

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

 *The Grapevine* 

March 2017

CONTACTS:

Interregnum.

Vicarage: 27, rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

Phone no: 02 51 46 39 51

e-mail addresses: allsaintsvendee2@gmail.com.

During the Interregnum and/or in case of emergency, please contact any of the following:

Church Wardens: Barbara Kenyon (President)

Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Polly Ward: Phone no: 02 28 13 01 93, email: wardpolly@outlook.com

Assistant Church Wardens: Margaret Kent (PdS) 05 49 72 27 72, email:

maguyjelley@gmail.com

Keith Fowler (LCA) 02 51 49 83 25, email: antheakeithfow@aol.com

Jo Collinson (LCP) 02 51 55 84 56, email: collinson5@orange.fr

Reader: John Matthews: Phone no: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Many thanks to our Reader, John Matthews, who has written our Preface this month.



Preface



March Already!

Spring is just round the corner, a time for new growth, when we look forward to the renewal of the brilliant colours of wild flowers in the hedgerows and cultivated ones in the garden, along with new growth on the trees and the return of migratory birds. We ourselves feel renewed, as we emerge from the rigours of winter, with the vigour and enthusiasm the new season brings. There's an almost tangible feeling of new creation, hope and expectation in the air.

In the liturgical calendar, Easter is early this year so, by the time you read this Preface, we will have celebrated Ash Wednesday, and be in the season of Lent.

Lent is observed in the forty days before Easter, based on the time Jesus fasted in the wilderness after his baptism by John. In the early Church, candidates for baptism at Easter prepared for it with forty days of learning and fasting and before long the rest of the congregation wanted to join with them.

Today, many Christians prefer to give up something, rather than going without food. While this is good for self-discipline, it must not lead to self-righteousness. Jesus specifically warned his disciples against making a public display of their almsgiving, prayer or fasting. Such behaviour might bring immediate rewards of acknowledgement from others, but that is all. If our actions are discreet and known only to God, we are assured of his blessing.

Another possibility is to **do something good** for Lent; to do something to help other people, attend a study group, more services or spend more time talking with, and listening to, God in prayer.

Lent offers us the opportunity to acknowledge that we are part of God's new creation, and to renew our witness to the world, not of our own piety, but of his love. May we, restored in spirit, like the Spring, bring new life and hope to the people we meet in the days to come - and put a smile on their faces!

John

VISIT OF THE ARCHDEACON OF FRANCE -

4-5 MARCH 2017

The Archdeacon of France, The Ven. Meurig Williams is visiting ASV on the 4th and 5th of March. He will meet with the Church Council on the Saturday afternoon to discuss our Priest-in-Charge vacancy and offer guidance and advice.

On Sunday 5th he will preach and preside at the 1100 Holy Communion service at La Chapelle Palluau. This will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the local hall. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend this service and have the opportunity to hear the Archdeacon's message and meet him afterwards over lunch.

MARCH into APRIL 2017

CHURCH SERVICES with LECTIONARY READINGS

HC = Holy Communion; WW = Word & Worship
 LCA = La Chapelle Achard LCP = La Chapelle Palluau PdS = Puy de Serre
 (The Psalm for each week is included to guide your reading at home)

5th March 11.00 HC LCP
1st Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 2:15-17, & 3:1-7
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11
Psalm 32

26th March 11.00 HC PDS
Mothering Sunday - 4th Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 2:1-10 *or* 1 Samuel 1: 20 to end
 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 *or* Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:33-35 *or* John 19:25b-27
Psalm 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4

12th March 11.00 HC PDS
2nd Sunday of Lent
 Genesis 12 :1-4a,
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17
Psalm 121

19th March 11.00 WW LCA
3rd Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4: 5-42
Psalm 95

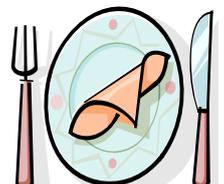
2nd April 11.00 HC LCP
Start of Passiontide - 5th Sunday of Lent
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45
Psalm 130

(If you are a Reader, please check with the Worship Leader for any last minute changes)



Please join us ...

*...for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services,
 followed by a Bring & Share Lunch.*



Everyone is welcome to join us

- even if you have not brought anything, there is always enough to go round!

Unfortunately, when there is a service on the fifth Sunday in the month,
 the hall is not always available



Dates for your Diary



March 2017

1st Wednesday

16.00 Ash Wednesday Service HC PdS (*Please note the time is 16.00*)

7 for 7.30pm Faites le Plein: (*see Grapevine for details or contact Jan Gordon :*

jangrdn1@gmail.com)

2nd Thursday 10.00 Ministry Team Meeting at St Vincent Sterlanges

3rd Friday World Day of Prayer Service 11am at the home of Joan Stewart

World Day of Prayer Service 11am at the home of Tonie Chandler

4th

5th Sunday 11.00 LCP HC

6th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)

7th

8th Wednesday 12.30hrs Lent Lunch at Myra Holmwood's House, Champs St Père, Tel: 0251 31 02 95 (*Please contact Myra or Sally Mills if you would like to come for lunch*)

9th Thursday, 2.30pm Ladies Circle - Sewing Circle (*for more information, contact Joan Stewart*)

10th Friday Quiz (Contact Polly Ward for more information)

11th

12th Sunday 11.00 PDS HC (*Restos du Coeur collection*)

13th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)

14th

15th Wednesday 12.30 Lent Lunch at Marian Rackham's house, Thiré

16th

17th

18th

19th Sunday 11.00 LCA HC

20th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)

21st

22nd Wednesday 12.30 Lent Lunch at Jo Collinson's house, Coëx

23rd Thursday 2.30pm Ladies Circle - Sausage-making with Jane. Cakes: Jane (*for more information, contact Joan Stewart*)

24th

25th

26th Sunday 11.00 PDS HC

27th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)

28th

29th Wednesday 12.30 Lent Lunch at Margaret & Geoff Kent's house, La Fôret sur Sèvre

30th

31st

For dates and times of quizzes and other meetings, please consult the Website Calendar



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!
Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in
Coulonges-sur-l'Autize



and looking ahead.....

April 2017.

- 1st Saturday 14.30 ASV AGM in the Church Salle at Les Essarts (See Notice on Page 7)
- 2nd Sunday LCP HC 5th Sunday of Lent
- 3rd Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)
- 4th
- 5th Wednesday 7 for 7.30pm Faites le Plein (contact: Jangrd1@gmail.com)
- 6th
- 7th Friday Quiz & Lent Lunch - donations to Restos de Coeur
- 8th
- 9th Sunday Palm Sunday 2 services, both HC at 11am at LCA and PdS
- 10th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)
- 11th
- 12th
- 13th Thursday 1830 Maundy Thursday Passover Supper at Mouilleron en Pareds (*please contact: Stuart & Jacqui at sjfamily66@hotmail.com to reserve a place*)
Thursday, 2.30pm - Ladies Circle - Sewing Circle (*for more information, contact Joan Stewart*)
- 14th Friday Good Friday 11.00 PdS Joint Ecumenical Service
- 15th
- 16th Sunday Easter Day 2 services, both HC at 11am at LCA and PdS
- 17th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)
- 18th
- 19th
- 20th
- 21st
- 22nd
- 23rd Sunday 11.00 PdS W&W Easter 1
- 24th Monday - Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group at the home of Bill and Carole Stocking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)
- 25th
- 26th
- 27th Thursday 2.30pm Ladies Circle - Dolls` tea party with Mel and Dot. Wear your Easter bonnet!
Cakes: Mel (*for more information, contact Joan Stewart*)
- 28th
- 29th Saturday 10.00 Non-annual Coffee Morning & Plant Sale chez Marian and Richard's in Thiré
- 30th

And.... There is the possibility of "Abbey Visits" this summer. If you are interested in visiting: Maillezais, Nieuil-sur-l'Autize, L'Absie and Fontevraud, please contact Polly Ward.



Notes from your Churchwardens

And now, it's nearly the end of the Church year – and the last time that Polly and I will be composing the Wardens' Notes

And really, the main thing to remind you of is the Church AGM which will be held on April 1 at 1430 in the Church Salle in Les Essarts.

If you want to know what is happening in your church,. then you can find the answers by reading Grapevine, keeping your eye on the website and by attending this meeting.

At a meeting today (Mar 2) your Church Council discussed the pack which we need to put together in order to advertise for a new priest. The post we advertise is called a 'House for duty' post which means that we will provide a house for the future priest to live in and some help with the utility bills but are unable to pay a stipend. In return, we expect our priest to take Sunday services most weekends (subject to annual holidays) and to attend meetings and attend to other pastoral duties for a further 2 days per week.

The advertising, interviewing, etc is not done by us but by our Bishop and he will let us know when someone has been appointed.

Until then , keep on praying – actually, you can keep on praying after then.....

Barbara and Polly



[WOMEN'S] WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH 2017

11AM

LA MORANDIERE, MOUILLERON EN PAREDS

[Please contact Joan Stewart on 0252003470]

OR

LES PEUPLIERS, ST. CHRISTOPHE DE LIGNERON

[Please contact Tonie Chandler on 0228106606]

All are most welcome.

Come and be part of the great wave of prayer that will be going round the world from daybreak in Samoa until the sun sets in American Samoa

Some 3 million people in 170 countries and islands will be praying with and for the people of the Philippines

It is the women of the Philippines have created this service for us. Come and take part

MARCH FORWARD PLANNING

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.

Responsibility (Organiser)	5th March LCP	12th March PdS	19th March LCA	26th March PdS
Welcomers (Polly Ward)	SuP	MK	KF	AC
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		Rackham/ Martin		Martin/ Parkyn
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)				
Musicians +/-Organist (Polly Ward)	Stuart	Stuart		Stuart
Readers (Polly Ward)	JC & AF	TG CD	JW LiG	MW BK

ELECTORAL ROLL 2017

The Electoral Roll is essentially a "register" of all eligible members of the congregations of a church who then have a right to attend the Annual Meeting, vote at this meeting for motions and elections, and stand for election to council or other offices. The number of people on the Electoral Roll also affects how many Council members can be elected and how much we pay to the Common Fund of the Diocese so there is a financial implication. It is the duty of the Electoral Roll Officer to compile and revise the Roll and to maintain the confidentiality of the information - publishing only an "extract" when necessary.

There is a strict timetable for the annual revision based upon the date of the Annual Meeting which this year will take place on April 1st. **I am therefore required to revise the Roll no earlier than the 4th March and no later than the 18th March.** Once the revision has been made the Roll is "frozen" until after the Annual Meeting. If anyone wishes to be added (or removed) from the ASV Roll please contact me as soon as possible. Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from me or one of the Wardens.

Chris Green, Electoral Roll Officer
 Email : greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Council Meeting Reports

Summary of 8th Council meeting on 12th January 2017

Full copies can be obtained from a member of Council.

10.8.5. The Vicarage. A “new” Fridge freezer was installed and a letter of thanks sent. It is hoped to have an Open Day, possibly during Lent. The Sale of the land/garden is still being investigated. A Rota for the upkeep of the Vicarage is needed. Ministry team to look into this.

Anne Condie was seconded on to Council to take over **Safeguarding from Jo.**

Locum, Polly has been in touch with Jim Burn but he is not available for this time. **Hazel Door and Martyn Crompton** are prepared to give us a lot of help. See 10.8.7. We will be getting a visit from the new **Arch-Deacon** soon. We are still awaiting the **Vacancy Pack.**

Keith is still waiting to buy an extra Hard Drive to back up the Web and Grapevine, Jacqui to be contacted again.

10.8.6. Treasurers Report. The finances are in a reasonable state but it was felt that we must get the Stewardship Campaign started. Hazel said it start from the pulpit and she would send details of the “Trio” system to the Richard. The next Council meeting will be used expressly for this purpose. 30th Jan was agreed.

10.8.7. Polly has produced a calendar of Services for the next months. There will be an **Ecumenical Service** at P de S on 22nd Jan.

10.8.8. A summary of the council meetings will be in the Grapevine and the Full minutes will be available from any Council member.

10.8.9/10. The problem with the keys to the Sacristy and toilets at P de S were discussed and a solution found.

10.8.11. Social Events. The “**Non Annual Coffee Morning**” is on **29th April in Thiré.** The date for the “**Almost Christmas Bazaar**” will be at **St Hilaire de Voust on 18th November 2017.** The **Lent lunches** will start at **Carol and Bill Stockings on 28th February.** The last one will be on **Quiz night 7th April.** There will be others, still to be organised. John has agreed to organise walks. Another **Ceildh** was suggested if there is sufficient interest. It could be held in Ste Hermine, as being more central in the parish. **Suzanne** asked if we could have “**Harvest Lunches**” instead of **Dinners**, because of the dark nights and travelling.

10.8.12. Hazel will organise and collect **Palm Crosses and Candles** when she is in the UK.

10.8.13. Dates of next meetings. Monday 30th Jan 2017 Stewardship and Finance.

Tuesday 7th Feb 2017 Council.

Summary of 9th ASV Council meeting 30th Jan 2017.

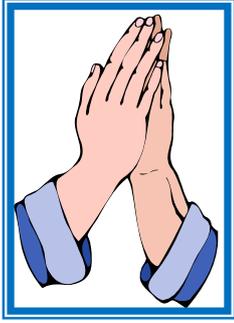
10.9.4. Stewardship program. The “Trio” information came from Hazel and Maggie found the previous Stewardship information produced by Desmond Vine. Doug had also produced a summary of the Trio system. Mike reminded us that we need to keep the congregation informed of our income and expenditure. He gave us the breakdown of our **Planned Giving scheme**, which is:- Envelopes (6) 145€ per month, 2100€ p.a. and prelevement (16) 677€ p.month, 10224€ p.a. At the moment we have 53 on the Electoral Roll, (30 families approx.) Suzanne suggested once per month to give out the information and the congregation need to realise that the Planned Giving or Collection Plate are a small part of our income. Chris said that we do need regular giving in order to budget for the year. We need to ask all Electoral Roll members to give through the Planned Giving scheme. John said we should launch at the AGM on 1st April. The Presidents Report and Treasurers Report should highlight the Stewardship Campaign and ask Hazel to lead from the pulpit.

10.9.5. AOB. a. Official notice of the AGM. It will take place at Les Essarts on 1st April at 1430h.

b. Reminder for all reports to be submitted.

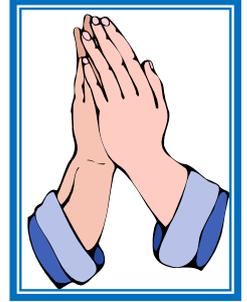
c. **Jim Burn to undergo an eye operation so can't consider helping at the moment.**

10.9.6. Next meeting will be Tuesday 7th Feb at St Vincent.



Contemplation

by Ivy Bishop



Contemplation is round;
Wheels within wheels?
Certainly not a line
Or a train of thought.

Contemplation is movement,
Perhaps a spiral
Going deeper and deeper
Into experience and meaning.

Contemplation is recollection
Of all that has been,
Searching in memory
For forgotten graces.

Contemplation is looking
Beyond the obvious
Towards the mystery
Content to let it be.

Contemplation is assurance
That "All shall be well,"
"For now we see through a glass, darkly
But then face to face."

davidpearson@orange.fr

Lent Lunch Rota 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		8/3/17 Myra Holmwood/ Champs St. Pere		
		15/3/17 Marian Rackham/Thiré		
		22/3/17 Jo Collinson/Coex		
		29/3/17 Margaret & Geoff Kent/ Le Fôret sur Sèvre		
				7/4/17 Quiz Puy de Serre

 **Sunday Club** 

Sunday Club takes place at Puy de Serre.

If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club please bring them along at 11a.m.

They will be most welcome.

Barbara

*[Please contact Barbara if you require more information:
Phone 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr]*



Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP

*We are now studying ST LUKE'S GOSPEL
We meet each Monday afternoon at 3.00pm at our house
at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79).
Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85.*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Please give us a ring if you would like to join us and we will give you directions to the house if you don't already know where we are.

Carole and Bill Stocking.

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Bishop in Europe:
The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2017

The Menedékház Foundation, Budapest, Hungary

The Menedékház, founded in 2005 on the outskirts of Budapest, helps homeless families with children reintegrate into the workplace and society at large. The name says it all: Menedékház, or shelter, originally referred to a temporary refuge in a forest or on a mountaintop placed there for those in need of cover during storms and at nightfall.

Last year my wife, Helen, was privileged to visit the Foundation. As she stood at the front door a family of six arrived who owned no more than a little cardboard suitcase. "Is this a prison?", asked the 4-year old. Later in the day Helen came across the same family who had been admitted and were now crowded into a single bedroom, enjoying some hot soup provided by the project.



At the Menedékház a professional staff of social workers serves some 160 people, many of whom do not meet the criteria of other established social assistance programmes. Some clients find their way to the shelter from impoverished villages in the countryside. Other clients are residents of Budapest who may have suddenly lost a job or been evicted from housing. Still others make their way to the Menedékház from alternative shelters now abruptly unavailable to them for bureaucratic reasons.

The Menedékház is housed in aging Soviet-era military barracks. They provide minimal amenities and little privacy for the families served. It is a roof over the head – sometimes not much more -- a place for families to catch their breath while parents seek employment and

children try to continue their schooling during the crisis the family is facing. A significant proportion of clients are of Roma family background. The Menedékház has also from time to time provided shelter to refugees and migrants.

The 2017 Lent Appeal Project

Whilst the Menedékház has washrooms and toilets, they are in poor repair and highly communal, offering little privacy or sense of security to families already traumatised. Built decades ago for military recruits, the facilities are today wholly inadequate and run-down, with peeling paint, cracked flooring and tiles, and little ventilation.



Accordingly, this year's Lent Appeal Project at the Menedékház in Hungary aims to fund the comprehensive renovation of the family washrooms, providing individual cabins or cubicles for family groups to change, wash, and shower.

We estimate the cost of renovation to be in the range of ten to fifteen thousand pounds sterling. The proposed renovation will include....

- Three large bathroom areas, one on each floor of the building
- Ten to twelve cabins or cubicles in each washroom with doors and locks for individual and family use
- One or more baby-changing and washing stations
- Sinks
- Toilets
- Tile flooring
- New walls
- Ventilation
- Showers
- Upgraded electricity
- Upgraded plumbing
- Windows

Sometimes it is the smallest things in life that count the most. With this project, we hope to improve the lives of those served by the Menedékház. Washing-up and toileting facilities may not seem exciting in the grand scheme of things but they are essential and much appreciated among those who are vulnerable or otherwise just getting by.

Learn more about the Menedékház and their services to the homeless online at www.menedek haz.hu

Please do consider how you can support my appeal. I wish you a holy and spiritually fulfilling Lent. As usual, you can give money to this appeal through your church treasurer, who will forward money to the diocesan office.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

Do you **pay** French **taxes**?



If so, did you know that for every 100 euros that you give to our Church the taxman will reduce your tax bill by 60 euros thus a 100 euro donation will only cost you 40 euros (and you will be able to increase your donation!!!)

You simply need to make your donation in a recordable manner. You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount on your tax return

(no need to send proof, just keep your certificate in case you are asked for it) and the taxman will reduce your tax bill by a figure equal to 60% of your donations.

Donations to the vicarage renovation can also qualify for tax relief if made through ASV.

Start Planned Giving now.....

.....and let the taxman help our Church!

Contact..... Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
or..... Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr).....

.....to find out how easy it is!!!

Christingle Service 2016



The Children's Society is a national charity that does a fantastic job in running local projects, and helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn. As their website says, " We listen "

Thank you all who attended our Christingle service in December 2016 and those who have been saving money in the collecting box candles. I have now totalled up all the money collected and it has reached 276.50 euros - a significant sum and this has been sent to the Children's Society in the UK. Again a big "thank you" .

Chris Green



You are warmly invited to our next "Faites le Plein!" meetings.

Held on Wednesday 1st March 2017.

From 7pm for refreshments, for a 7.30pm start.

"Faites le Plein!" offers a time of sung worship, an interesting talk from a guest speaker, an opportunity to gather with other Christians from different backgrounds. We also offer prayer ministry to those who feel they would like to receive it.

On 1st March, **Sœur Marie-Liesse** from the **Beatitudes Community** in **Les Sables d'Olonne**, will be our guest speaker.

These meetings are held in La Roche sur Yon at the Maison du Diocèse, 62 rue Maréchal Joffre (the entrance to this site is opposite the Boulangerie Potier which has a red frontage, through the large gateway, into the car park).

Look out for the "Faites le Plein" signs directing you towards the restaurant.

If you require further information about this meeting or about "Faites le Plein!" in general, please contact Jan Gordon : jangrdn1@gmail.com

As a newcomer, you'll be made very welcome!
Liz JOND for the "Faites le Plein!" team.

[Note for your Diary: **Rev Caroline Sackley** will be speaking at the next meeting on 5th April
Contact Jan Gordon for more details at: Jangrd1@gmail.com]

“
Non-Annual Coffee Morning”.

29th April 2017, 10.00hr, Thiré

Usual place, usual stalls, help with plant-production beforehand most welcome.

Help on the day needed too please.

Full details will appear in April's edition but please make a note in your diary now,
and contact Marian or Richard with any offers of assistance, items for raffle, tombola etc.

God bless you all, and our best wishes,

Marian and Richard

richard.rackham@cegetel.net

COFFEE MORNING

Those of "All Saints" know the song,
Help on the day, or even before.

Gifts for the stalls,
For the raffle, or cakes,
And to come on the day,
That's all that it takes.

Those who are new
And need to know more
Are welcome to phone
Or come to our door.

But now we explain,
And most deferential,

That lots of Publicity's really Essential.
At the end of this Grapevine,

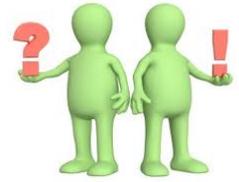
Especially for You
Are posters and flyers,
Both languages too.

Please print it, if you can
And display in your street,
In shops, bars and cafes,
Wherever folk meet.

Richard and Marian
Are really most grateful
So please to remember
Last Saturday in April.



These are YOUR pages.....



Once again, my thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine" so, read on, and see what you can discover.

Your comments will be much appreciated.

You will discover:

*Messages and Notices received from friends of ASV, including:
Revd Gareth, Marian & Richard, and Keith, re: Brexit*

Give up (Mk 2)?

Last month, I asked the question what you were going to give up for Lent. Well, by the time you read this, March 1st, Ash Wednesday, may well have come and gone, so what if anything are you giving up this year ?

Whatever, let me share with you something I gave up some time before I came to France as a priest – wearing anything on my feet when I'm at home.

For some, seeing someone barefoot is quite shocking. I'm not sure why they think it's wrong. Perhaps it reminds them of Hippies back in the Sixties or that bare feet are a sign of being poor or of having poor taste. Perhaps, to them, feet uncovered in public are simply not the done thing, not what polite folk do.

Whatever the objections might be, let me say that there are real advantages in going around your place barefoot. Free from the prison of shoes and socks, stockings and slippers, you are free to feel. You can feel the carpet, the tiles underfoot. Your feet are cool, free to connect you to the reality of the ground that supports you.

And, in certain religions, being unshod is de rigeur in a place of worship. Muslims take their shoes off to pray in a mosque and Moses was told by the angel at the burning bush to remove his sandals for he stood on holy ground.

Okay, if you do so in winter, you can risk a chill, risk catching a cold. And you could easily get cold feet at the prospect of being barefoot, of going barefoot in winter. But were you to, were you to get used to it, it would be, could be liberating.

Who in the right mind would want to wear something on their feet walking on the sand of a beach in summer ?

But what do you think ? I'm sure Jacqui would love to know !

Gareth Randall,

Priest-in-charge,

St Bartholomew's Dinard



The following posters and flyers for you to print and display, please.....

COFFEE
MORNING

Saturday 29 April 2017
10.00h - 12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, THIRÉ

Coffee, Tea, Refreshments
Books, "Vide Grenier", Tombola
Jewellery, Cake Stall, Plants, Raffle.

Everybody welcome. Free entrance
Donations welcome
in aid of All Saints Church
Vendee



COFFEE MORNING

Samedi 29 Avril 2017

10.00h - 12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, THIRÉ

Café, Thé, Plantes, tous sont gratuite!

Vente de Gateaux, Livres, "Vide Grenier",
Bijoux, Tombola etc.

Tout le monde est bienvenu,
Au profit d'Eglise Anglicane,
La Vendée

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 29th April 2017

10.00h—12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, Thiré

Free entrance

Everybody welcome

coffee, tea, plants, jewellery
cake stall, tombola, vide grenier

In aid of

All Saints Anglican Church

Vendée

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 29th April 2017

10.00h—12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, Thiré

Free entrance

Everybody welcome

coffee, tea, plants, jewellery
cake stall, tombola, vide grenier

In aid of

All Saints Anglican Church

Vendée

Tous sont invité

COFFEE MORNING

Samedi 29 Avril 2017

10.00h—12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, Thiré

Entrée gratuite

Café, Thé, Plantes, Bijoux,
Gateaux, Livres, Vide Grenier

Au profit de Tous Saints

La Vendée

(Eglise Anglicane)

Tous sont invité

COFFEE MORNING

Samedi 29 Avril 2017

10.00h—12.30h

15, rue de la Cure, Thiré

Entrée gratuite

Café, Thé, Plantes, Bijoux,
Gateaux, Livres, Vide Grenier

Au profit de Tous Saints

La Vendée

(Eglise Anglicane)

Keith Fowler has submitted this document for circulation to those on our Mailing List:

1

UK Citizens in Europe: *Towards* an Alternative White Paper on the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill

Executive Summary

The duty of Parliament to scrutinise the proposal to give notice under Article 50 has been recognised by the Supreme Court. The Bill is without doubt the most important issue that will face this Parliament. It is open to it to make any approval conditional upon other matters. The government also plans to publish a White Paper on the Art 50 negotiations.

This Alternative White Paper, presented by a coalition of groups of UK citizens resident in other EU countries:

- spells out the most serious of the many concerns now facing those who have in the past transformed their lives and those of their families in reliance on their rights as EU citizens;
- sets out a Governing Principle for HMG's approach should the Bill be approved in principle, under which the pre-Brexit rights of all those UK citizens living in the EU, and of all those EU citizens living in the UK, would be preserved;
- stresses that simply confirming a right of residence is not enough, as the EU citizenship rights that these citizens have had whilst the UK was in the EU are indivisible and they need the full complex of rights in order to remain in the country where they currently reside;
- endorses the view of a House of Lords Committee that these indivisible pre-Brexit rights can only properly be protected by being expressly included in the Art 50 withdrawal agreement;
- makes the case for any approval of the Bill being conditional on HMG committing itself to the earliest possible implementation of the Governing Principle both in negotiations and, in so far as matters are within its own power, unilaterally.

Introduction

1. Any decision to trigger Article 50 will, absent express agreement to the contrary, turn upside down the lives of up to 5 million people who have exercised their rights as EU Citizens to live, work and/or study on the other side of the Channel. Between 1.2 and 2.1¹ million are UK citizens who have moved to EU countries and some 3 million are EU citizens resident in the UK.
 2. All these citizens moved to other EU countries in good faith and with the legitimate expectation that their EU citizenship rights were irrevocable. Many will actually have moved abroad before the Lisbon Treaty amended the Treaty of the European Union to provide for a right of withdrawal under Article 50. They must not now be used as bargaining chips.
 3. Further, whatever the merits of Brexit (this Paper does not address them), the referendum gave no mandate to alter the rights of these people. It was no part of the Leave campaign that their rights should be torn up: quite the contrary. It is therefore essential that whatever steps are
- ¹ Different estimates of the numbers of UK citizens living in EU countries have been made in recent years. The most recent figures are 2015 UN Global Migration Database figures. Previous figures based on IPPR data estimated numbers at 2.1 million. In January 2017, the ONS revised the figures down to around 900,000, based on older Eurostat data (2010-2011). However, these latest figures exclude dual citizens, which leads to anomalies. Plus the data is several years older than that produced by the UN. For these reasons, we continue to consider 1.2-2.1million to be a better estimate of numbers of UK citizens in the EU.

2

necessary to protect these rights are taken, and taken as a matter of urgency to bring an end to the anxiety that they are feeling about their personal futures and those of their families.

4. The Prime Minister, in her speech of January 17th, said, Fairness demands that we deal with another issue as soon as possible too. We want to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain, and the rights of UK nationals in other member states, as early as we can.
5. We welcome that commitment but, without further clarity as to the rights involved, it does little to allay our concerns. For the reasons that follow it is essential that all our existing rights, and those of EU citizens in the UK, be confirmed, and that the following Governing Principle be applied by the governments of the UK and the EU27 and the EU itself.
6. The Governing Principle should be as follows:

The UK's withdrawal from the EU should not have retrospective effect on individuals. UK citizens currently resident in the EU and EU citizens currently resident in the UK should be expressly treated as continuing to have the same rights as they had before Brexit. This is not confined to a right of continued residence but extends to all related rights such as the acquisition of citizenship, the right to continue to work, whether employed or selfemployed, or run a business, recognition of qualifications, right to study, right of equal treatment, right to move between and work freely across all EU countries without loss or change of any existing EU rights, the right to healthcare, pensions, social benefits/social assistance etc. In short, the full complex of indivisible EU citizenship rights that they currently have should be guaranteed for these individuals.

7. The rights in question are considered in more detail below, but it is important to understand a point made by the House of Lords European Union Committee in its report "Brexit: acquired rights" (14 December 2016), para. 121:

In our view EU citizenship rights are indivisible. Taken as a whole they make it possible for an EU citizen to live, work, study and have a family in another EU Member State. Remove one, and the operation of others is affected. It is our strong recommendation, therefore, that the full scope of EU citizenship rights be fully safeguarded in the withdrawal agreement.

8. To give two practical examples, even on the assumption (which is very far from safe) that existing residents will be allowed to remain where they are:

a) UK professional aged 40 living and working in Italy through freedom of movement, with mortgage and young family born there, qualifications recognised through EU mutual recognition arrangements: recognition of qualifications falls away upon Brexit:

requalification under Italian regulations required – a full-time 3 year course: how does a right of residence alone help if this person is without an income during that period and cannot maintain him/herself and family?

b) UK pensioner living in Spain dependent entirely on State Pension, which post-Brexit is no longer uprated: becomes seriously ill and not entitled to health care under Spanish system: what avail is a continued right of residence to a person who could not possibly afford to do so?

3

9. The issues facing UK citizens in the EU post-Brexit must be one of the focuses of the Article 50 withdrawal negotiations. This is because (1) there is currently no clear and comprehensive legal basis on which those rights would be guaranteed post-Brexit and (2) the EU has competence to lay down the conditions that govern the entry into and residence in EU countries of third country nationals.

10. Any approval by Parliament of the giving of notice under Article 50 should therefore be conditional upon agreement by the Government:

a) Either to guarantee immediately and unilaterally these rights for EU citizens resident in the UK, and to make agreement on the rights of UK citizens in the EU in accordance with the Governing Principle above an absolute priority in the Art. 50 withdrawal negotiations, and to ensure that such unilateral guarantee and such agreement are confirmed in the withdrawal agreement so as to give it the force of international law², or,

b) If it continues to insist on reciprocity³ in relation to guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens as regards the rights of UK citizens in the EU, to make agreement on the rights of **both** EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU in accordance with the Governing Principle above an absolute and earliest priority in the Art. 50 withdrawal negotiations, and to ensure that such agreement is confirmed in the withdrawal agreement so as to give it the force of international law,

c) In any event to guarantee immediately such rights of UK citizens in the EU as are not dependent on reciprocity.

11. In its first report the House of Commons Exiting the EU Committee concluded before, incidentally, hearing the evidence which it has now taken from EU and UK citizens affected by Brexit⁴:

It is clearly in everyone's interests to resolve the position of EU nationals currently in the UK and of UK nationals in other EU member states as quickly as possible so as to provide certainty and reassurance to the individuals, their families and the businesses and services that rely on them. We were struck by the fact that witnesses who were on either side of the referendum debate were unanimous, when asked, in expressing their opinion that EU nationals working in the UK should have their status assured. This must be an early priority for the negotiations. (para. 87)

12. We should perhaps make it clear that, as UK citizens, we look to the Government of the UK to do everything within its power to protect our rights. We will be making similar calls on

European governments if and when Article is triggered, but the UK, as the country withdrawing from the EU, is the country that must initiate that process and accordingly has the obligation of

²As also recommended in the House of Lords report, para. 148. "EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in other EU Member States should not have to wait until the end of the negotiations to find out whether they have a future in the EU States where they have decided to live."

³

The argument for a unilateral guarantee has been made elsewhere and will not be repeated here see, e.g., House of Lords European Committee report para. 147.

⁴ Oral evidence session of 18 January 2017.

⁴

ensuring the minimum possible prejudice both to its citizens in the EU and to EU citizens living under its jurisdiction.⁵

13. In the remainder of this Paper, we consider in more detail the rights of UK citizens in the EU that need to be protected, as well as the Article 50 negotiations.

KEY CONCERNS FOR UK CITIZENS LIVING IN THE EU

Right to remain

14. The right to remain is a key question for any UK citizen currently living in another EU country. Currently, as EU citizens under Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), UK citizens in the EU have the rights of free movement and residence.

15. Rights of residence are currently a matter of EU, rather than national, law and will continue to be so post-Brexit, since the EU has a common immigration policy for non-EU citizens, which applies in 25 of 28 EU countries.

16. Currently, as EU citizens, UK citizens in the EU are covered by Directive 2004/38. The right of ordinary residence is dependent on the UK citizen either having a job (employed or selfemployed), or, if economically inactive, being able to prove that they have sufficient resources for themselves and family members not to become a burden on the social assistance system and have comprehensive health insurance, or that they are studying.

17. EU citizens who have resided legally in another EU country for a continuous period of at least 5 years then **automatically** acquire a right of permanent residence in that country.

18. However, in the absence of express agreement in negotiations:

a) Those who have not resided in the host country for 5 years, whether because they emigrated from the UK after March 2014⁶ or because they moved between EU countries in exercise of freedom of movement, will not have a right of permanent residence and will lose their right of ordinary residence.

b) For those who have acquired a right of permanent residence, there is a large question mark over whether this right will survive Brexit, as it derives from EU citizenship, which UK citizens will lose at midnight on Brexit day.

c) UK Government policy is currently to deny permanent residence and thus any right to remain to EU citizens who have lived in the UK for very long periods if they did not have "comprehensive health insurance" even though this requirement received little publicity and was not practically necessary in the UK because of the NHS. If "reciprocity" becomes the benchmark of the recognition of rights of residence, there is a serious risk of other countries where comprehensive health insurance is not the norm applying a similar policy.

19. It is likely that many long-term residents may be able to rely on Council Directive 2003/109 post Brexit, which would allow them to apply for a right of "long-term residence" as non-EU nationals. However, unlike the right of permanent residence granted to EU citizens, which is automatic after living legally and continuously in a EU country for five years, there are

⁵We note that some contacts are already taking place, as we explained during the oral evidence session before the House of Commons Exiting the EU committee on 18 January.

⁶ Assuming Brexit is effective March 2019.

⁵

conditions attached to this application. In addition to proving five years' residence, they must be able to prove that they have "stable and regular economic resources" to support themselves and their families without recourse to social assistance and health insurance in respect of all risks normally covered for nationals of the EU country where they reside. Moreover, there may be integration requirements attached e.g. language and other requirements. Finally, the rights attached to this right of residence are far more limited than those acquired by EU citizens with permanent residence.

20. However many UK citizens will be unable to take advantage of this Directive because:

a) They do not have 5 years permanent residence in the country in question⁷;

b) Although they have been ordinarily resident for 5 years, they unwittingly fall foul of the periods of permitted absence which are much shorter under this Directive than for EU

citizens, which of course they were at the time of the absence;

c) They are unable to obtain health insurance at all in respect of all risks normally covered (the medical histories of a very significant number of pensioners and many others will cause insurance companies to refuse cover entirely or exclude it for conditions normally covered) or are able to do so only at prohibitive cost;

d) They do not have the requisite "stable and regular economic resources" required under this Directive but not required for EU citizens;

e) The family members that they may bring are more limited and those members they wish to bring are unable to comply with the requirements of this Directive which, again, are more restrictive than those for EU citizens;

f) It is possible that it will be argued that the Directive does not apply at all since it only applies to non-EU citizens, which UK citizens were not during the 5 years in question: at the very least such an issue would cause uncertainty, litigation and anxiety.

21. Some UK citizens may be in a position to apply for citizenship of the host country. Unlike residence, citizenship is still solely a matter for nation states, so the rules vary from country to country. Variations include whether dual nationality is allowed (in Spain it is not), the period of residence required before citizenship can be claimed (typically between 5 and 10 years) and the matters to be taken into account in the exercise of the discretion to grant citizenship (language skills, capital and income etc.). Applying for local citizenship may be an option for some UK citizens in some countries, but is very far from being a panacea for all. Where dual nationality is not possible there are the further difficulties that most UK citizens are proud of their origins and would not want to give up the citizenship of their birth, and the practical problem of continuing to obtain access to the UK if they do so. Further, in countries where the criteria for citizenship are more favourable for EU citizens than for others, the pre-Brexit criteria (or criteria more favourable) should be applied to applications by those who were already resident in the host country.

Right to work

22. The rights of EU citizenship include the right to work in another Member State. This means that UK citizens may move to another EU country to work without the formalities of requiring a visa, 7 For students the necessary period of residence is longer and the system does not apply at all to certain workers such as au pairs.

6

work permit, or residence permit, and without quotas applying to their admission for employment.

23. In addition, the principle of non-discrimination applies and this means that, as EU citizens, UK citizens in other EU countries enjoy the right to the same treatment as workers who are nationals of the EU country where they are working: this encompasses conditions of employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment.

24. Moreover, in order to ensure that EU citizens are not at a disadvantage when they exercise the right to work in another EU country, Regulation (EC) 883/2004 coordinates social security across the EU. This ensures that payments into each national system are acknowledged and different national systems coordinated, in other words, protecting social security entitlements, for example pensions, as if they had been accrued in the same Member State for the full course of their working lives.

25. Post-Brexit, agreement has to be reached to deal with questions such as:

a) Would UK citizens already working in another EU country need a visa, and work permit to work in that country and would quotas apply to them?

b) Would UK citizens resident in one country be able to work in another EU country? (Such cross-border commuting has become commonplace in a number of regions).

c) Would they continue to enjoy the right to the same treatment as workers who are nationals of that country?

d) Would pension payments into one system be aggregated and count towards an overall pension at the end of the working life as they do now?

e) How many years would one have to pay into the system to have a pension as a non-EU citizen and would pensions still be transferable from EU national systems if one retired back to the UK and vice versa?

Right of establishment

26. Currently, UK citizens in the EU benefit from the right of establishment under Article 49 TFEU. Self-employed persons and professionals or legal persons (as defined in Article 54 TFEU) may carry on an economic activity in a stable and continuous way in another EU country.

27. The right of establishment allows both individuals and companies to take up all types of self-employed activity in another EU country, as well as to set up, become directors, and operate companies, agencies, branches or subsidiaries, subject to the exceptions and limitations laid

down under EU law. It also means that individuals and companies can do so under the same conditions as those that the law of the EU country in which they are established provides for its own nationals.

28. The right of establishment is linked to the relevant EU rules on mutual recognition of qualifications (see below). These rules are key to implementing this right.

29. If the right of establishment were no longer to apply to UK citizens in the EU, agreement has to be reached on the following issues:

a) Will self-employed persons who are working in another EU country, whether they work alone, or run a business that employs people, be able to continue to do so and what will be the formalities? Will they need a permit to continue running a business, and will this be

7

permanent or temporary, with rights of renewal? If they employ staff, will they be able to continue to do so – what will be the formalities?

b) What will be the position of professionals practising their profession in another EU country? Will they lose their right of establishment because their professional qualification is no longer recognised under EU law (see below)? If they have set up a company to run their practice, will they have to complete additional formalities to maintain that company? Will they still be able to run their practice using an entity set up in the UK like an LLP?

Mutual recognition of qualifications

30. As mentioned above, the system set up at EU level for the mutual recognition of qualifications, which deals with the recognition under EU law of national delivered diplomas and qualifications, is key to the implementation of the right of establishment. Individuals are only able to establish themselves in another EU country to carry on an economic activity, if their qualifications are recognised in that country. Directive 2005/36 is the main relevant directive and sets out the rules for establishment in another country and systems of recognition of qualifications.

31. According to the EC's database on regulated professions, there are a total of 216 regulated professions in the UK, which fall under this system. For example, a doctor, nurse, dentist, or architect from the UK can work in another EU country and vice versa without re-qualifying under rules that provide for automatic recognition of qualifications. Teachers, translators and real estate agents, for example, are covered by different rules providing for a general system of recognition. A UK architect can practise in France and set up her/his own architects' office without having to re-qualify as a French architect. Similarly, a lawyer can be established in another EU country and practise UK and EU law without having to re-qualify, including by setting up their own legal practice and without needing to work with local lawyers (unless they appear before local courts).

32. If this system of mutual recognition of qualifications were no longer to apply to UK citizens in the EU, the effects would be far-reaching. Well-established professionals, with their own businesses or employed by local firms or companies, would find that they are no longer able to practise their profession without re-qualifying. There would then be a question as to what this would entail – how many years and what studies would be necessary? The scope of their activities may also be limited. For example, only EU lawyers are able to appear before the Courts of the EU and are covered by legal professional privilege in the EU.

33. This is of course not only a headache for individuals but affects large numbers of UK firms and companies, which have set up offices across the EU, or which rely on the services of these UK professionals.

Rights to study

34. As EU citizens, UK citizens also have a right to move to another EU country to study. EU citizens also currently benefit from the Erasmus+ scheme; the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport that enables young EU citizens to spend time studying in another EU country, which covers not just students but also trainees.

35. Post-Brexit, these are some of the questions facing those wishing to study in the EU or the UK:

8

a) How will Brexit affect the options of UK citizens in the EU who want to study in the UK? Will they be treated as international students and pay international student fees, and will the NHS cover them?

b) Would UK students already studying in other EU countries have to pay different fee levels in other EU countries post Brexit? Similarly, would EU students now be classified as international students and pay higher fees at UK universities?

c) Would UK students already studying at University still be eligible to apply for Erasmus semesters or Erasmus Masters schemes in other EU countries and still be able to access EU funding to cover their Erasmus studies or be eligible to apply for other sources of funding from other European initiatives, for example DAAD (for studying in Germany)?

- d) How will Brexit affect the recognition of the European academic qualifications of UK students, who already hold an Erasmus degree certificate?
- e) If a UK student decides to stay in the European country in which they were studying, when they have finished their study program, will their rights to access job-seeking benefits be affected?

Pensioners and others not economically active

36. Some 450,000 UK citizens have used their right of free movement to retire to another EU country or, having worked there, have chosen to continue to live there in retirement. A large number of these pensioners are not well off but chose to move because by so doing they could make their State pension go further/afford to buy their own home. Many of those retiring to Southern Europe did so for the health benefits the climate would bring.

37. Another group whose concerns should be considered is that of those who are not economically active and not retirees. Typically, this group would include following spouses who have remained at home to care for children and consequently have not entered the workforce in the country where they reside and whose rights of residence and to, for example, healthcare, depend upon those of their working spouse.

38. The right of residence apart (we have dealt with this above), the following concerns would arise for retirees post-Brexit:

- a) Would the annual uprating of pensions in line with inflation continue? (Many of those living outside the EEA have their pensions frozen for life).
- b) Would UK pensioners resident in other EU countries continue to receive treatment as though they were nationals of the EU country of residence with the cost still borne by the UK Department of Health? (see para. 41 below)
- c) Will pensioners continue to receive the Winter Fuel Payment, where applicable?

39. Pension uprating: UK pensioners living in some countries outside the EEA (but not all, e.g. USA) have their pensions frozen for life, but those living in the EEA have received increases to cover inflation. This is not the place to discuss the merits of the denial of increases to those living in some countries, though in our view it is unfair. However the position of existing pensioners in the EEA is quite different and to deny them uprating would add yet another element of unfairness and, we say, illegal deprivation of a property right. This is because anyone who has worked in the UK in the 44 years since it entered the EU has made National Insurance contributions and paid UK taxes on the basis that if they retired to the EEA they would get

9

increases. That is the entitlement they legitimately expected both when they made their contributions and when they made their decision to retire in an EEA country. A denial of the right to pension increases would be seen as an underhand and dishonourable attempt to use Brexit to claw back money from (often poor) pensioners.

40. Notably this is not an issue for bilateral negotiation, but a matter for the UK government alone. Pensioners, the value of whose pensions has already been dramatically reduced by the fall of Sterling post-Brexit, are already suffering anxiety about uprating, and in order to alleviate that anxiety the Government should make an immediate commitment to continue to pay increases to UK pensioners in the EEA.

41. This is not the place to argue the merits of the decision not to pay Winter Fuel Allowance to pensioners living in some EEA countries, but for the reasons given above the Government should commit now to continue to pay increases where, pre-Brexit, they are paid.

Health care

42. Cross-border health care in the EEA is provided for by arrangements made under Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 and adopted by all member states including the UK. Those who are working long-term in another EU country will pay into and be covered by the national health insurance system in that country. The key document for those who are not paying into the national health insurance system in the country in which they live is the S1 form, which entitles the holder to medical treatment in their country of residence on the same terms as nationals of that country. It is issued to:

- a) those entitled to the State Pension, contribution-based Employment Support Allowance or other "exportable benefits";
- b) those posted to a country other than their country of origin for a period of not more than 2 years who continue to pay contributions to the country from which they were posted;
- c) those living in one EU country and working in another (expected to be a small category for present purposes); and
- d) in certain cases, students.

43. Any treatment provided by one EEA country to the citizen of another is billed on to the country of origin (either on the basis of actual cost or on the basis of a per capita sum for each S1 holder living in the EEA country in question). Health care provided under this scheme is not

necessarily free at the point of delivery, depending on the usual practice of the state of residence. Patients living in other member states pay the same proportion of the cost as nationals of the country where they live (e.g. in France 30% of the cost of GP services: in Italy contributions based on income bands).

44. As far as pensioners are concerned there are more UK pensioners in the EEA than vice-versa so the UK pays more to other countries than it receives, but there is nothing anomalous or unfair in this. The UK pensioners abroad have paid NI contributions and tax all their working lives to the UK authorities, so the UK has received prior payment for this health service. It would be anomalous if either (i) the country of residence had to bear the cost of such treatment or (ii) no country were to bear these costs. The former because the country of residence would be bearing a cost for which it had received no contributions and the latter because the UK

10 pensioner would be deprived of health care for which they had paid during their working lives. In either case the UK would simply be receiving an unjust windfall.

45. In practice the arrangement in many cases results in a cash saving to the UK compared with the cost of the NHS treating these pensioners. As stated above, in many countries the patient contributes to the cost of the healthcare. It is only the part paid by the State that is passed on to the UK under the reciprocal arrangement, whereas in the UK the NHS would have to provide the service free, subject only to prescription charges.

Right to equal treatment

46. This fundamental right is indivisible from all of the rights above. It has been referred to above in relation to employment but extends much further than this e.g. in relation to social assistance, healthcare, educational opportunities and tax advantages. And note that the non-discrimination principle applies to both direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of nationality.

Right to bring family

47. This right extends to close family, and may also include parents, siblings and children, plus spouses and civil partners who are nationals of third countries, e.g. US.

THE ARTICLE 50 NEGOTIATIONS

48. The above is merely an overview of some of the main issues facing UK citizens in the EU post-Brexit. It is important to note that similar issues also face EU citizens based in the UK.

49. As mentioned in para. 9 above, the issues facing UK citizens in the EU post-Brexit must be one of the focuses of the Article 50 withdrawal negotiations as most of these matters are dealt with in principle at EU, not national level.

50. Late last year the House of Lords' Europe Committee Justice Sub-Committee took a substantial amount of evidence from legal experts on what would be the "acquired rights" of UK citizens in the EU and vice-versa post-Brexit. Their report, "Brexit: acquired rights" (14 December 2016), is required reading for those considering whether and if so on what terms Article 50 should be triggered.

There was much speculation before the referendum that EU rights would somehow be protected as 'acquired rights', meaning that they would continue irrespective of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The evidence we received shows that this is not the case.... [Having considered the limited protection given by some other means] These alternative means of protecting EU rights post-Brexit must, however, be seen in their proper context. They overlap with only a handful of the thousands of EU rights which derive from the UK's membership of the EU. As Professor Sionaidh Douglas-Scott told us: "A lot of the rights that are derived from EU law are simply not replicated in other instruments, so there is a real deficit ... There will be many, many rights that simply do not find a home in any of these other instruments." (Report: Summary, page 3)

51. Accordingly relying on existing legal rights would be wholly inadequate solution and lead to years of practical problems for up to 2 million UK citizens in the EU who moved pre-Brexit to other EU countries in good faith and with the legitimate expectation that their EU citizenship rights were irrevocable.

52. The solution recommended by the Lords' Committee and supported by us is:

11

The central recommendation of the report—and an inescapable consequence of the evidence we received—is that if certain EU rights are to be safeguarded on the UK's withdrawal from the EU, they should be safeguarded in the withdrawal agreement itself. The agreement will be binding under international law, and will be given effect, and enforced, in the national legal systems of the UK and the EU Member States. This would be the most certain way of providing effective legal protection. It would also be the most effective way of reducing the level of litigation that would undoubtedly follow a Brexit where these rights were not safeguarded. We conclude that the rights to be safeguarded in the withdrawal agreement should be frozen as at the date of Brexit. We think it likely that

the majority of them will be reciprocal with parallel EU rights, and so should be applied consistently with them. (Report: Summary, page 3)
53. Finally, in drafting the Great Repeal Bill planned by the Government, account should be taken of the guarantees of the rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK provided for in the Article 50 withdrawal agreement to ensure that those guarantees are not in any way frustrated by changes made to UK law under the Great Repeal Bill.

1 February 2017

List of organisations, which subscribe to this Alternative White Paper:

- Brits in Europe (Germany)
- British Community Committee of France
- Expat Citizen Rights in EU (ECREU) on behalf of 6,000 members from 25 EU Countries (France)
- Fair Deal for Expats (France)
- RIFT (Remain in France Together)
- Brexpats Hear our Voice (Belgium)
- British in Italy
- Bremain in Spain
- EuroCitizens (Spain)
- New Europeans (UK)



For more details and updates of all Church events, please visit the ASV website where you can also view the Photo Gallery, Sermons you may have missed, Church Notices and Minutes and Reports of meetings.

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

To view the newsletter of DIET – "Diocese in Europe Times" click here:
<http://europe.anglican.org/resources/diet-newsletter>



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of "Grapevine".
My thanks to all the Contributors and
I look forward to hearing from you next time



Please send your contributions and comments to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

[before 15th March](#)

Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to:

Jacqui Stainton-James at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

