

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

 *The Grapevine* 

March 2023

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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**4-Thought
March 2023**



Recently I wore a sweatshirt to Church and comments were made which intrigued me. The "slogan" on its front read: 'It is well with my soul'. Being a curious individual, I started to look up the origin. That's when it got interesting.....

There is a hymn "It Is Well with My Soul" which was composed by Philip Paul Bliss, with lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford. One commentator remarked that the message focused on how life can be unpredictable and challenging, but faith and trust in God can help us to overcome hardship and tragedy. Spafford had lived through his own tragedy, his four daughters were lost when a ship sank in mid Atlantic, his wife survived and was taken to England, en route to be with her he passed over the scene of the sinking, and thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become this well-loved hymn:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

I was surprised to find the phrase cropped up in several places in the Bible:
Psalm 46:1-3

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

Psalm 42:7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me. Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well with my soul verses from the Bible help us see how we can still feel and believe that everything will be okay even when the evidence points to the contrary. These verses will help us deepen our faith in the most crucial points of our lives – when we are hurting. They contain messages of hope, love, strength, and comfort.

Several of my favourite hymns also stem from those Bible verses:

Be still my soul, As the deer pants for the water, but why not look for yourselves? Let me know what you come up with, we may be able to incorporate them into worship.

Every blessing, Hazel.



Dear Sisters and Brothers

I attach a letter concerning this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, which this year comes over my signature, due to Bishop Robert's sabbatical. I pray that the people of the diocese will respond generously as you have done in past appeals.

With prayers for the upcoming holy season of Lent

+David

Bishop David Hamid
Diocese in Europe

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16 February 2023

To the Clergy and People of the Diocese in Europe

Very soon we will embark on our Lenten journey once again. These are extraordinary times, with war continuing in Ukraine (the focus of our 2022 Appeal), and with unprecedented suffering in South East Türkiye and North West Syria as a result of recent earthquakes. The people of our diocese have been generous in responding to these huge needs, and certainly the people of Ukraine and Türkiye/Syria are very much in our prayers.

It has been the tradition for the Bishop's Lent Appeal to focus on a particular need *within* our diocesan family. We have pockets within the diocese where the reality is much more like the developing world than what is experienced in the comparatively rich north. One such area of the diocese is Morocco.

Many have now settled in the region of the capital, Rabat, where we have not had a permanent Church presence. Thanks to the vision of past chaplains in Casablanca and the dedication of a core of supporters in Rabat, a new congregation is being built up. **This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is to support this congregation in the next crucial phase of its development.**

Archdeacon David Waller outlines below more details of this project:

A Church Extension Opportunity at Rabat

The Diocese is seeking to develop an independent new chaplaincy in Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco, and within the Archdeaconry of Gibraltar. Morocco is officially a Muslim country. His Majesty King Mohammed VI very graciously permits the Church of England to operate in his country ministering to the Anglican faithful from abroad. This new work in Rabat builds on this special permission.

The current congregation there is dedicated to St. Augustine of Hippo, an African saint, reflecting its largely African composition, and they use a beautiful modern chapel, kindly donated for our use by the local Catholic Archdiocese, with whom we have good ongoing ecumenical relationships. Cardinal Cristóbal López is a personal friend of the congregation.

For the last eight years St Augustine's has been a growing outreach project run from the long established Church of England Chaplaincy in Casablanca which is a two hour train journey away. The distance has meant that only a quick Sunday service can be provided. The needs of the Anglican Community in Rabat are now at the point when it is time for a new and exciting step in faith – independence within the diocesan family! The congregation is embarking boldly on the next phase which will be a resident priest to further build up St Augustine's.



Carey Duncan the Warden at Rabat writes:

"The prospect of having a permanent chaplain to support our worshipping community in Rabat is almost too exciting to grasp! On a superficial level, just the idea of being able to enjoy some leisurely fellowship after a service, instead of having to rush

to get the priest off on the next train home is a luxury. On a more serious level, having someone to take charge of pastoral care and help meet the needs of our congregation and to help grow it, would be such a blessing! Being able to celebrate the Eucharist on a regular basis would be such a treat. - something we will never take for granted again!"

To establish a resident chaplain's post in Rabat we will need accommodation, a basic stipend and some associated costs of setting up and running this new venture. The Diocesan Mission Opportunities Fund has promised part funding for this project and we are hopeful that our previous mission relationship with USPG may also provide some financial support.

Even during the pandemic the successive chaplains from Casablanca did much good work in Rabat, caring for congregational members, and preaching the Gospel through action and word, but the distance prevented further development of such work. The congregation at St. Augustine's is made up largely of people from sub-Saharan Africa along with a significant Filipino grouping and it is very much a 'developing world' Christian community, but within our own 'developed world' diocese. Generally speaking, the individuals and families have very modest means and many seek spiritual and material guidance from the Anglican Chaplaincy there in order to survive. This young, multinational community have great loyalty to the Church, but their financial capacity is very limited. Their needs of pastoral care and accompaniment, worship, teaching, advice, advocacy and community can best be offered by a resident priest.



The Lent Appeal is specifically aimed at helping the next step in the development of St. Augustine's by providing chaplain's accommodation, very much fitting in with our diocesan strategy encouraging a welcome of, and a working with, migrant communities often experiencing poverty.

As the Archdeacon has said, the appeal touches on several of the priorities of the diocese: building up the body of Christ, resourcing ministry, interfaith and ecumenical relations and ministry to migrant and refugee communities. Your gifts will help to establish a new congregation, extending the work of the Church, in a vibrant capital city, serving a young, international community, whose needs are great. I hope that the people of the diocese will support this appeal generously.

Donations can, as always, be given to the Diocese via your chaplaincy treasurer with the note 'Bishop's Lent Appeal'.

May our ever living God bless you this Lent, and give us hearts that look outward to the world and her peoples, and respond those in need with love.

Your brother in Christ

+ David

How you can donate to the Bishop in Europe's Lent Appeal 2023 :

By cheque:

"Advent Appeal 2022".
Diocese in Europe Board of Finance
14, Tufton St
London SW1P 3QZ

By bank transfer:

Account number: 40317039
Sort code: 20-06-13
IBAN: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 3170 39
Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

On the Diocese in Europe Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/diocese-in-europe>

Or: via your Chaplaincy Treasurer to Nick Wraight in the Diocesan Office

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

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]*



Churchwardens' Notes For March 2023

As we write, the appalling tragedy of the **earthquakes in Turkey and Northern Syria** is unfolding. It is now over a week since it happened and very few people are now being found alive. The death toll is already in the tens of thousands and expected to rise substantially. Many of the people left behind have little food, water, access to sanitation or shelter and the temperature drops to very low levels at night. There are of course many others in need of medical and surgical help. The rescue teams are working all out to do what they can. If nothing else, we can help by sending money to buy what is needed. The Diocese in Europe can give some guidance here. Their website is <https://europe.anglican.org>. You can also donate by putting money in an envelope in the church collection, marking the envelope "Turkey/Syria". Or you may prefer to search for Disaster Emergency Committee on the Internet. We are so blessed to live in an area where major earthquakes do not happen.

After the successful bi-lingual **Ecumenical service** at Foussais Payré held on 22 January, it was decided to donate the collection to aid the people of Ukraine, who are still living in a war situation. There is an Anglican church in Kiev which is part of the Diocese in Europe. We were able to send 324 euros to the fund after the service.

The **World Day of Prayer** will be celebrated this year at St Gilles Croix de Vie and hosted by Linda and Nigel Gorton at their home. Details to be found elsewhere in the Grapevine (see Page 15) They would love to see you there, so please let them know if you can make it.

Our **Good Friday service** at Puy de Serre will be held on 7 April at 11.30 and the church Annual General Meeting will be held in the Salle at Puy de Serre after the church service on 14 May.

There will be another **Quiz** in the Salle at Puy de Serre on 17 March. These are proving to be popular so do bring your friends for a fun evening with a delicious meal included!

We end with a prayer for the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria from the Diocese in Europe:

"We pray for the people of Central Turkey and North West Syria, whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake. Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness. Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Blessings to you all from your Churchwardens,

Doug and Margaret

REVISION OF THE ASV ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll of a church is completely updated every six years - this was last done in 2019. Once updated, the Electoral Roll Officer is required to revise the Roll each year shortly before the Annual Meeting (AGM). The Council has now fixed the date for the AGM and it will take place after the service on Sunday May 14th 2023. The revision has to be completed not later than 15 days before the AGM (i.e. April 29th.) and not earlier than 28 days before the AGM (i.e. April 16th). Once it has been revised, the Roll is "frozen" until after the AGM has taken place.

If anyone wishes to join the ASV Electoral Roll, please complete an Application form and return it to me as soon as possible. An application form can be obtained from me or you can download the copy found elsewhere in Grapevine. Completed application forms will be approved by Council and names added to the Roll. If anyone wishes to have their name removed from the Roll, please contact me. If you are on the Roll, and wish to remain on the Roll then there is nothing you need to do.

Only people on the Electoral Roll are allowed to nominate or stand for Churchwarden or a Council Member. Again, only Roll members may attend the AGM and vote in elections or for motions at the AGM. In other words, membership of the Electoral Roll is the way to be able to take an active part in the life of the church. If you need more information please contact me, greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk, or 05 49 72 18 46.

Chris Green
Electoral Roll Officer



The Diocese in Europe
The Church of England

Application for Enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll of All Saints, Vendée

Please use capitals and complete as appropriate.

Full Name.....

Full Normal Address
.....
.....

Email Address.....@
(optional)

I declare that

1. I am baptized, am a lay person and am aged 16 or over
(or, become 16 on)

AND (tick only ONE of boxes 2A, 2B or 2C)

2A I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and have my name entered on the electoral roll of a parish or chaplaincy in the Provinces of Canterbury or York. (ASV is in the Province of Canterbury).

2B I am a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and I have habitually attended public worship in the chaplaincy during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

2C I am a member in good standing of a Church not in communion with the Church of England which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and also declare myself to be a member of the Church of England and I have habitually attended public worship in the chaplaincy during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll for the chaplaincy.

Signature..... Date.....

Please return by hand or by post to the Electoral Roll Officer, Chris Green, La Vialière, 79240 Largeasse – or by hand to the Chaplain, a Warden or any Council Member.

Notes. 1. Like many churches in France we enjoy active participation of people who spend part of their time back in the UK or elsewhere. Accordingly we follow the advice of the Diocese in Europe and adopt a generous interpretation of the six month rule.

2. If you have any problem with this form, please approach any member of the Church Council who will be pleased to help you.



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 11hr00 **World Day of Prayer** to be held at Linda & Nigel's home in St. Gilles Croix de Vie concentrating on Taiwan. Contact: lindaungtintin@outlook.com

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

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

19th Sunday **Mothering Sunday** - No service

23rd Thursday **Ladies Meeting** is making cards with Julie Taylor. But as yet no venue has been arranged.

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.



Dates for your Diary



April 2023

1st April Saturday

2nd Sunday 11hr00 **PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

6th April **Maundy Thursday** - No service

7th April 11hr30 **GOOD FRIDAY** Service

9th Sunday. 11hr00 **EASTER DAY Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre (Resto Collection point)

16th Sunday No Service

23rd Sunday 11hr00 **Morning Worship** at Puy de Serre

27th Thursday **Ladies Meeting** will be with Jane Lock. This has to be confirmed

30th April Sunday No Service

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

...and Looking Ahead...

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

EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

MARCH INTO APRIL

DATE 2023	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST	CHALICE	INTERCESSOR	READERS	WELCOMERS	NOTES
Sunday 5 th March	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00					SS-J					
Sunday 12 th March	Puy de Serre	11.00	HC	HD		WL	SS-J		MK	SC		
Sunday 19 th March	No service											Mothering Sunday
Sunday 26 th March	Puy de Serre	11.00	HC	HD		DG	AM		MM	IMG FMG		
Sunday 2 nd April	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD			SS-J					Palm Sunday

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

MARCH INTO APRIL

Responsibility (Organiser)	12 th March Puy de Serre 11hr00	26 th March 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:

January 2023:

Income: 1198.15 €

Expenditure: 1456.35 €

We have a negative balance for the month: -258.20 €

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV. We have a small deficit this month, as we have paid for the new organ from the most generous donations received last year. Stuart is still waiting for the waterproof case to protect it, and we are still working out how to insure it!

Fundraising: apart from the social benefits, the quizzes will enable us to cover most of the cost of our use of the two churches for the coming year.

I shall be sending out the tax rebate forms for 2022 in the next month or two.

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...

SO

KEEP READING.....



These are YOUR pages.....



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

Soirée Crêpes; World Day of Prayer; Ladies Circle; Resto du Cœur;-ASV Quiz; Sunday Club; The Remnants; Photos of recent Events

Soirée Crêpes



Each year the RC congregation at Puy de Serre hold a "Soirée Crêpes" in the Salle and the congregation of All Saints Vendée was invited again this year.

Canada was the theme at the Soirée Crêpes and the tables beautifully decorated with appropriate emblems. A few All Saints Vendée members joined in the well attended and convivial evening. After a starter of vegetable soup we were each treated to two savoury pancakes, one with mushrooms, one with ham, and two sweet pancakes with a choice of fillings. There was also a raffle and a few quiz questions about Canada.

Later in the evening, it was good to see a lot of young people join the occasion, no doubt tempted by the delicious pancakes !



Please come and join us, we will be coming together to participate in the

World Day of Prayer on March 11th at 11am.

Venue is at Linda and Nigel Gorton's home:
6bis rue des Epinettes,
St Gilles Croix de Vie, 85800

This year we are concentrating on



Taiwan

So we can get an idea of numbers, please contact us by either:

Email: lindaaungtintin@outlook.com

landline: 02 51 60 23 72 or

mobile: 07 80 53 02 58

We look forward to seeing you very soon,

Linda and Nigel

.....It's the last of the season.....



ASV Quiz

Friday 17th March 6pm, Puy de Serre 



All Welcome – invite your friends
Fáilte roimh chách!



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

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

The Remnants – February 2023



We had a truly joyous time at our meeting on the 12/2/2023. It was a time to meet old friends who we hadn't seen for some time and to be with all our dear friends. It was good to see how we had all survived the last couple of years and although we are all getting more mature, there is still time for laughter and praise. Thank you God, You are moving in this place.



Linda

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

always welcome newcomers.

The Next **Sewing Club Meeting** will be 23rd February at Debbie's, Menomblet

The next **Ladies Meeting** will be 23rd March "Making Cards with Julie Taylor.

Venue to be arranged.

April 27th **Ladies Meeting** will be with Jane Lock. Venue to be arranged.

Venues to be arranged so please contact Jenny Wilkinson for details

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.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 Moulleron-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

LYDIA. ACTS 16:13-15



In last month's Grapevine Hazel wrote about Lydia, and of a Purple robe which was thrown over Christ during his crucifixion .

In biblical times coloured robes/cloth was an expensive commodity which could only be bought by the rich, like roman soldiers whom were well paid. A business woman called Lydia realised an opportunity to produce this beautiful colour cloth. Now Lydia was not only very productive and successful, but a real follower of Jesus and believer of God, Lydia was good friends with Paul the disciple who baptized her.

Lydia also sold dried goods and was an *apothecary, *(a person whom prepares and sells medicines and drugs) also dyed cloth (purple) or the actual chemical for dying clothing. So making her a substantial business woman of the community, but more importantly, she believed in Jesus Christ as our saviour, and she took into her home Paul, Sila, Timothy and Luke and created the first home churches in Europe.

So how did she obtain this rare and beautiful colour? nowadays, there are many ways to create it but back in biblical times purple dye came from 🐚 sea snails caught by their thousands and boiled for days in giant lead vats, producing a terrible odour but could produce many shades of purple. Which you can imagine made it an expensive item to produce and sell.

So 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 take a look at our spiritual self-reflection, to repent our sins, to ask God for forgiveness, and to renew our faith in God.

Amen

Jenny Wilkinson.

It was Polly's 80th Birthday just one week after her "release" from hospital. Members of the Vendée churches helped her to celebrate:



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 **April edition** to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th March 2023



