

The Grapevine

March 2025





Christine Hester, here with Alan and the Rt Rev Michael Langrish, was confirmed by him on 14th February, a happy occasion enjoyed by a full congregation !

The Grapevine, March 2025

Welcome to the March edition of your Grapevine ! While February brought its own delights and excitements (some of which we could have done without, like the scam email episode !), it is great to be able to welcome Hazel back, as she continues to recover from her back operation – along with her own ‘4-thought’ (thank you Doug, for your contribution in her absence !).

Contact details:

<p><u>Chaplain & President:</u> Revd Hazel Door Home phone: 05 49 87 71 45 e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr</p> <p><u>Vicarage:</u> 27 rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges: Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71</p>	<p><u>Churchwarden:</u> Doug Green: Phone: 05 49 72 18 46 ; e-mail: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p><u>Churchwarden and Lay Vice-Chairman:</u> Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72 e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Lay Minister:</u> John Matthews: Phone: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr</p>
---	--

Website:
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

4~thought

Rev Hazel Door

Firstly, allow me to express my deep appreciation of the love and care shown by ASV members to Martin and I, during our recent medical hiatus'. We were truly uplifted and heartened and cherished by the many messages we have received. Martin is now being treated for Sleep Apnoea and learning to use a pressure mask at night. I'm making slow progress, very frustratingly slow, but getting there. I still have some discomfort, but I'm happy to say that the level of pain is much reduced, and God willing, will disappear over time. Thank you to you all.

We're now entering the time in the Church's calendar known as Lent. 46 days, (Sundays included), of preparation for Easter, and the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often. Or is it really just a time of giving up chocolate or social media?

As many Christians mark the beginning of Lent this year on Wednesday, March 5th, known as Ash Wednesday, it's important to remember that primary purpose of Lent is a time of repentance. That's not a feeling of shame but an awareness that sin separates us from God and what Christ endured to save us from sin, death, and the devil. "Shame has its place, but feeling shame over sin is not the same thing as repentance from sin" because "our tempter can take our obedience to God and turn it into a source of pride." Lent should always lead us toward gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter.

I recently preached about making oneself available to God for His work, using the old catch phrase "I'm Free!" Lent is a great time to reflect on that ; are you "Free" to serve God??

Soon we shall be holding our AGM, and will need to elect one new Warden and a Secretary for the Chaplaincy council. We will also need new council members. But, there are many other ways in which you can offer your commitment! Worship Leading, Eucharistic assistants, Sidespeople, members of the prayer chain, and so on. Please use this Lenten period to seek God's will for your lives, look for ways in which you can offer the skills you have in service to God through All Saints. Give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus, seek how to serve others in His name and for His glory!

Hazel.



Churchwardens' Notes

March 2025

At last it looks like Spring is on its way, with snowdrops dancing, daffodils waking up and primroses beginning to appear in our hedgerows. Let's hope that 2025 will prove to be less wet than the last 18 months or so!

Just a few dates for your agendas:

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March
- The Anglican Mothering Sunday is on 30 March. There will be no service in ASV this year as it falls on a 5th Sunday of the month
- Easter Sunday is on 20 April, which is a third Sunday of the month. We would normally have no service, but will do so this year at PdS as it is such an important and rapturous festival.
- Our AGM will be held on 11 May this year after the Holy Communion service at PdS.
- Chris Green, our Electoral Roll Officer will be asking everyone to fill in a new Electoral Roll form very soon. It must be renewed by all this year, so please endeavour to take note and complete the form. More details can be found elsewhere in this month's Grapevine.

What a joyous occasion it was when Bishop Michael Langrish visited us for the Confirmation of Christine Hester. Doug and Chris Green kindly met him and Peter Hooper, our Archdeacon, at Niort railway station on the morning of 14

February and drove them to the Salle Saint-Augustin in Puy-de-Serre. Awaiting them were some 30 of our congregation and several other friends and we were able to partake of a varied and tasty 'Bring and Share' lunch. There was to be a village 'Soirée Crêpes' evening the next day and the salle had to be vacated by 15h00. Many thanks go to Samantha, one of Hazel and Martin's daughters, who did most of the washing up! The Confirmation and Holy Communion were then held in the Church, with the celebrants in red. Afterwards, we were treated to some 'Fizz' and cake made by Christine before Doug and Chris took our visitors back to the station for an overnight stay in Paris before another Confirmation the next day.

The whole occasion was one of solemnity and fellowship. It was personal not only for Christine and her husband Alan, but it also felt so for the rest of us. It was a very happy day to remain fixed in our memories.

With Love and Blessings to You All

Doug and Margaret

Complete renewal of the Electoral Roll

Every six years all churches in The Church of England are required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll and the old Roll is redundant. This year is one such year on the six year cycle and so, as Electoral Roll Officer, I will be preparing this new Roll to take effect at the Church Annual Meeting (AGM) which will be on Sunday, May 11th 2025. The Church Representation Rules state that the Roll "must be completed at least 15 days, but no more than 28 days, before the annual church meeting" so I will be closing the roll between the 13th and 26th April. Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment before 13th April and new forms will be available shortly.

Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting and to stand for election to the Church Council. Please contact me if you need any further information.

Christine Green
Electoral Roll Officer

Children's Society Donations

THANK YOU - DONATION TO THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A huge "thank you" to everyone who collected money in the candle-shaped collection boxes and bought raffle tickets at the December quiz. Doug and I have now counted all this money and converted it to GBP. I am pleased to report that we have sent £300 to The Children's Society and their acknowledgement will be published in next month's Grapevine.

Again "thank you" - The Children's Society helps change lives and one person they helped, "Louise" wrote **"If it wasn't for The Children's Society, I don't know where I'd be today. They gave me hope when I had none."**

Chris Green

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:

Jo and Brian

Colin and Hester

Millie-Jean and her parents

Tim and Sharmila

Maureen

Nel (Mair and John's daughter)

Irene

Pat and Roy

Bob and Caroline



ASV Treasurer's report:

January 2025:

Income: 1009.12 €

Expenditure: 607.82 €

We have a positive balance for the month: + 401.30 €

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV. Financially, we had a very good start to the year. Although our monthly income was down, our expenditure was also lower, giving us a balance of about 500 € lower than this time last year. Our income was augmented by a very well attended January Quiz, generating 250 € for ASV, and the raffle producing 100 € for the local La Châtaigneraie branch of Restos du Cœur (which ASV also supports with our monthly food donations).

I shall be sending out the tax rebate forms for 2024 for those who have contributed via the Planned Giving Scheme in the next month or two.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

The ASV Fun Quiz

Future ASV Fun Quizzes !

The last Quiz of the season will take place on
Friday the 14th March !

...at 18h 00, in the Salle Saint-Augustin in Puy-
de-Serre



Two old friends discuss important issues of the day...

Restos du Cœur



The volunteers at **Resto du Cœur** in **La Châtaigneraie** have created a very welcoming atmosphere in their premises : the produce is attractively displayed, there is a café area and also a play area for children. They are always very busy and always grateful for the contributions from ASV. They continue to support around **80 families**.

*Just a gentle reminder, all food items and toiletries must be **within date and unopened**.*

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

eeeeeeeeeeee *Elucubrations* sssssssssssss



Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can..

John Wesley

*Was the earth made to preserve a few covetous, proud men to live at ease,
and for them to bag and barn up the treasures of the Earth from others,
that these may beg or starve in a fruitful land;
or was it made to preserve all her children?*

the Protestant religious reformer, Gerrard Winstanley (1609 - 1676),



As the Book of Wisdom in Catholic and Orthodox Bibles reads:

“For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily tested. For the Lord of all will not stand in awe of anyone, or show deference to greatness.”

Dalai Lama : "The best religion is one that gets you closest to God. It is the one that makes you a better person."



“Wireless communication is nothing new. I’ve been praying for 75 years!”

Nature's gothic cathedral

Œuvre de polyphonie de 1638
pour le chœur de la Chapelle
Sixtine
par Gregorio Allegri,
chapelain du pape Urbain VIII.



"If I send my prayer as a text message,
will I get a faster reply?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe_U_TzZ1DE

Thanks to Trudy Coates, as always

Dates for your Diary

February 2025	
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
27th	Ladies group meeting at Debbie's house in Menomblet
March 2025	
2nd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
9th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
14th	Friday ASV Quiz in the Salle at Puy-de-Serre
16th	
23rd	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
30th	
April 2025	
6th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
13th	PALM SUNDAY 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
18th	GOOD FRIDAY
20th	EASTER SUNDAY
27th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
May 2025	
4th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at La Chapelle-Palluau
11th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre
18th	
25th	Sunday 11h Holy Communion at Puy-de-Serre

25th May	PDS	11.00	HC			DG	AM	JW	CG,MK	

Forward Planning

If the information shown here is inaccurate, out-of-date or incomplete, please could I be told of any changes in time for the next issue of Grapevine.

Many thanks !

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

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship – Ladies' Group

The times and places for future meetings will be announced as soon as they can be arranged. **Anyone wanting to host these meetings in the future, please contact me.** (Next meeting is “at Debbie’s house in Menomblet on 27th February”).

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 consult the
website for updates:
www.allsaintsvendee.fr

If there is anything of general interest, events, stories, and so
on, which you'd like to be published in the **April 2025** issue, do
make sure you submit them to me,

Nigel Pearce, at njp78@hotmail.com

before March 15th 2025 !