

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

 *The Grapevine* 

February 2023

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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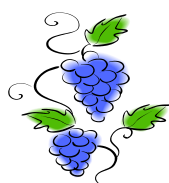
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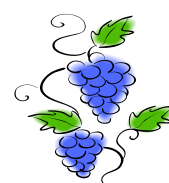
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4-Thought February 2023



The 15th of February is the start of the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday. The liturgical colour changes to purple. Purple represents penitence and preparation because it signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death. Purple is used during both Advent and Lent. In Lent, purple is used beginning with Ash Wednesday and extending through to Maundy Thursday.

There seem to be several reasons for the choosing of purple.

In Bible times, clothing for common people was usually drab and unbleached. It was hand-woven, usually from sheep or goat's wool. Only the rich could afford expensive, dyed cloth. Roman soldiers could afford beautiful clothing since they were paid well, but also they could take whatever they wanted from captive peoples. We don't know where the robe came from that the soldiers draped over Jesus when they were mocking him. With that robe, they also gave him a crown of thorns and a reed for a sceptre. They jeered him as the "king of the Jews".

Everything at Jesus' crucifixion was predicted beforehand: the jeering crowd, his whipping, his piercing, the earthquake. The crown of thorns was implied by Isaac's substitutionary ram in Genesis 22:13 being caught in a thicket of thorns. The reed was a weed like those that grew for Adam after the Fall. Even the colour of his robe has meaning. Luke 23:11 simply calls it a "gorgeous robe." Matthew 27:28 says it was a scarlet robe. The Tabernacle described in Numbers is a picture of the ministry of Jesus as our High Priest. It was covered over by scarlet.

However, Mark 15:17 and John 19:2 say it was a purple robe. Is this a conflict? No, because there was no quality control back then. Dyes were not colour fast and often changed shades depending upon the dying process. The same Greek word translated purple can also mean any shade from violet to crimson, or any colour between blue and red.

Which brings me to Lydia. Who??? See Acts 16:13-15, 40.

Lydia ran a successful business selling a luxury product: purple cloth. This was a unique achievement for a woman during the male-dominated Roman empire. Lydia was in either in the dry goods business or the apothecary business. She either sold dyed cloth or the chemical for dying clothing. Purple, the colour of royalty, undoubtedly would be a prized commodity. Lydia was pretty well off. She seemed to be the householder of her place, and when she was baptized she invited Paul and his companions and whoever else may have been with them to stay at her house, which invitation was accepted. So, she was not just a person hawking her wares on a street corner, but undoubtedly a substantial business woman of the community.

More importantly, though, she believed in Jesus Christ as Saviour, was baptized and had her entire household baptized too. When she took Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke into her house, she created one of the first home churches in Europe.

The colour purple is, therefore, a sombre visual reminder of the colour worn by the true King before His ultimate sacrifice for us and prompts us to take action to repent of our sins, ask God for forgiveness, and renew our faith in Christ.

During Lent, Christians take stock of their lives in a sort of "spring cleaning" of any behaviour that leads us away from Christ. As part of this spiritual self-reflection, we pray and repent of our sins while focusing on our mortality and dependence on God. Many Christians also fast and withdraw from certain activities during Lent to replicate Christ's fasting and withdrawal into the desert.

Hazel



With thanks to Bishop Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe and Bishop David Hamid. Extract from their Epiphany letter to chaplaincies.

In his Christmas Sermon of 2006, the Late Pope Benedict XVI said: 'Without the light of Christ, the light of reason is not sufficient to enlighten humanity and the world.' Benedict was unapologetic in declaring the lostness of humanity without God, and he recalled the Church to confidence in her faith and confidence in the saving truth of the gospel. Benedict was one of the great theologians of our time, and it is very likely that the importance of his work and his teaching will take several decades to be fully received and appreciated. Our Assistant Bishop David had the honour of being invited to Pope Benedict's funeral, in recognition of his role as Co-Chair of IARCCUM and his work more generally in Anglican- Roman Catholic dialogue.

Pope Benedict entitled his first encyclical 'Deus Caritas Est'. The encyclical's Introduction announces that being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea but the encounter with an event, a person, who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Christianity is more love story than intellectual system. And in the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, we are reminded that no-one else has a God who is so much for love! No other tradition begins with a baby in a stable whose birth is announced by a choir of angels and who receives gifts from kings and homage from shepherds whilst cattle keep him warm with their breath. Pope Benedict would want us to be enthralled by the truth, beauty and goodness found in an encounter with Christ and to be people who enable others to encounter him too

.The qualities of goodness, beauty and truth, stand out all the more sharply in our contemporary Europe which is so deeply scarred by the evil, ugliness and falsehoods associated with war. And the war in Ukraine affects many beyond Ukraine's borders, with high food and energy prices causing real suffering that extends beyond Europe to the global South.

The war in Ukraine is only one of the challenges that are affecting the life of our chaplaincies. We continue to feel the impact of Brexit – particularly its effect on mobility and residence/visa requirements; some communities are still recovering and rebuilding post-Covid, and all of us feel the prevailing sharp cost of living increases. We reiterate our gratitude and thanks to all our ordained and lay leaders who continue to sustain chaplaincy life in these difficult times.

Yet despite sometimes being hard-pressed, our communities are places that embody the glorious light and hope of the gospel. Through the preaching of the word and the administration of the sacraments, faith in God is being encouraged. The love of Christ is mediated through the warmth of Christian fellowship and practical care for those in need. Benedict used the image of stained glass windows. From outside the windows appear dark. But if you step inside you are bathed in an amazing spectrum of light as the pieces of glass refract the rays of the sun!

These life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ occur mostly in local chaplaincy communities. (In The Vendée, and throughout France, we serve all English speaking peoples those of faith and those of none.)



Churchwardens' Notes For February 2023

As this is our first "Notes" for 2023, may we wish you all "Bonne Année".

Ecumenical activities

On the 11th January there was an Ecumenical meeting and buffet at Fontenay-le-Comte. We were invited this year for the first time to join with the Catholic and French Protestant congregations and we were made very welcome. There were 10 of us from ASV and, before the buffet, each of the three church groups gave a talk with Iain translating Hazel's talk. On the 22nd January it is the Ecumenical service at Foussais-Payré during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is a "4th Sunday" so we hope all our congregation will be able to attend what promises to be an interesting and thought provoking service.

Quiz nights.

We have now held three successful quiz nights and our thanks to the "team" who have organised them. They have made a significant contribution to our "outreach" as well as being successful social and fundraising events. There are two more quiz nights planned on the 17th of February and 17th March. We hope as many people as possible will be able to attend - and bring their friends along to make a team.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

We have sent £80 to the Finance office in London.

Pancake Evening - Saturday 11th February

Each year the RC congregation at Puy de Serre hold a "Soirée Crêpes" in the Salle and, again, we have been invited to attend. It is always a pleasant evening with a menu of savoury and sweet crêpes. It will be on Saturday the 11th February and we encourage as many as possible to attend - we are always made very welcome. Please let Iain know if you are going so he can give numbers to the organisers.

We hope 2023 will be a more "Normal" year and look forward to working and worshipping with you throughout the coming year.

Doug and Margaret.

Coffee and Bring and Share Lunches at Puy de Serre

Since resuming Bring and Share Lunches at Puy de Serre over the winter, the number of people staying for them has dwindled substantially. After discussion, the Council decided that we will not continue with them for the time being, but readdress the situation around Easter time, when, hopefully, with warmer weather, we can think about restarting again.

Please let us know how you feel about this.

However, Coffee and Tea after the service will continue as an important part of our fellowship together. After all, it's often the only time many of us get time together for a drink and a natter!

Your Churchwardens
Margaret and Doug.

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



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

Steve (*Hazel and Martin's
son-in-law*) and **Nicky**
Liam (Polly's nephew)
Menna (Mair Pugh's
Mum) and **Nel**
Pat and **Roy**
Polly

...and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of
Peter Somerville

The family and friends of
Eelan Hodgson

*[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]*




Dates for your Diary

February 2023



1st February Wednesday

5th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

12th Sunday. 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre ( Resto Collection point)

17th Friday 6pm **Quiz at the Salle**, Puy de Serre

19th Sunday No Service

22nd ASH WEDNESDAY – No service

26th Sunday 11hr00 **Morning Worship** at Puy de Serre

28th Tuesday February

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



Dates for your Diary



March 2023

1st March Wednesday

3rd Friday **World Day of Prayer 2023**

5th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

11th Saturday **World Day of Prayer** to be held at Linda & Nigel's in St. Gilles Croix de Vie concentrating on England Wales and Northern Ireland.

Time to be discussed. Contact: lindaungtintin@outlook.com

12th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

17th Friday 6pm **Quiz at the Salle**, Puy de Serre

19th Sunday No service

26th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

31st March Friday

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

...and Looking Ahead...

APRIL 7th 11hr00 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

MAY 14th AGM – After the service at Puy de Serre

EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

FEBRUARY INTO MARCH

| DATE 2023 | VENUE | TIME | SERVICE | PRES-IDENT | PREACHER | WORSHIP LEADER | ORGAN-IST | CHALICE | INTER-CESSOR | READERS | WEL-COMERS | NOTES |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|------------|----------|----------------|-----------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|-------|
| Sunday 5 th February | La Chapelle Palluau | 11.00 | HC | HD | | | SS-J | | | | | |
| Sunday 12 th February | Puy de Serre | 11.00 | HC | HD | | MK | SS-J | | DP | SP KS | | |
| Sunday 19 th February | No service | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday 26 th February | Puy de Serre | 11.00 | MW | | JM | JM | SS-J | | DG | CG GK | | |
| Sunday 5 th March | La Chapelle Palluau | 11.00 | HC | 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

FEBRUARY INTO MARCH

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Responsibility (Organiser) | 12 th February Puy de Serre 11hr00 | 26 th February Puy de Serre 11hr00 |
| Salle Setup/Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS) | B&S Lunch - cancelled | B&S Lunch - cancelled |
| Refreshments after the service in Salle (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS) | Jenny | Jenny |
| Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews at PdS) | | |

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.

Grapevine Treasurer's Report:

November 2022:

Income: 1676.30 € (including organ fund donations)

Expenditure: 739.48 €

We had a positive balance for the month: 936.82 € (includes organ fund)

December 2022:

Income: 1325.50 € (including organ fund donations)

Expenditure: 1188.46 €

We again have a positive balance for the month: 137.04 € (includes organ fund)

Please remember that, with people returning to the UK, our income from Planned Giving is now the lowest since 2019. If anyone wishes to join the scheme, please let me know at mcgregor@lalogette.com.



Thank you hugely to everyone who has contributed so generously to the organ fund. It is now closed, and a new organ is on order. We look forward to hearing it when it arrives!



The October and November Quizzes raised a combined 800 € - Thank you to everyone who took part and enjoyed themselves! The income will help toward the donations for the running costs of the churches at Puy de Serre and LCP.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)



Sunday Club

No one will be turned away,
everyone is welcomed

We are now open for children to attend Sunday Club activities including Holidaymakers.

Please contact Jenny if you require more information:

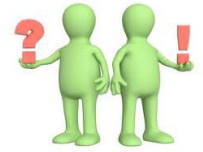
email: jennywilkinson213@gmail.com



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



These are YOUR pages.....



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

*Pancake Evening; Ladies Circle; Resto du Cœur; ASV Quizzes; Sunday Club x2
The Remnants; Photos of recent Events*

Pancake Evening - Saturday 11th February



Each year the RC congregation at Puy de Serre hold a "Soirée Crêpes" in the Salle and, again, we have been invited to attend.



It is always a pleasant evening with a menu of savoury and sweet crêpes.

It will be on Saturday the 11th February and we encourage as many as possible to attend - we are always made very, very welcome.

Here is the information Iain has received from the organisers:

- group places need to be booked at least a week in advance, though individuals may get away with rather less notice
- the price is 10-15 € - to be advised.
- drinks will not be included, but cider, wine and on-alcoholic beverages will be available.
- the evening of joyous merriment will be held in the Salle St Augustin at Puy de Serre, which is our usual venue for coffee and lunch on a Sunday.

If ASV wishes to book a table, or a few places, then we'll need to tell them a week in advance. I will pass on the information to the organisers.

So,

Please let Iain know at:

mcgregor@lalogette.com

if you are going so he can give numbers to the organisers

The last two **ASV Quizzes** of the season

All welcome – invite your friends and neighbours!

Friday 17th February 6pm &
Friday 17th March 6pm

10€ to include a meal and prizes,
but please provide your own drink, cutlery and
glasses.

Please book by **Sunday 12th Feb/12th March**
by contacting:
Fiona McGregor mcmgregor@lalogette.com

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle and Sewing Group
always welcome newcomers.

Contact: Joan Stewart, or Jenny Wilkinson

Jpsmorandiere@outlook.com

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

The next **Ladies Meeting** will be 9th February and

The Next **Sewing Club Meeting** will be 23rd February

Venues to be arranged so please contact Jenny ~Wilkinson for detail

**OUR
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**



Lots of food, fun and friends get together at Christmas.

The Remnants – January 2023

**We, The Remnants,
wish all the Grapevine family
a Happy and Healthy 2023.**



How quickly time goes by, as we slipped through December, celebrating Christmas with our families, rushed into the New Year and here we heading full speed ahead for the end of January. We all enjoyed the Christingle, organised by Fiona on the 19th of December by Zoom. I enjoyed a second one in the church near my sons in UK.

As there were no services in Chapelle Palluau in January the Remnants arranged two get togethers, on the 11th and 22nd January. The first was at Linda and Nigel's home. Such a pleasure to get together and read God's word and Pray together and Nigel got to choose his favourite psalm, that he so loves. There was tea and coffee after, and time to chat about our lives and families. Who doesn't have a few worries to iron out and it's oh so good to talk and pray about it with Christian friends.

On Sunday the 22nd we will meet again at Alison and Ian's home. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch, however we all look forward to Alison and Ian's lovely roast dinner in front of a cosy fire.

How fortunate we are to be able worship without restrictions, and in a peaceful country.

Joyce

....and.... (thank you, Linda)..

Celebrating Joyce's Special Birthday





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 Mouilleron-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



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

www.allsaintsvendee.fr





Sunday Club

The House of Bread



In Hebrew, Bethlehem means the House of Bread.

When we hear the word « bread », we are likely to think of a baguette, or sliced white loaf, or a wholemeal cob.

In the Bible bread is mentioned many times, such as in the miracle of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes (Matthew 14 :15 - 14 : 21) and of course when we say the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to « give us this day our daily bread ».

We're not asking God just to deliver a loaf, but to grant us what we need to get through the day, to love and to serve Him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus took up the bread, and said »This is my body which is given for you «.

So when God gives us our daily bread, He gives us the gift of love through Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (John : 6 :35).

So Bethlehem where Jesus was born is indeed the House of Bread.



Basilica of the Nativity

Trudy

Amazing Grace - Poem by Laura Darrall

Amazing Grace

What is your sound?

You are the waves

You are the ocean spray that batters on the new born day

And raises reckless raving rays of sunrise into squinting salt-soaked eyes

You are the cries of gulls that kiss the clouds and

You are loud

How sweet your sound

You are the thunder rolling in the bay that darkens out the night

You are the lightning strike that crackles and cracks open the creases in the crests of the cliffs that keep us from falling

You are the dawn calling

You are the silence that sits after the sun has sunk beyond the horizon

You are the Whys and Wheres and Hows and Whats of language

You are the bandage I reach for when all I can do is reach

Amazing Grace

How sweet Your sound

I was blind

But now can see

(Sunday Worship 250 Years of Amazing Grace

BBC Radio 4 1st January 2023 6.05 British Time)

Trudy

**Ecumenical Service at Foussais
Payré 22nd January 2023**



**Bi-lingual Carol Service at
Vouvant
with newly restored Organ**



There was a craze in the UK this year for knitters and crocheters to decorate (“Yarn-bomb”) Pillar Boxes with festive scenes. Here is one we discovered on Tenterden High Street in Kent, which depicts the Nativity – Jacqui S-J



My thanks to so many of our Grapevine Friends around the world for their Christmas Greetings and Good Wishes for 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

Send your items and comments for the **March edition** to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th February 2023

