

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

 *The Grapevine* 

June 2020

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4 thought



I have a passion for steam trains, locomotives in particular. One of my favourite jobs was managing the advance bookings for groups, schools and the dining train. But the best part of all, was

the time I spent as a volunteer fireman on the footplate.



Why tell you this? Well, the other day, after the easing of the lockdown, I was told by someone who shall be nameless, that, at last, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. My unthinking response was, "yes, as long as it is not the headlamp of an oncoming train!" Most of the "experts" seem agreed that this could be the lull before the storm, and that a second wave would be even more deadly. So, it is important that we keep the safe practices that have been developed. At the present time it looks as though we may be able to resume worshipping from early June, BUT, as yet there is no official announcement from the Diocese of Luçon.

We have lived through an extraordinary period of time, I expect all our gardens are perfect, and many of the "one day" jobs will have been done (as in I'll do that one day!) The only snag was that we could not dispose of the mountain of throw away items.

Our family in the UK have been similarly cocooned, our eldest daughter, is a senior staff nurse on a Covid ward, our next daughter is on immuno-suppressants for severe arthritis, and classed as vulnerable, our youngest daughter had her spleen removed so has no immune system at all. Our son's youngest daughter has childhood nephrotic syndrome and is particularly at risk. So we have been holding them and their families in prayer.

I've been undertaking a spiritual "spring-clean" too. I've been re-reading some of my very dusty books and have found comfort in two*. Both about Julian of Norwich. She was an anchorite, who counselled people who came to seek her advice. In May 1373 she experienced what she called "Shewings" more commonly called Revelations. It has been hard going, but well worth it. I needed the reminder that "all shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well". If you have never encountered Julian, I commend her to you. Above all her faith and trust in God was absolute. There have been times during this crisis when I have wavered, I needed Julian's words to set me back on course. Do any of you have similar anchoring texts, I would love to hear about them.

With every blessing,

Hazel

*Julian of Norwich, Grace Jantzen SPCK 1987

*Julian of Norwich, Reflections on selected texts, Austin Cooper O.M.I. Burns and Oates 1987

CHURCH SERVICES with LECTIONARY READINGS

June into July 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.

7th June **Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 40.12-17,27-end

2 Corinthians 13.11-end

Matthew 28.16-20

Psalm 8

14th June **1st Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7]

Romans 5.1-8

Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]

Psalm 116.1, 10-17 [or 116.9-17]

21st June **2nd Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 21.8-21

Romans 6.1b-11

Matthew 10.24-39

Psalm 86.1-10, 16-end [or 86.1-10]

28th June **3rd Sunday after Trinity**

Genesis 22.1-14

Romans 6.12-end

Matthew 10.40-end

Psalm 13

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 or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2.8-13

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.

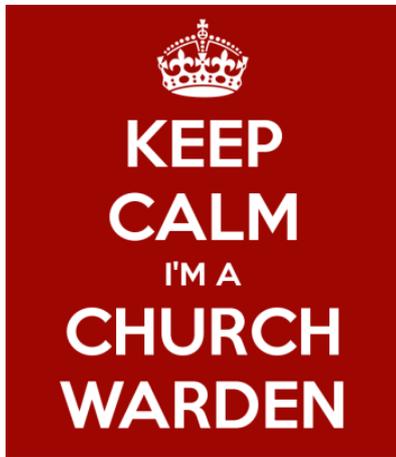
Tel: 02 51 61 05 04 or Email: davidpearson@orange.fr]



EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

DATE	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRES-IDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	CHALICE	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	WEL-COMERS	NOTES
7 June												Trinity Sunday
14 June												1 st after Trinity
21 June												2 nd after Trinity
28 June												3 rd after Trinity
												4 th after Trinity
5 July												5 th after Trinity

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



Your Churchwardens write:

June 2020

There is light at the end of the tunnel! - well at least the light has been switched on hasn't it? As the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are gradually eased we must still take care in our daily life but things will become a little easier. At the time of writing we still do not know when we will be able to resume services in church but we hope you are joining with Sunday worship on the internet or the TV. We eagerly await further news about churches reopening but we will have to comply with whatever restrictions the French government impose.

Your Church Council continue to hold a weekly Skype meeting and we are always available by telephone if needed. At the moment we are financially secure which is certainly due to the regular income from those who pay by Standing Order on the Planned Giving Scheme. If you are not a member and would like to join, we and our Treasurer, Iain, would love to hear from you. Can we leave you with a prayer from the Diocese of Exeter.

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*

Doug and David

PS. You may have heard rumours that Churches can start holding services again towards the end of June. This is still to be confirmed and, at the time of writing, the Diocese of Luçon have not issued any firm instructions but we are certain they will include onerous requirements for social distancing (thus limiting congregation numbers) and disinfecting the Church thoroughly after the service. Again, we must realise that the singing of hymns could spread the virus and we could not join together to have coffee or a bring and share lunch after the service. Our concern is the welfare of the congregation especially as so many fall in the "vulnerable" category due to age and/or underlying health conditions. It is better not to rush and put people at risk so we have not made any plans to resume services until things become clearer. As soon as we have more news, this can be posted under "Stop Press" on our website.

Please continue to join in Sunday services on the TV or on the internet either from your former U.K. church or a Diocese of a Europe church. Our own Area Dean, Tony Lomas, records a service for the internet every week. It can be found by opening the Chaplaincy of Aquitaine website www.churchinaquitaine.org, then click on the box "Church Online", on this next page tap on the box "Services and Sermons" and on the new page you will see a weekly service in the form of a "Vimeo" video which you can play and join in with at home. Hope this helps.

Doug

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

Here is another message from Jenny to help relieve the boredom of these unusual times...

Feast of the Ascension and Easter

WHEN IS ASCENSION DAY?

Ascension Day is the 40th day of EASTER and commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven 39 days after resurrection on Easter Sunday.

It may also be known as the feast of the Ascension, The Ascension of Jesus Thursday, or Holy Thursday.

Ten days after Ascension is Pentecost (Whitsun) which commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

Pentecost ends the cycle of Easter related events in the Christian calendar

References; Mathew 28:6-11

Mark 16:19-20

Luke 24:50-53

Acts1:6-11

During 40-day period BEFORE he ascended into heaven, it is believed Jesus preached and intermingled with his apostles and disciples.

Ascension Day is celebrated primarily by Catholics and Anglican Christians. According to the western Christianity methods of calculating the dates of Easter, the earliest possible date for Ascension Day is April 30th and the latest is June 3rd. (This year 21/25th May 2020.)

Jennifer Wilkinson



Dates for your Diary

June 2020



1st Monday

7th Trinity Sunday

14th Sunday

21st Sunday

28th Sunday

29th

30th Tuesday

FORWARD PLANNING ROTA

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



Dates for your Diary

July 2020



1st Wednesday

5th Sunday

12th Sunday

19th Sunday

26th Sunday

31st Friday



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:

April 2020

Income: 592.00€
Expenditure: 1595.66€

The balance, therefore, is negative for the month: - 1003.66€.

*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"



Restos de Coeur; Ladies Circle Meetings update; Singing round the Piano & Questionnaire
FRIENDS KEEPING IN TOUCH



Here's an idea.... What have you all been doing?
Let's see how we're coping with our enforced confinement (*no, I'm not having a baby!*) Please send me photos of your new or re-newed hobbies and activities, newly discovered talents and cherished homes and gardens. I'll publish them in the next edition.



Mike Mylod is our link with
Restos du Coeur

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

Mike can be contacted by phone at: 02 51 51 07 36



ASV LADIES' CIRCLE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020

Thursday 11th June 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 25th July 2.30pm
Ladies Circle – at
Cakes: Mel
Ladies Circle Olympics!

Thursday 9th July, 2.30pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 23rd July, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: Everyone
Annual Strawberry tea and games with Sandy

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

Thursday 10th December, 2.30pm
Ladies Circle
Cakes: hair and nails with Jenny, Maggie, Sandy

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

FRIENDS KEEPING IN TOUCH

Many thanks to Marlene and John Thacker, holidaymakers who regularly join us at Puy de Serre for Services, Bible Studies and Ladies Circle. They have recently moved to Lutterworth in Leicestershire and joined their local church. Theirs is an active church with many ideas for keeping folk in touch with their community during Lockdown as will be seen from their letter,

They write:

Hello,

We hope you are keeping well and free of Covid 19. We do follow the "Grapevine" newsletter to help us keep up to date even though not much is happening at present. We send everyone at PDS our greetings and we long to come and see you all again. When that will be, we can only guess.

We are both keeping well and coping with the lock down as best we can. The days pass with a regular monotony, we try to get a walk nearly every day, but otherwise we are mainly confined to barracks. Our son and his wife do a weekly shop on line for us and a highlight of the week is when we drive down to Rugby to collect this from their house. While we have to maintain the social distancing rules at least we are able to see them and the grandchildren through the window. An additional benefit is that it keeps the car battery charged!

The church here has set up a CRISIS team that organizes volunteers to offer help during the lock down for people who are at higher risk. We have someone who does some additional shopping for us and who collects medical prescriptions etc., and last week she also brought us a cream tea. Over 300 cream teas had been donated by a local catering business to mark VE Day and distributed by the CRISIS team.

Churches are closed for services but the Anglican church here in the Lutterworth Benefice holds services on line using computer technology so as to maintain social distancing. For anyone interested they can be accessed on line at www.lutterworthchurch.org/live. There are also links to other info about the church where John Wycliffe was the rector when he began the first translation of the Bible into English. He is regarded by many as the 'Morning Star' of the reformation pre dating many of the European reformers such as Martin Luther and others of that time. St. Mary's Lutterworth also has some very early wall paintings, covered over during the reformation, but now revealed in the nave and over the door in the North isle.

We also use our laptop to continue our Christian fellowship including a virtual meeting on ZOOM that we hold every Thursday morning.

Many thanks Jacqui for maintaining the newsletter in this time of social isolation. I am sure it makes an important contribution to keeping people together and maintaining Christian Fellowship and witness in this difficult time for us all.

Kindest regards
Marlene & John

"Lutterworth Church News" provides a flavour of what the church is doing in these changed time. Some of our friends in France might like to log on to the church services. It could be that at this present time God is showing us a way that Christians can develop a wider fellowship using modern technology.

www.lutterworthchurch.org



“SINGING ROUND THE PIANO”



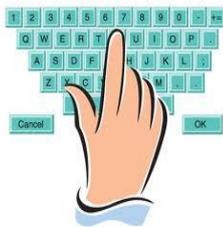
We managed to meet twice before our Confinement started so, if there is still interest when normality(?) returns, we hope there will be a 3rd meeting.



Bad Timing!



As Stuart has received no response recently to the Favourite Hymns Questionnaire, (apart from the same 5 which were received before our “Confinement” started), it appears there is little interest (and of course hymn singing is banned for the time being in French churches). If you still feel inclined to complete the Questionnaire, we shall be pleased to receive them.



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



My thanks to all the Contributors.
Hopefully, this will be our final “Confinement” edition so

Please send your items for the JULY edition to:

Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

before 15th June 2020

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