

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

 *The Grapevine* 

**July 2023**

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



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**4-Thought**  
**July 2023**



Following on from last month's 4 thought, I began looking up the saints we celebrate in July. Here I must confess a partiality, my birthday falls on the day we commemorate St. Ignatius Loyola. Amongst those who are also celebrated this month are:

Thomas the Apostle , Thomas More, Scholar, and

John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535.

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550.

Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862

Mary Magdalene,

James the Apostle,

Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord.

St. Swithun fascinated me, not just for the legend of rain on his day, the 15<sup>th</sup>, but that he is widely regarded as one of the saints to whom one should pray in the event of drought! Might be useful this year? According to Wikipedia:

*The shrine of Swithun at Winchester was supposedly a site of numerous miracles in the Middle Ages. Æthelwold of Winchester ordered that all monks were to stop whatever they were doing and head to the church to praise God every time that a miracle happened. A story exists that the monks at some point got so fed up with this, because they sometimes had to wake up and go to the church three or four times each night, that they decided to stop going. St. Swithun then appeared in a dream to someone (possibly two people) and warned them that if they stopped going to the church, then miracles would cease. This person (or persons) then warned the monks about the dream they had, and the monks then caved in and decided to go to the church each time a miracle happened again.*

St. Ignatius Loyola, was the founder of the society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. Born in the Basque country, he became firstly a soldier, then following a battlefield incident, had to have a leg amputated. During his convalescence his only solace was found in a book about Christ and biographies of Saints, simply because that was the only book available.

One historian referred to Ignatius as a "worldly saint." One thing to know about Ignatius is that he was far from saintly during much of his young adult life. He was vain, with dreams of personal honour and fame. He gambled and was not above sword fighting. It has been noted that he might have been the only saint with an official police record: for taking part in a night-time brawl.

However, he made sure his men were spending most of their time, not in pulpits and confessionals, but in relatively secular spaces such as classrooms — teaching less directly about the Bible and Church doctrine than about literature and the ancient classics. He sent letters to his missionaries asking that they write back not just about their ministries, but also about the local customs, the plants and wild life — "anything that seems extraordinary." Most of all, Ignatius Loyola wanted his Jesuits and everyone to go out and "find God in all things."

Today, Jesuits work in education, research, and cultural pursuits. Jesuits also conduct retreats, minister in hospitals and parishes, sponsor direct social and humanitarian ministries, and promote ecumenical dialogue.

Hazel



# 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  
**Maureen**  
**Malcolm (Butcher)**

**Steve** (*Hazel and Martin's son-in-law*) and Nicky  
**Liam** (*Polly's nephew*)  
**Nel** (*Mair & John Pugh's daughter*)  
**Pat** and **Roy**  
**Polly**  
**Bob** (*Rev'd Caroline's husband*)

*...and for the bereaved:*

The family and friends of  
**Bill Stocking**

The family and friends of  
**Eelan Hodgson**

The family and friends of  
**Jean Gibbs**

*[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]*

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## 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](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)*

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

# Churchwardens' Notes

## July 2023



Well, summer seemed to have descended upon us very quickly! It's so nice to welcome the hot days, but we must be careful not to moan because it's too hot and sticky and how much we would like some steady rain! The grass and weeds in our gardens seem to grow whatever the weather!

We are hoping for a warm summer's day on 21 July, when the ecumenical afternoon and evening has been planned. There will be a gentle walk, with lots of local interest, of about 6 km, starting from Foussais Payré at 14.30. We then have a picnic (please bring your own food, drink, chairs, table etc) at 18.30 followed by a concert in the church at 20.00. Please don't feel you must attend all three events, but it would be lovely to see you and spend some time in fellowship with our fellow French Christians.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first summer Morning Worship at Vouvant on 18 June. It's a lovely way to begin Sunday Worship. Don't forget there are two more on 16 July and 20 August, followed by coffee at Rupert Catell's chateau in the town. Many thanks to him and his wife for their hospitality.

As you know, apart from a well-attended Bring and Share Lunch after the AGM this year, we have been serving coffee and tea only after our services in Puy de Serre. We have had some interest in re-starting the Lunches, but in order to do so, we would like your feedback on whether you would be interested in attending and helping with clearing up afterwards - not actually an onerous task, but one which often falls to the same people. Please give your opinion to one of us, or someone else on the Church Council. The elected members were all mentioned in last month's Grapevine Churchwardens' Notes. Many thanks, your opinion is valued.

The worldwide news recently seems to be even more horrific than ever - killings of 'ordinary' people going about their business, migrants drowning after setting sail in very small boats, the huge dam in Ukraine being bombed, accidents a-plenty - we could go on and on. Most of these incidents are man-made. Let us count our blessings in our communities here in France and pray that evil people repent and make this earth the beautiful place that was given to us by God.

Look after each other.

Your Churchwardens,  
Margaret and Doug



# Dates for your Diary

## July 2023



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1<sup>st</sup> July Saturday

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday **Church Council Meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Morning Worship** at Vouvant

21<sup>st</sup> Friday starting 14hr30 **ECUMENICAL WALK, PICNIC & CONCERT – FOUSSAIS PAYRÉ**  
For more information, contact Iain McGregor

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday

31<sup>st</sup> July Monday

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



# Dates for your Diary



August 2023

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1<sup>st</sup> August Tuesday

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6<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau – to be confirmed

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13<sup>th</sup> 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

Blank lined area for the 13<sup>th</sup> of August.

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Morning Worship** at Vouvant

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27<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

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31<sup>st</sup> August Thursday

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

# EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

## JULY INTO AUGUST

DATE 2023	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	INTERCESSOR	READERS	NOTES	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J				
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	MK	SS-J	MM	AC DG		
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Vouvant	11.00					Resident organist			Vouvant Church	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG	AM	JW	CG MK		
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	No service										
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	Service – to be confirmed				SS-J If required				

**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

### JULY INTO AUGUST

Responsibility (Organiser)	9th July Puy de Serre 11hr00	16th July Vouvant 11hr00	23 <sup>rd</sup> July Puy de Serre 11hr00
<b>Refreshments after the service</b> in Salle at Puy de Serre (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	No Bring & Share Lunch	Chateau	No Bring & Share Lunch
<b>Flower Rota</b> (Contact Barbara Matthews)	-	-	-

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: May 2023:

Income: 715.00 €  
Expenditure: 1348.13 €

We have a negative balance for the month: - 633.17 €

The main expenditure this month was our contribution to the Common Fund.

Planned Giving this month produced 89.5% of our total income - we can see the importance of the scheme. Without the generosity of our planned givers, we would be in severe difficulties! If anyone else would like to join the Planned Giving scheme, please contact the Treasurer:

Iain McGregor, email: [mgregor@lalogette.com](mailto:mgregor@lalogette.com), and we'll set you up in no time! Remember you qualify for an important tax rebate if you pay your taxes in France.

Iain McGregor  
(Treasurer)



## These are YOUR pages.....



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

*Keeping in touch x 2; The Remnants;  
Ladies Circle; Resto du Cœur;  
Sunday Club x 2; Ecumenical Walk, Picnic & Concert  
"The Last Hurrah!" Quiz Night*



It's such a joy to hear from Our Church friends.... Keeping in touch....

Hello

In response to your invitation to past members of ASV to get in touch, we are pleased to say that we are both well and still able to spend time gardening at our house three miles from the coast in Lincolnshire. We sold our holiday home in late 2019, (luckily just before Covid hit) after spending 3 months a year for 17 years in Sigournais. We remember meeting friends at all the Churches in ASV and enjoyed the services and Stuart playing the organ, plus the well-attended coffee mornings and walks.

Thank you for continuing to send the Grapevine which we find very interesting and we hope that ASV continues to thrive.

***Gil and Janet (Clarke), Lincolnshire***

Dear Jacqui

We are both generally in good health- some minor and not so minor- problems but that is age catching up with us. We are quite busy too - don't know where the time goes. John is church warden and for quite a while has been on his own but another warden has now been appointed so that should ease things. We were also interregnum but recently appointed a new Rector. John also leads a small Bible Study and fellowship group weekly, here they are called Life Groups. We love the church and its fellowship.

We aren't sorry that we sold the house (*sic.in Courlay*), all that gardening all the time was getting too much and definitely would be now- we reached our limit.

We know that you will be thinking and praying about what happens next. When one door closes another opens - have faith and trust that in the end 'all will be well and all manner of things will be well' (Mother Julian of Norwich). Please let's keep in touch, if we can help we will.

Love and God Bless – ***Marlene & John (Thacker), Lutterworth***

## Ecumenical Walk ~ Foussais-Payré



Friday 21st July 14.30

**14.30 Walk:** dep. Foussais-Payré Car park (behind church)

Distance: about 6km with stops at Le Désert, Villeneuve, Foussais church and Foussais temple to look at historical and spiritual significance of each site

**18.30 Picnic:** Parc du Prieuré (bring your own food)

**20.00 Concert:** in Foussais church

*All welcome*

(well-behaved dogs on leads included!)



Organised by the local Catholic,  
Protestant and Anglican churches



Contact John Matthews or Iain McGregor [mcgregor@lalogette.com](mailto:mcgregor@lalogette.com) for further information

## Annual Ecumenical Walk, Friday 21 July 2023 departing at 14.30 from behind the church at Foussais.

The committee met again this morning to confirm the plans. We invite you all to join us on a gentle 6km countryside walk, with breaks to look at how four local sites of interest intertwine to become part of a shared church history. We will use small by-ways and bridlepaths for the most part, with only a very small section of the walk being on road. You will not even need walking boots, though stilettoes are not recommended!

Starting from the car park behind the church at Foussais-Payré, at 14.30 with a gentle amble to Le Désert where Protestants hid after their freedom to worship was ended in 1685. Then onto the hamlet of Villeneuve where a barn served for many years as a Protestant Temple, then back to the church at Foussais to look at the imagery on the magnificent West Front, and finally to the Protestant Temple. There will be booklets in English

summarising what is said at each site of interest.

An apéro will precede the bring-your-own picnic at 18.30 in the gardens behind Foussais church, so please put your chairs and tables in the boot of your car! At 20.00, after the picnic, the day will conclude with a concert given by the superb little choir "Les Voix Romanes". If the weather is inclement, the picnic will be held under cover.

Dogs will be very welcome on the walk, but probably not at the picnic!

The walk has been organised by the local Catholic, Protestant and Anglican churches. Entrance is completely free, although contributions for the choir would be appreciated. No need to book, but advance notice of intent to participate would be helpful.

It will offer a chance to meet some new people, to learn about each other's faith, to exchange ideas, and to familiarise ourselves with some bits of local history.

It promises to be a very varied, interesting and pleasant day out - **everyone** is welcome, so please invite your friends!

Looking forward to seeing you on the 21 July at 14.30!

If you would like some further details, please contact Iain McGregor at [mcgregor@lalogette.com](mailto:mcgregor@lalogette.com).



# 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



	<p>Did you know PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS can be read at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr">www.allsaintsvendee.fr</a>  <b>18<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>  <b>TALK given by</b>  <b>Lay Minister, John Matthews,</b>  <b>at Vouvant</b></p>	
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# *Sunday Club*



## *Something to chew over* *Complaints Desk*

There is a story that when prayers arrive in heaven, they are sorted, a bit like letters in the post office sorting office, into various categories, such as complaints, requests, calls for help, which keeps a team of angels very busy. But there is one category where the assigned angel has very little to do, and frankly gets bored.

This is the angel assigned to collect the thank you prayers. Sad isn't it?

So let's all cheer this angel up with prayers giving thanks to God for all the good things, such as the love of friends and family, having a home, food and drink, suitable clothes, the beautiful countryside we live in, the trees and flowers, the blue sky, the rain (yes we need rain), all the wonderful animals and birds around us, and.....

Can you add to the list, and cheer the thank you angel up?



Trudy



# Sunday Club

## *The Shoe Man - A Poem by Leanne Freiberg*



My alarm went off  
It was Sunday again.  
I was sleepy and tired  
My one day to sleep in.  
But the guilt I would feel  
The rest of the day  
Would have been too much  
So I'd go and I'd pray.

I showered and shaved  
I adjusted my tie.  
I got there and sat  
In a pew just in time.  
Bowing my head in prayer  
As I closed my eyes.  
I saw the shoe of the man next to me  
Touching my own. I sighed.  
With plenty of room on either side  
I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"  
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine  
But it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: "Our Father"...

I thought, "This man with the shoes  
has no pride.  
They're dusty, worn, and scratched  
Even worse, there are holes on the side!"

"Thank You for blessings," the prayer went on.

The shoe man said  
a quiet "Amen."  
I tried to focus on the prayer  
But my thoughts were on his shoes again.  
Aren't we supposed to look our best  
When walking through that door?  
"Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought,  
Glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended  
And the songs of praise began.  
The shoe man was certainly loud  
Sounding proud as he sang.  
His voice lifted the rafters  
His hands were raised high.  
The Lord could surely hear  
The shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering  
And what I threw in was steep.  
I watched as the shoe man reached  
Into his pockets so deep.  
I saw what was pulled out  
What the shoe man put in.  
Then I heard a soft "clink"  
as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me  
To tears, and that's no lie  
It was the same for the shoe man  
For tears fell from his eyes.  
At the end of the service  
As is the custom here  
We must greet new visitors  
And show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow  
And wanted to meet the shoe man  
So after the closing prayer  
I reached over and shook his hand.  
He was old and his skin was dark  
And his hair was truly a mess  
But I thanked him for coming  
For being our guest.

He said, "My names' Charlie  
I'm glad to meet you, my friend."  
There were tears in his eyes  
But he had a large, wide grin  
"Let me explain," he said  
Wiping tears from his eyes.  
"I've been coming here for months  
And you're the first to say 'Hi.'"

"I know that my appearance  
Is not like all the rest  
"But I really do try  
To always look my best.  
"I always clean and polish my shoes  
Before my very long walk.  
"But by the time I get here  
They're dirty and dusty, like chalk."

My heart filled with pain  
and I swallowed to hide my tears  
As he continued to apologize  
For daring to sit so near.  
He said, "When I get here  
I know I must look a sight.  
"But I thought if I could touch you  
Then maybe our souls might unite."

I was silent for a moment  
Knowing whatever was said  
Would pale in comparison  
I spoke from my heart, not my head.  
"Oh, you've touched me," I said,  
"And taught me, in part;  
"That the best of any man  
Is what is found in his heart."

The rest, I thought,  
This shoe man will never know.  
Like just how thankful I really am  
That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.



# Sunday Club



## *The Shoe Man*

...Continued...

"The Shoe Man" is an inspirational poem said to be credited to Leanne Freiberg; others believe the author to be unknown. It causes us to rethink how we judge and treat others. It also encourages us to connect with others. We never know what may be going on in their lives, but God does.

Will we take the risk and the time to connect so they will see Jesus? We may be the one whose soul is truly touched.



This poem reminds me of the story Jesus told called The Parable of the Guests to teach a similar lesson. Jesus taught in Luke 14:7-15:

*"And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them,<sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him,<sup>9</sup> and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

*<sup>12</sup>And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,<sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."*

*<sup>15</sup>When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"*

Jenny

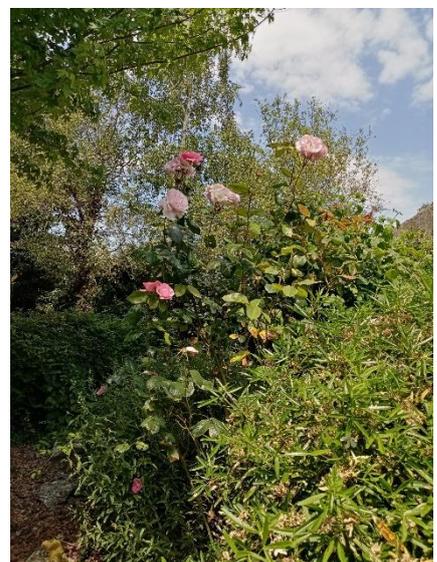
(with thanks to The Creative Bible website)

# The Remnants

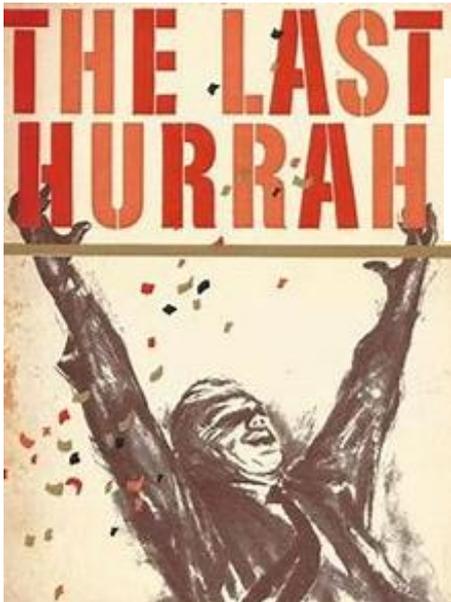
## La Chapelle Palluau – June 2023



We haven't had any meetings this month so far so here are some photos taken by Linda at our last Bring & Share Lunch in Jo and Brian's garden Joyce



Here's a Date for your Diary....



# QUIZ

We have just had confirmation from the Salle  
that

## **Curtis and Dee's Last Hurrah Quiz**

will be on  
8th September 18.00 hrs  
in the Salle at Puy de Serre.

*Fiona*



## **ASV LADIES' CIRCLE**



### **The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group**

always welcome newcomers.

Next month we will be learning how to crochet.

Please contact Jenny Wilkinson for details:

[Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

**The Ladies Group  
belated Coronation Party**



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](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)**



Please send your items and comments for the **August edition** to:

Jacqui at: [sjfamily66@hotmail.com](mailto:sjfamily66@hotmail.com)

**before 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023**