

The Grapevine

July 2026



Hot work ! Roofers in the shadow of the Church, La Châtaigneraie, July last year

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Welcome to the July Grapevine!

Hello everyone. The reason I chose the photo on the title page of the Grapevine was that, when I took it, we were sitting at a café terrace opposite the aforementioned work, in the shade, sipping our coffee, feeling sorry for the chaps toiling away in – yes, 29°C. As I write this, it is 32° *inside*, and ‘inside’ is the only place to feel reasonably comfortable. Hazel speaks in her *4-thought* of the hottest day this year *so far*. She certainly had the ‘so far’ right. I hope you enjoy this month’s offering, and manage to stay safe, cool and hydrated throughout the summer !

Nigel

All Saints Vendée

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4-thought

Rev Hazel

On probably the hottest day in the year (so far), more that 20 of us gathered to meet with Bishop Andrew Norman and Archdeacon Peter. The visit had been in the planning for several weeks, and was intended as a tour of the French North West Deanery.



Much gratitude to our team on the ground as the Salle St. Augustine was turned into a worship space, then a meeting, then a lunch venue.



Everyone brought food, and once the business of the day was completed, we all tucked into a splendid meal. Everyone seemed please with the visit. It is always good to be able to put a face to the name. Bishop Andrew has been appointed the lead for the Diocese in strategic matters, and he spoke about his role across the Diocese in various aspects. Our Archdeacon outlined his future once he returns to Leicester Diocese at the end of July and spoke of the forthcoming procedures in the appointment of his successor. There will be an acting Archdeacon for Switzerland, and one for France, Ben Harding in Lyon. The process is likely to take as long as a year! All in all it was a very enjoyable (though hot) afternoon! We sent them on their way to join the Chaplaincy in Tours, relieved there was air conditioning in their car.

COMING UP

Date for your Diary: The first Summer service will take place on Sunday 19th July in the church at Vouvant. Once again everyone is welcome to join us in Morning Worship starting at 11.00. As our French neighbours say, *Venez nombreux !!!*

Like many of you, Martin and I will be welcoming many family members in the coming months, and it makes for special moments, storing up memories to treasure. I recently did an audit and to my horror tallied 14 grandchildren, and with a recent new addition, 10 great grandchildren ! I give thanks for them all, *and* that they don't all come at once! But we will certainly enjoy the times we spend together.

Hope you all have a very blessed month, Hazel

Bishop's visit – Melon Salad Recipe from Christine Hester

Several people asked for the recipe for the melon salad that we shared on 18th June. Normally I make half this amount as a main course salad to serve 4 people with bread to mop up the remaining dressing.

Ingredients

2 Charentais melon - peeled and cut into chunks
6 large vine tomatoes - cut into chunks
1 cucumber - with some of the skin removed and cut into slices
2 packets of Feta cheese cut into small chunks
Fresh mint - handful washed and chopped

Freshly squeezed lemon with olive oil, salt and ground black pepper for the dressing

Method

Place all the chopped ingredients in a serving bowl and pour over the dressing.



Churchwardens' Notes - July 2026

Unfortunately, we have to start with sad news of the passing of our dear friend Mike Mylod, who died peacefully at his new home in the UK. We became good friends after he introduced himself to me at the Puy de Serre Church one day, and he said he had remembered me for a presentation I had done to promote the new Police Sergeant's training course to the 'top teams' (it turns out he was Assistant Chief Constable in Hampshire) along the south of England. I was surprised as that would have been in the mid 1990s (probably 20 years or so before) so being from a different force (Sussex!) I had no memory of meeting him. I asked if he remembered me because either the presentation was poor or if it had been good. I immediately liked him when he replied, 'it must have been alright as we adopted the course'. So cheers, Mike.

Now in more uplifting news, many of you will be aware that the newly installed suffragan Bishop of Europe, Bishop Andrew, paid a fleeting visit to All Saints Vendée here at Puy de Serre on the 18th of June, along with the Archdeacon of France, Peter, and his visit is documented in Hazel's "4-Thought" above.

Following on from this, we would like to remind all that the third Sunday services for July, August, and September will be at the church at Vouvant and again, it would be a joy to see as many as possible, including visitors who will be made most welcome, so do come along even if only to listen to the beautiful sound of the amazing organ being played !

That's all for now from Chris and Maggie.

Mike Mylod

Mike Mylod died peacefully in the early hours of 9 June at his home in Southampton. He moved there from Mouilleron-en-Pareds with the great help of his daughter Dominique.



Mike will be cremated in the United Kingdom and his ashes brought back to Mouilleron to be scattered near to those of his late wife Jean.

As a young man, Mike joined the Fleet Air Arm to do his two years National Service. He found himself on board an aircraft carrier and thoroughly enjoyed his time there. He later joined the police force and with his wife Jean, he worked for some years in what was then called Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. After returning to the United Kingdom, he rose to the rank of Chief Constable, serving both in Hampshire and Devon. After their son and daughter had grown up, Mike and Jean moved to

France in the early 2000s and soon became members of the church congregation. Mike served for some years on the Church Council, also as Chalice Assistant, Worship Leader and who can ever forget his Intercessions - always relevant and delivered so eloquently.

His wife Jean had been dogged by arthritis throughout all her adult life and she sadly died of cancer in 2016. Gradually other friends and church members moved away from Mouilleron. Mike became progressively infirm and eventually was persuaded by his devoted daughter Dominique to return to the United Kingdom to live near to her in very caring surroundings.

We will never forget his recollections of a Senior Police Officer who constantly misquoted words and phrases. Mike was a wonderful raconteur and a great friend.

Mike, you are very much missed. We have some wonderfully fond memories of you over glasses of red wine and roast dinners. Mike, "The world was your lobster"!

Margaret

ORGUE & MUSIQUE À VOUVANT



CONCERTS 2026

15 concerts de mai à novembre
Église de Vouvant

Poster forwarded by Rupert – many thanks



Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers :

Bob and Caroline

Gini and Martyn

Roy

Hazel and Martin

Jo and Brian

Maureen

Millie-Jean and her parents, Tim and Sharmila

Nell (Mair and John's daughter)

Carole and Clive

Sally and David

(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)

Grapevine Treasurer's Report



May 2026

Income: **1718.08 €**

Expenditure: **2743.14 €**

We have a negative balance for the month: **-1025.06 €**

The negative balance was largely due to the annual payment to the Church of England's Common Fund. Hopefully, next month should look more positive!

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV.

If you would like to join the Planned Giving scheme - please contact me (mcgregor@lalogette.com), and I will send you the details. Participating will give you about 66% off your French tax bill!

pp Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

In c u b r a t i o n s

In c u b r a t i o n s

In c u b r a t i o n s

« The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. »
attributed to Albert Einstein

Every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the limits of the world. Schopenhauer

« A series of scientific breakthroughs helped undermine religious faith over the centuries, including Galileo's heliocentrism, Newton's clockwork universe, Darwin's theory of evolution, and the revelation that Earth is not thousands but billions of years old. But in drawing upon those exact fields of study to reverse the long-term march toward unbelief, the authors appear to have missed the mechanism by which those prior discoveries eroded faith: Namely, that people had staked their belief on evidence that was overturned by subsequent data. There is always a risk that today's proof will be undone by tomorrow's evidence. » Elizabeth Bruenig, a staff writer at *The Atlantic*.

Now I lay me down to sleep

I pray the Lord my soul to keep

If I die before I wake (grain of sand)

Pray the Lord my soul to take

Pietà (pity) – any painting/artwork depicting Mary holding Jesus' dead body.

Pietà by Annibale Carracci 1599-1600
Museo di Capodimonte, Naples



Pietà by Michelangelo 1498-1500
St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City



Bring and share lunch Sunday, prayer and medication to follow.



The volunteers in La Châtaigneraie always express their heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations , so please keep them coming.

There is always a shortage of nappies, so if you are not sure what you would like to donate, a pack of « couches N° 6 » will be extremely welcome !



. Donations are crucial to Resto's work, so again my thanks too, to everyone for your generosity !

Trudy





Dates for your Diary



June 2026	
28th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
July 2026	
5th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
12th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
19th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant
26th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
August 2026	
2nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
9th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
16th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
30th	
September 2026	
6th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
13th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
20th	Sunday 11h Morning Worship at Vouvant
27th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre



ASV Service Rota June/July to September 2026

	2026								
D	M	Venue	Time	Service	President	Worship	Organist	Inter-cessor	Readers (2)
						Leader			
28	June	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	JW	AH/TC
5	July	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
12	July	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	CM	IMG/FMG
19	July	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
26	July	PdS	11h	HC	HD	JM	AM	MK	JW/GK
2	Aug	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
9	Aug	PdS	11h	HC	HD	CG	AM	DG	KS/BC
16	Aug	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
23	Aug	PdS	11h	HC	HD	AC	AM	JM	CM/MK
30	Aug								
6	Sept	LCP	11h	HC	HD				
13	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	DG	AM	CG	AH/CH
20	Sept	Vouvant	11h	MW			YR		
27	Sept	PdS	11h	HC	HD	MK	AM	TL	TC/JW

ASV Service Rota 2026 – Index of names and positions

Name		Abbrev.	Worship leader	Intercessor	Reader
CATTELL	Rupert	RC			X
COATES	Trudy	TC			X
CONDIE	Anne	AC	x		x
CONDIE	Bill	BC			
DOOR	Hazel	HD			
GREEN	Chris	CG	x	x	x
GREEN	Doug	DG	x	x	x
HESTER	Alan	AH			x
HESTER	Christine	CH			x
KENT	Geoff	GK			x
KENT	Margaret	MK	x	x	x
LOMAS	Tony	TL		x	
MATTHEWS	John	JM	x	x	x
McGREGOR	Fiona	FMG			x
McGREGOR	Iain	IMG			x
MILTON	Ann	AM			
MILTON	Chris	CM		x	x
PEARSON	David	DP		x	x
PEARSON	Sally	SP		x	x
SLATER	Kate	KS			x
WILKINSON	Jenny	JW		x	x

Please note :

If you are unable to be at church for your place on the rota, please try to arrange a swap and inform the Worship Leader.

Anne Condie 05 49 06 27 72
 Doug and Chris Green 05 49 72 18 46
 Margaret Kent 05 49 72 27 72
 John Matthews 05 49 75 29 71

HC Holy Communion
 MW Morning Worship
 YR Yves Rousseau
 LCP La Chapelle Palluau
 PdS Puy-de-Serre

“Forward Planning”

Responsibility (Organiser)	Puy de Serre 11h Services
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny W, Trudy C
Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews)	Barbara M

Ladies' Meeting

June's ladies' meeting was on Thursday 25th at Debbie's. This month we experimented with air-dry clay !

Everyone is always welcome (if you're a lady looking for crafting)

Please contact Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com
For further information.

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Ladies meetings are normally held every 4th Thursday of the month, and at Debbie's Lench's house when possible.

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

For details and directions, please contact Jenny – email below. **Anyone willing to host these meetings in the future, please contact Jenny !**

The times and places for future meetings will be announced as soon as they can be arranged.

New members very welcome!

Contact jennywilkinson213@gmail.com



Don't forget

All previous sermons and talks can be accessed at:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Grapevine!

Please also consult the
website for any updates.

Thank you, if you managed to get your contribution to Grapevine to me by this week. I know we all have busy lives, and it is much appreciated that I don't (usually!) have to chase people for copy.

Having said that, there's always room for more, and if anyone would like to (for example) put together a couple of hundred words about their year, their summer, a happy family event or any other blessing, don't hesitate !

If there is anything which you'd like to be published in the **July 2026** issue, do make sure you submit it to me, at njp78@hotmail.com

ideally before June 15th 2026

I look forward to all next month's offerings!

Nigel