.

The seating areas need to be marked in a way to aid 'distancing'.

Families and individuals who live in the same household can sit together if they are living together.

Church balconies should not be used, as they are difficult to keep safe.

An organist or other musician must be safely distanced as possible
Congregational singing is problematic because singing appears to increase significantly the transmission of potentially infected droplets. *If singing, it should be very softly, and even greater physical distancing will be necessary.*

Liturgy and hymns should be shown on screen or printed and made available to be picked up rather than being distributed by hand. Use of worship and hymn books will need to be avoided.

Readers, preachers, leaders of intercessions etc., should take care not to touch lecterns or pulpits.

Instead of shaking hands with neighbours at the peace, a sign of reconciliation can be conveyed in a different form, such as, bringing together the palms of one's hands and bowing to the other with a smile, as in the Indian Namaste greeting. This greeting should continue at a distance.

The continued guidance is that Holy Communion is distributed in the form of bread/wafer only. Both elements will be consecrated, but the wine should not be distributed. The Church of England has always maintained the teaching that the whole sacrament is received even if it is administered in one kind only.

For the time being, it is preferable that only the presiding minister handles the vessels and administers Holy Communion.

The bread to be consecrated for the whole assembly should remain covered during the eucharistic prayer.

The words of distribution of the consecrated bread should be pronounced by the priest to the whole assembly corporately, so that the actual distribution of communion happens in silence.

The priest must use a face mask (except perhaps when preaching, for the sake of the hearing impaired)

The bread/wafer is safest distributed with communicants approaching in a single line standing with a sensible distance between them. Church wardens will need to make appropriate and feasible arrangements for this.

Offerings are to be placed on a tray at the exit. Those who count the collection at the end of the service should either wear clean gloves, or ensure they have hand-washed before and after with soap and water. We therefore strongly encourage you to online giving and direct debits.

Pre- and post-service gatherings for fellowship and refreshments should not happen.

Scrupulous cleaning of churches will need to be arranged *before and after each use*. Cleaning personnel should be carefully briefed/trained, supplied with proper gloves and disinfectants and (if working more than singly) equipped with masks. We would need to make a rota so that this could be accomplished.

I realise that this is very long and wordy, but it is important that you all know what we face when we return to worship.

Until we meet again,

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you all the days of your lives.

Hazel



Sunday Club



will take place once again in

the Salle at Puy de Serre when our services recommence.

If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m. They will be most welcome.

All children welcome from all denominations, we have lots of interest

Please contact Jenny if you require more information:

email: jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Please see Page 14 for this month's activity.....

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CHURCH SERVICES with LECTIONARY READINGS July into August 2020

With the closure of all our services until further notice, I am including our Lectionary Readings so you can use them for your personal devotions

If, and when, the Covid-19 Restrictions are lifted, please refer to the website for service times.

5th July 4th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-end
Romans 7.15-25a
Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end
Psalm 45.10-end
or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2.8-13

26th July 7th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 29.15-28
Romans 8.26-end
Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
Psalm 105.1-11, 45b [or 105.1-11]
or Psalm 128

12th July 5th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 25.19-end
Romans 8.1-11
Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
Psalm 119.105-112

2nd August 8th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 32.22-31
Romans 9.1-5
Matthew 14.13-21
Psalm 17.1-7, 16 [or 17.1-7]

19th July 6th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 28.10-19a
Romans 8.12-25
Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
Psalm 139.1-11, 23-24 [or 139.1-11]



EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

2020 July	<i>All services have been cancelled until the Restrictions are lifted Please check with the website for updates.</i>
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)	
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	



FORWARD PLANNING ROTA

DATE	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRES-IDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	CHALICE	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	WEL-COMERS	NOTES
5 th July	LCP											4 th after Trinity
12 th July	PDS											5 th after Trinity
19 th July												6 th after Trinity
26 th July	PDS											7 th after Trinity
2 nd August	LCP											8 th after Trinity

*All services have been cancelled until the Restrictions are lifted
Please check with the website for updates.*

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



Barbara
David and Susan
Isi and family
Holly and Rachel
Jenny and Ray
Malcolm
Mike

Penny and David, and their son John
Pam and Brian
Pat and David
Dick
Peter
Pat and Roy
Heidi and her parents, Joël and Jo

....and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of:

Janice Adams
Barbara
Ken Ferguson
Beccy Sackley
Dot (Julie Taylor's mother)
Avril Simmons,
Johnathan Mark Sykes.
Tim Johnson
Tim Bravington

*[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: davidpearson@orange.fr]*

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KEN FERGUSON

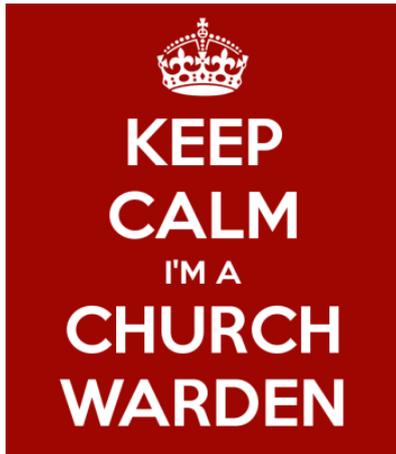
*Ken died on 31st March 2020 and because of the restrictions there was no funeral service for him - he was cremated without mourners. So, now restrictions are easing, we are planning to hold a memorial service - a remembrance on **Friday 24th July 2020 at 2.30pm** followed by conviviality.*

*The service will be in
the Salle de Cérémonie at Martin Funeral Home –
the hall is very large with ample room for ensuring social distancing.*

*The address is
ZA de L'Avenir, 2 Rue Isaac Newton, Coulonges-sur-L'Autize 79160 –
it is just south of Coulonges past Briconautes on the right hand side of the Route de Niort.*

We hope that you will be able to attend - it would be helpful if we could have some idea of numbers so could you let me know if you are likely to be able to attend. I have at last had my phone and internet repaired so I am contactable at :

*La Vergne, 79160 La Chapelle Thireuil,
by telephone at 05 49 04 33 99 or e-mail ireneferguson@clanferguson.co.uk.*



Your Churchwardens write:

July 2020

This really is a "Summer unlike any other"! Not quite sure who originally said this but it has been widely quoted and sums up where we are at the moment. Restrictions are being eased but the Coronavirus Covid19 is still with us and a second wave of infections could occur anywhere and anytime. The end of stay-at-home orders doesn't mean the pandemic is over. It means they currently have room for you in the Intensive Care Unit. It is for this reason that, in the interest of our congregations' safety the Council have decided not to resume services in church. Our Skype meetings are taking place every week and the situation is under constant review. By now you will have received an email from Hazel or seen a copy of her letter on the website. The only reactions received have been fully supportive of our decision and we thank you for your understanding.

Last month, in a Postscript to our report, we encouraged you to join in with one of the many services that can be found on the TV or internet and instructions were given on how to find the service from our Area Dean. We hope this was useful and that you are also able to continue with your own private worship in prayer. We leave you with a prayer taken from the Diocese in Europe website.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Doug and David



Dates for your Diary

July



1st Wednesday

5th Sunday

12th Sunday

19th Sunday

26th Sunday

31st Friday



Dates for your Diary



August

1st Saturday

2nd Sunday

9th Sunday

16th Sunday

23rd Sunday

30th Sunday

31st Monday

Training Day for Emergency First Aid

Training to HSE standard, leading to a certificate valid for 3 years

Was Tuesday April 7th 2020

Postponed to October



ASV Treasurer's Report:

May 2020

Income: 592.00€
Expenditure: 1649.80€

The balance, therefore, is negative for the month: - 1057.20€.

Our major expenditure in May was the hire of the church at Puy de Serre, though we will very kindly be given a pro-rata rebate next year for the time we have been unable to hold services.

This month, our only income has been from the great generosity of those members who have joined the planned giving scheme. We are so very grateful to them. With no other income, no plate collections, no fundraising, nothing, this would be a wonderful time for more of us to join the scheme. It is very easy to join, and, if you pay your taxes in France, you will get a whopping rebate at the end of the tax year! Obviously, things are a little uncertain at the moment - details from any Council member, or the Grapevine. We are all aware of how much ASV means to each of us, and this is the time to stand up and be counted! You do not have to be on the electoral roll to join the planned giving.

Keep healthy, keep isolated, and keep talking to each other!

*Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)*

PS - Please keep any small change you have for the vide-sous! Fiona will collect it when possible!

* * * * *



through the Standing Order Scheme

ADVANTAGES

If you set up a standing order (virement) through your French bank, online, it is cost-free. If you need help doing this, please just ask me, or other council members.

You stay in total control of what you give – the standing order (virement) can be changed at any time, but only by you!

Only the treasurer knows how much you give per month.

You know what you are giving, and exactly when the money comes out of your account, and so your budgeting is much easier.

If you complete a French tax form, then you will get a rebate of 66% at the end of each financial year in which you have made a contribution. That means that a monthly virement of 30€ per month, will only cost you 10€ after tax. A monthly virement of 60€ will only cost you 20€ etc!

If your French tax bill is small, then you will pay no tax at all.

ASV can plan ahead much more effectively, as it knows what contributions are coming in, rather than guessing who is going to be at church!

If you would like to physically put something into the collection plate each service, then there should be small cards which you can collect on your way into church, which you can put into the collection plate as it is passed round.

DISADVANTAGES:

I can't think of any, so why not come and join the party!

British residents:

If you do not have a French bank account, but would like to support the work of ASV on a regular basis, then please contact me, and I can help you. Please note, you cannot use tax-efficient giving in both France and the UK.

Iain McGregor
Treasurer, ASV
mcgregor@lalogette.com



These are YOUR pages.....

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



- Lent Lunches and Easter Raffle,
- Richard's Poem,
- Restos de Coeur;
- Ladies Circle Meetings update



Lent and Easter



Welcome into slight circulation everyone! I still have **Lent Lunch and Easter Raffle** in my sights, but then my eye sight isn't as good as it might be! Until I hear when we are to resume normal services, in all meanings, there is little I can plan. But I would ask all those to whom I distributed raffle tickets, to start, or continue selling, if not lost. Those who haven't yet received any, will hopefully be offered some when more direct contact resumes. Alternatively, should you have any raffle tickets, feel free to sell some of those. Three very large containers of chocolates will now be out of date so I will be hoping to receive new contributions for the raffle, come the day. Meanwhile, I hope to hold both events as soon as normal service is resumed. Watch this space.

Marian



Mike Mylod is our link with **Restos du Coeur**



He will continue to collect gifts of dry goods, etc. which is particularly important now and which will be delivered to the local depot.

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

Thank you to Maggie/Margaret Kent for sharing this poem for publication:

Richard's Poem

My younger brother Richard, who lives in Bristol, was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer at the beginning of March this year, just before the corona virus took effect in Europe. He began chemo- and radio-therapies on Easter Monday. The first three weeks he was fine, then the side effects kicked in. They were so severe that he spent the next three and a half weeks in hospital. The chemotherapy was stopped, but the radiotherapy was continued. He has now returned home to his wife, who had not been allowed to visit him in hospital. I am very happy to say that he is now feeling much better. The tumour seems to have reduced and he is now awaiting another scan to see what the next step will be.

One day, while he was in hospital, he was looking out of the window and contemplating the irony of his isolation in a single ward in hospital, while the rest of us were isolating in our own homes. He wrote a poem. I asked him if I might share it with you and he gladly gave his permission. I find it very emotional and thought-provoking and hope it might touch you too.

Margaret Kent

Bedridden

The Big C has got me.
Time to think, time to reflect.
I look through the dusty window pane,
I see a cloudless, blue sky.
The gentle breeze brushing through the full leaved trees.
Such calm, such serenity, such reassurance that all is well.
But outside of my hospital bubble there is an unseen danger to us all.
The virus that a quirk of nature has unleashed upon us.
Oh, the irony of being in this bubble, at this moment of time for humanity.
Someone or some higher being is my Angel, I so very feel it.
I miss my wife so much, so, so much.
A word or conversation is reassuring,
but there is no substitute for that loving physical contact of a hug with loved ones.
That long, awaited kiss with my darling wife.
The sky is still blue and the sun shines brightly.
One day soon things will return to a new normality.
Nature is repaying us for disrespecting her.
We must all reflect and learn.
All things will pass.
Be patient, respect mother nature.
As I look out of the window and dream, one day very soon, the dream will become a reality.

RICHARD BATTEN - MAY 2020

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020

Thursday 9th July, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 23rd July
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Everyone
Annual Strawberry tea and g

Thursday 13th August, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 27th August, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Annual lunch and shopping trip – venue tba

Thursday 10th September, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 24th September, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Ann
Jane`s Day

Thursday 8th October, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 22nd October, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Jean

Thursday 12th November, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 26th November, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Massage, hair and nails with Jenny,
Ma

Thursday 10th December, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 17th December, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Get ready for Christmas!
Bring and share Christmas lunch

All meetings have been cancelled until further notice

For more information, please contact: Joan Stewart: jpsmorandiere@outlook.com 02 51 00 34 70



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

I'm ever hopeful that this will be our final "Confinement" edition.
Please consult the website for updates

Please send your items for the AUGUST edition to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th July 2020

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





Sunday Club

JUNE 23RD 2020



.....JESUS SEES ME.....

PLEASE READ

LUKE 15: VERSES 3-7

ALSO

PSALM 33: VERSE 18.

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOUR PARENTS WERE WORRIED BECAUSE SOMETHING GOT LOST?

What do you do when you are looking for something -are you focused or distracted?

ACTIVITY: gather 50 common household objects e.g. centimes, paper clip, thimbles, spoon etc.

Spread on the table, everyone looks at the objects (imagine these are living things, creatures or humans) take one thing away, keeping it visible but not in its usual place.

Talk about how important that object is?

What does it tell us how important WE (and those who are lost) are to JESUS or should we focus on the fact we still have 49 left???

Jennifer Wilkinson.