

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

*The Grapevine*

May 2023

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**CONTACTS:**

Chaplain & President:

Revd Hazel Door  
Phone: 05 49 87 71 45  
e-mail: Rev.hazel@wanadoo.fr

Vicarage:

27 rue de Malvoisine,  
85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:  
Vicarage Phone: 02 51 31 23 71

Church Warden & Lay Vice-Chairman:

Doug Green: Phone: 05 49 72 18 46  
e-mail: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Church Warden:

Margaret Kent: Phone: 05 49 72 27 72  
e-mail: maguyjelley@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

John Matthews:  
Phone: 05 49 75 29 71,  
e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr



**4-Thought  
May 2023**



Just out of curiosity, I Googled "political unrest". You will probably not be surprised at the outcome: *About 84,100,000 results (0.38 seconds)*. Almost every situation is marred by protests, a snapshot of the last week included:

An attack on the Japanese Prime Minister. A coup in Sudan. Widespread strikes in France. The ongoing war against Ukraine. China's belligerency towards Taiwan. Dozens killed and wounded in Myanmar military air attacks..... to name but a few. What has brought this on, you may wonder?

Martin and I joined one of our daughters and her partner, in a two night visit to the Menin Gate, Ieper in Belgium, it turned into three, thanks to the SNCF strike, there's nothing like an unplanned 24 hour stop over to focus the mind. Stuck in an hotel room for 18 hours in Lille, gives one time to think.

To try to get some assistance we first tried the tourist office in Ieper, the staff were amazing, they found a possible hotel in Lille, phoned up, and managed to book us a room. We were sent on our way with good wishes. The next day we were dropped off in Lille centre, and very easily found the hotel, about 100 metres from the railway station, right next to one of the largest shopping malls that I have ever seen.

We greeted the receptionist with apologies for being there well before check in opened. It was about 11-30. He beamed broadly and said he was the man the tourist officer had spoken to! It was perfectly alright to come in, and we could go to the room immediately. We then settled in to wait. The following morning, we left our luggage in their store room, and occupied the first floor lounge area, ventured out only for food, and then, with the thousands of other passengers, duly caught our train. The car had been prebooked in the car park, but of course was 24 hours over limit. No problem said the female voice on the intercom, we quite understand, that will be an extra few euros, just present your card!

So why all this background?

As I have been reflecting today, the over-riding emotion I'm going to carry forward, is that of gratitude for the many kindnesses shown to us, as strangers.

I'm reminded that a random act of kindness is a non premeditated, inconsistent action designed to offer kindness towards the outside world. The phrase "random kindness and senseless acts of beauty" was written by Anne Herbert on a placemat in Sausalito, California in 1982. It was based on the phrase "random acts of violence and senseless acts of cruelty". Her book *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty* was published in February 1993 speaking about true stories of acts of kindness. Which is what I'm going to pass on to others.

PS we visited the Menin Gate, as part of Martin's family folk lore was that his Great-Great Uncle's name was inscribed on one of the tablets. It was, we eventually found it among the 55,000 names of those who died between 1914-1918 with no known grave.

# Prayer List

*Please remember in your prayers:*



**Colin** and Hester  
**Ann** and Peter (*friends of David and Sally*)  
**Dick**  
**Gini** and Martyn  
**Heidi** and **Millie-Jean** and their parents, Joël and Jo  
**Maureen**

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

*...and for the bereaved:*

The family and friends of  
**Peter Somerville**

The family and friends of  
**Bill Stocking**

The family and friends of  
**Eelan Hodgson**

The family and friends of  
**Jean Gibbs**

*[If you would like a name to be added to the Prayer List, please contact David Pearson.  
Tel: 02 51 61 05 04 or Email: [davidlpearson@orange.fr](mailto:davidlpearson@orange.fr)]*



## Churchwardens' Notes For May 2023

After a week of rain and wind, the sun is out and the sky is blue. As we approach our house, the bluebells are blossoming, so at last Spring has truly sprung! Let's hope that the temperature rises somewhat!

The congregation numbers for the Good Friday service were disappointing - only 5 people attended - but it was a quiet, contemplative and moving service. No matter how many times the story of Jesus' passion and death are recounted, it is always horrifying and dreadful to listen to or read. However, what joy on Easter Day! There were some 37 people in the congregation, including some returning holiday makers and second home owners. The sun shone afterwards and we even managed to drown out the Angelus bells with our singing to Stuart's playing of the new organ!

Don't forget the AGM, which will take place in the salle at Puy de Serre after the service of Holy Communion in the church on 14 May. We will have a Bring and Share Lunch between the service and the AGM. So please come along.

We have not been inundated with offers of social events to take place in the summer! If you have an idea for some sort of get-together, or would like to organize one, please don't be backward in coming forward! We'd love to hear your idea.

The weekend of 6/7 May should be a joyous one for many of us ex-pats! There will be a service of Holy Communion at La Chapelle Palluau on the 7 May and doubtless many of us will be glued to our TV's for the Coronation of King Charles III the previous day. For many of us of course, we will also be remembering the Coronation of our late departed Queen Elizabeth, but let us all be glad for our new King, who has waited such a long time for this moment. Let us wish him and his Queen Consort, a happy and fulfilling reign.

**Long live the King!**



With love and blessings from your Churchwardens,

Doug and Margaret



# Dates for your Diary



May 2023

1<sup>st</sup> May Monday

6<sup>th</sup> Saturday  **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III** 

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday. 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre + **Bring and Share Lunch**  
**AGM** – after Lunch

18<sup>th</sup> Thursday **Ascension Day**

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday No service

28<sup>th</sup> **Whit Sunday/Pentecost** 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

31<sup>st</sup> May Wednesday

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



# Dates for your Diary

June 2023



---

1<sup>st</sup> June Thursday

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

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

18<sup>th</sup> No Service

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

30<sup>th</sup> June Friday

---

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

**Date for your July Diary:**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July starting at 2.30pm**

**ECUMENICAL WALK, PICNIC & CONCERT – FOUSSAIS PAYRE**

# EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

## MAY INTO JUNE

DATE 2023	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	INTERCESSOR	READERS	NOTES
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J			
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG	SS-J	SP	KS CM	+ AGM
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	No service									
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	CG	SS-J	JM	BC GK	Pentecost/ Whitsunday
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J			

**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

### MAY INTO JUNE

Responsibility (Organiser)	14 <sup>th</sup> May <b>AGM</b> Puy de Serre 11hr00	28 <sup>th</sup> May Puy de Serre 11hr00
Salle Setup/Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)	No B&S Lunch	No B&S Lunch
Refreshments after the service in Salle (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny & Trudy	Jenny & Trudy
	<b>Volunteers are needed for June please</b> because Jenny will be on holiday	
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:

## March 2023:

Income: 1863.60 €

Expenditure: 1861.36 €

We have a microscopic, but positive balance for the month: 2.24 €

Although we had a vastly increased monthly income from quizzes etc., we also had some large bills to pay.

I have sent out the tax rebate forms for 2022. If you have not received yours, please check your junk/spam folder! Any problems, please contact me.

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](mailto: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".

The Remnants, Letter from The Pughs; Ladies Circle; Resto du Cœur; Sunday Club, Ecumenical Walk, Picnic & Concert.



Flat 6 Kings Court,  
98 Kings Road,  
Harrogate,  
HG1 5HH,  
North Yorkshire.



Dear Friends

## “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” 1 Samuel 7 v 12.

How do we begin to sum up the journey we have been on during the past 20yrs? With a degree of difficulty and a huge amount of gratitude!

The journey actually began more than 20 years ago, with a couple of years of prayerful planning, but it was in March 2003 that we three left the UK with a car and caravan, sailing across to France to learn French in preparation to work as nurse missionaries in Madagascar firstly, and then on to Tanzania. We were very naive, not realising that all the camp sites would be closed in a cold and wet March, but God led us to the Spring Harvest campsite, via lovely Christian friends, as they were preparing for their first season in France, and we worked there all summer, making many friends, earning enough money to live on and learning to trust God for the future. During that summer we bought our house in Martinet and in the September we enrolled in a French language school in Paris, for a term, (selling our caravan to pay the fees).

We then returned to Martinet, to renovate the house with the help of various friends and family, learning a lot of French along the way... mostly DIY terms, to be honest!.. but giving us confidence to speak a little more too. During the next months we were supported by a lovely group of villagers who helped us with our French acquisition and also by the little Baptist church in Chateau d'Olonne and the Anglican fellowship of All Saints Vendee. Spring Harvest at Le Pas Opton employed us on several occasions during our years in France, as well as giving us good friends who we are still in touch with today. Churches, Christian groups and individuals in the UK who supported us financially and prayerfully are too many to mention... and we would hate to leave anyone out..!

When we left France for Madagascar our mission organisation told us that we did not have enough monthly gifts promised to support ourselves, but we felt that the time was right and so continued on to Malagasy language school. At the end of that 6-month period we had the news that our target monthly sum had been reached... just as we were moving on to the hospital in Mandritsara which was to be the focus of our work. Gods timing was perfect. Since that time, in all our mission work, we were never without sufficient funds, either from generous donors (personal and church groups) or from work that we were able to do ourselves in both France and in the UK... all of which we see as Gods provision. Financial help has also been extended from our supporters, via us in situ, to various projects on the ground in both of the hospitals in Mandritsara in Madagascar and Berega in Tanzania. Student nurses have had some of their fees paid to enable them to continue their training, rainwater harvesting systems have been put in place, local churches have been helped, a special care baby unit has been equipped, many patients had their hospital fees paid via The Luka Fund, two retiring pastors have been given financial gifts to help them build a home for their retirement and a motor bike was bought to help in village evangelism. Many folks have cause to thank you for your generous help and support over these past years.

Both schools of nursing continue to run and many nurses have been trained for their local communities. We are in touch with many of our former students on social media and have had the privilege of visiting many of them in their new places of work. If you are interested, please ask for more details about work some of them are doing and inspirational stories of local solutions for local problems. The primary schools that Nel worked in are also both going from strength to strength.

During the past 20yrs we have also had spells back in the UK, supporting Mair's parents in their latter years and visiting Africa on several occasions for short supportive trips to do some teaching and encouraging. Nel, of course, has been an important part of our journey and has had a great influence in the work we undertook in both African villages. Bec and Hannah, their husbands and families, have also been unfailingly supportive and have had to sacrifice time with us in order for us to support others. We are indebted to them for their love and kindness to us.

Now our sojourn in France has come to an end. 20yrs since we left... March 17<sup>th</sup> 2003...we returned to the UK on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Many of you will know why we have relocated to the UK at this particular time, but some will not. Here is a brief outline of what has happened over the past three years in relation to Nel especially.

We all remember the Covid era with its lockdowns and many challenges to us all. Nel was working in an especially challenging environment, living-in with, and looking after, adults with severe learning disabilities... a job she loved and was very good at. During the many 'ordinary' lockdowns in Manchester her work also imposed more severe restrictions to protect their clients. Nel was therefore very much 'locked in'... not able to go out in-between shifts, so no shopping or football and no opportunity for 'external processing' which was very much her trade-mark. This led, in the months leading up to March 2021, to a period of severe anxiety and depression. She was hospitalised several times and this eventually led to her having to leave her job and move to Harrogate to live with Rebecca and her family for a while. Since that time she has moved into a flat which we have shared with her, on and off, and there has been significant improvement in her mental health, with two periods of employment locally (currently enjoying work at the local branch of Wetherspoons). We, John and Mair, have spent the past 2 years travelling backwards and forwards between Harrogate and our home in France, trying to maintain our residency there (complicated by all the post-Brexit challenges which did not exist when we first moved there) and supporting Nel as best we could. It has become obvious that this was not a permanent solution and so we have sold our home in France and are now on the cusp of buying a small house in Retford, coming full circle from 2003, as this is the town we lived close to before our departure! This will have enough room for Nel to live with us if she chooses, but we are continuing to look for somewhere for her to live independently but close to us. Retford is more or less equidistant from Bec and Hannah and their families, too, another important consideration.

There remain many challenges ahead, we are sure, but we are also sure that, with Gods help, we will be able to find a way of living with them and making our future years worthwhile and useful. When this period of change settles a bit, we hope to re-visit Africa and continue to support the previous projects, as and when we feel it is in their best interest. We also look forward to spending more time with our family and seeing some of you at some stage. Retford is just off the A1 and so if you travel north and south we will be a good stopping off point for a comfort break.

Please keep in touch.

We are still contactable on: [pughnews15@gmail.com](mailto:pughnews15@gmail.com)  
and UK mobs are as follows; John 07708709895, Mair 07708709041, Nel 07879812915

If those of you who have sent money regularly to our mission fund wish to continue to do so, be assured that we will use it for the benefit of health care projects in Africa and we will always keep you informed regarding those who have benefited from your generosity.

With our love and thanks for your support, financially, prayerfully or with regular contact by texts, letters and messages.

*Mair, John and Nel*

# The Remnants

## 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023



Christine Marilyn Ian Linda Justine Alison Peggy Jo  
(Marilyn and Justine were brought along by Christine)

Today we had another meeting of the Remnants at Alison and Ian's home in Notre Dame de Riez. There were ten of us, a record in numbers. We were joined by two ladies on holiday from Plymouth, Janine and Marilyn.

What a delightful spring day, the Lord had sent along for us, blossoming trees and busy birds all around. Our meeting blossomed also with a message on what the Bible says about following instructions. It was easier to understand than some of many language tiny print instructions of things we buy today. God's instructions are loud and clear and easy to follow. Well not always easy but with an effort we succeed. Proverbs 8v10 choose my instruction instead of silver.



Nigel, Linda  
& Lexi


The photo makes a happy group, and in addition Linda and Nigel didn't escape my lens.

We did say a special prayer for Maureen who is still in hospital with a mysterious yo-yo-ing temperature.

We ended with tea/coffee and biscuits and a catch-up on our lives.

Joyce





## Ecumenical Walk ~ Foussais-Payré



**Friday 21st July 14.30**

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

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

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

**20.00 Concert:** in Foussais church

**All welcome**  
(well-behaved dogs on leads included!)



Organised by the local Catholic,  
Protestant and Anglican churches



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



# 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



	<p>Did you know PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS can be read at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr">www.allsaintsvendee.fr</a> 26th February 2023 TALK given by Lay Minister, John Matthews, at Puy de Serre</p>	
--	--	--



## *Sunday Club*



### *Something to chew on....*

In the Nicene Creed we say we believe «in one holy catholic and apostolic Church». In this context, 'catholic' means 'universal', so that it encompasses not only the Roman Catholic Church, but also all truly Christian denominations.

Why is the universal church so divided? There are a few fundamental differences in the way the Scriptures are interpreted, but a lot of differences are actually cultural. That is not to belittle those differences: culture is what binds us together as a community and informs our identity, and we all experience ways of worshipping with which we are comfortable and those which make us uncomfortable.

The development of technology and communication systems have enabled us to become increasingly aware of the violence, cruelty, greed and corruption that exists throughout our world. So, it is important to remember that we are united in our love for God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit, through whom we are given the strength to face evil.

When asked by a Pharisee, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22 36-40

What do you think? Let us know.

*Trudy*

# ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

## The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

always welcome newcomers.

**Some Meetings have been postponed until Joan returns in June**

Venues to be arranged so please contact Jenny Wilkinson for details  
[Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

*This message from Anne Brechet:*



I don't know if you know this but there is a Facebook group called :  
"Anglicans Friends".  
It contains news from the whole Anglican community.

\*\*\*\*\*



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of  
"Grapevine".

My thanks to all the Contributors.

Please consult the website for updates at  
**[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)**



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

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

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