

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

*The Grapevine*

May 2024

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**CONTACTS:**

Chaplain & President:

Revd Hazel Door  
Home 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: maguyjolley@gmail.com

Lay Minister:

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

Website:

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



**4-Thought  
May 2024**



As I write this, I'm sitting watching clouds race across the sky. They look grey and very water laden, the flags in the garden are horizontal to their pole, the wind is from the north east. It's cold and chilly and about to become very damp. Sorry if this sounds like a sequel to last month's 4thought, it is not meant to be. Just that the weather still dominates most of our conversations. Historically, I suppose, our ancestors were much closer to dependency on what they could produce from the land, than we are. We head to the supermarket, and buy whatever we need, from wherever in the world it is produced.

Food played a big part in the life of Jesus too. It is an unmistakable theme in the miracles of Jesus. There is no aspect of humanity that Jesus ignored, including our need for food.

Of course, Jesus ate. He drank. He attended dinner parties—lots of them. The beginning of His earthly ministry included the miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding reception, and before He ascended back into heaven, He cooked His disciples' breakfast with fish He'd miraculously jammed into their nets

In Matthew 14, we read about the "Feeding of the Five Thousand." Scripture says five thousand men were present besides women and children, meaning there were likely closer to 15,000 people gathered around Jesus—and He fed every single one of them until they were full.

This month we commemorate Pentecost on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, which signifies the 50th day after Easter when the apostles prayed together and the Holy Spirit descended on them. They received the "gift of tongues" – the ability to speak in other languages. The festival nowadays is of course more commonly known as Whitsuntide.

Pentecost is known as a sign of first fruits. This is significant on several counts, one of the reasons that the Gospel is 'good news' is that not only is it about a conquering of death, but it is also about living life differently. Following Pentecost life becomes a union between God and people, which takes place through the indwelling of the Spirit of God – beginning on the Pentecost Sunday which we learn about from Acts 2. The Good News is that life can now be lived on a different level, in a relationship with God through His Spirit.

In His name,

Hazel

# Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



**Jo and Brian**  
**Colin and Hester**  
**Millie-Jean and her parents**  
**Tim & Sharmila**  
**Maureen**  
**Nel** (Mair and John's daughter)

**Nigel and Linda**  
**Pat and Roy**  
**Polly**  
**Bob and Caroline**  
**Chris and Ann**

*[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]*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Grapevine Treasurer's report: for March 2024:

Income: **730.00 €**  
Expenditure: **262.57 €**

We have a positive balance for the month: **+ 467.43 €**

Thank you all for your continuing support for ASV. Financially, this has been an incredibly quiet month, as although we had a lower income, our expenditure was minimal!

Iain McGregor  
(Treasurer)



## Sunday Club

"No one will be turned away,  
everyone is welcome



Calling all children, including holidaymakers, to attend Sunday Club.  
Do **please** let us know a couple of days in advance, if you'd like to come,  
so that we can prepare something special for you."

Please contact Jenny if you require  
more information: email:  
[jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)

...and there's much more...  
So.....

KEEP READING.....



## Churchwardens' Notes For May 2024

I am pleased to say that until this moment (15.30), it has not rained today! We've even had some sunshine, although still chilly in the shade. The grass and weeds grow despite the weather and the bluebells this year are glorious. At least the reservoirs and aquifères should be full and ready for a hot, dry summer!

We were surprised and saddened to hear of Nigel Pearce's medical problems. We wish him a speedy recovery and will keep him in our prayers. Meanwhile, Jacqui Stainton-James has volunteered to collate and send out this edition of *Grapevine*, for which we are extremely grateful.

The Easter Day service at Puy de Serre was joyous and we had a congregation of 45. It concluded with tea, coffee and biscuits and an Easter egg hunt in the church. It was an uplifting morning in which to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

In June, July and August, we hope again to produce a service of Morning Worship on three occasions in the church at Vouvant. They will give us not only a chance to hear the magnificent organ, but to encourage both residents and holidaymakers to come and worship with us.

Some of the congregation at La Chapelle Palluau have been growing four Charlotte potatoes each and the 'dig-up' day will be 10 May! We look forward to hearing who has grown the heaviest crop! Any cash donations will be given to Resto du Coeur at la Roche sur Yon.

We still have two vacancies on the Church Council. Most of our meetings are through the medium of ZOOM, so the time involved is minimal. We would love to encourage more church members to come and see what goes on behind the scenes as it were. No-one will be pushed into onerous tasks and it would be helpful to see some new faces and hear some new thoughts. Please give it some thought and prayer.

We wish you a peaceful and blessed May, in this quiet corner of a troubled world.

Your Churchwardens,

Doug and Margaret

# EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

## MAY INTO JUNE 2024

**IF YOU FIND YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE AT CHURCH ON “YOUR” DAY,  
PLEASE TRY TO ARRANGE A SWAP AND INFORM THE WORSHIP LEADER**

DATE 2024	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST	INTERCESSOR	READERS	NOTES
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J			
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	AC	SS-J	MM	KS BC	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May										<b>Pentecost</b>
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	JM	SS-J	DG	DP SP	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J			

## FORWARD PLANNING

### MAY 2024

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)	12 <sup>th</sup> May Puy de Serre 11hr00	26 <sup>th</sup> May Puy de Serre 11hr00
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny W.	Jenny W.
Flower Rota (Barbara Matthews)		



# Dates for your Diary



May 2024

---

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

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

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

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

19<sup>th</sup> **Whit Sunday/Pentecost**  
**Vouvant Chateau Open Day**

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

---

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

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



# Dates for your Diary



June 2024

---

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June

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

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

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday **Morning Worship** (June, July and August, we hope again to produce a service of Morning Worship on three occasions in the church **at Vouvant**)

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

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June

---

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



# These are YOUR pages.....



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

*The Remnants; Ladies Circle; Resto du Cœur; Voting in France; Sunday Club*

\*\*\*\*\*

From Nigel (Pearce) :

I have been delighted by everyone's good wishes and hope to see you all before too long. Special thanks to Jacqui of course, for doing the Grapevine « one more time »!

## The Remnants

### La Chapelle Palluau



The remnants met up last Sunday, the 14 at Linda and Nigel's in St Gilles. Their house looked cosy and welcoming, spring flowers and newly planted vegetables pushing up! As the French would say. That's what we do in Spring, push upwards towards new Hope and sunshine.

There was six of us, seven including the Lords presence on our meeting. We sang joyful hymns and prayers were said for those in need. We thought especially of Maureen with so many difficulties to cope with. Thanks were said for the positive results of Ian, Peggy's son in law, and encouragement for my results which would be received this week. The Lord listens attentively to us and guides us in our worship. Linda continued the discussion by Hazel in church last week, of Doubting Thomas.



**Nigel and Linda (Gorton)**

Finally we had a lovely roast lamb for lunch, accompanied by veggies salads and Peggy's lovely treacle tart.

Jo, as I dropped her off on my way home, said, what we all felt, "oh that's done me so much good "

Joyce





## *Sunday Club*



### 3. The Thirsty Crow

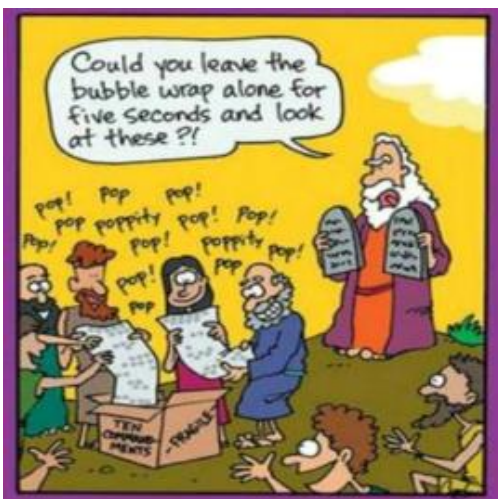


After flying a long distance, a thirsty crow wandered the forest searching for water. Finally, he saw a pot half-filled with water. He tried to drink from it, but his beak wasn't long enough to reach the water inside. He then saw pebbles on the ground, and one by one, he put them in the pot until the water rose to the brim. The crow then hastily drank from it and quenched his thirst.

**Moral of the story:**

If there's a will, there's a way. Every problem has a solution if we look hard and don't give up.

*Jenny*



**(It's the Mad Hatter's Tea Party really....  
Whenever the plates got dirty,  
they moved down the table.  
We are running out of table.)**

*Trudy*



## *Sunday Club*



“Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.”

*Bishop Desmond Tutu*

*Like Mark Twain said: "I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it."*

From the archives – in case you missed it!....

*«We all live at the same address : Earth»*



Have you ever wondered what exactly God was looking at, when, according to Genesis, 1:31,

«God saw all that he had made, and it was very good»?

Thanks to a photograph taken in 1968 William Anders, astronaut aboard the Apollo 8 space flight, which carried out the first orbit of the moon, we perhaps have an inkling, a clue. The photo is called «Earthrise», and gives a stunning view of our beautiful blue planet, partially illuminated by the sun.

There are people who would like to explore other planets and maybe inhabit them at some time in the future. From what we know about other planets, however beautiful they might be – after all, God created them too – none offers the gifts that God has bestowed on the Earth.

«We all live at the same address: Earth» is a statement attributed to Jim Forest, a catholic peace activist, it is ever more urgent to remember how precious is God's gift to us of the Earth, our home. He gave it to us, so that we may thrive, but with that gift comes responsibility, to look after all the magnificent creatures and amazing plants that surround us, and to follow Jesus' teaching to share what we have with those who have less.

Let's pray and ask God to guide us in how we may best take care of His creation, our home.

*Trudy*

# The Jelly Bean Prayer

**RED**

is for the blood he gave,

**GREEN**

is for the grass he made.

**YELLOW**

is for the sun so bright,

**ORANGE**

is for the edge of the night.

**BLACK**

is for the sins we made,

**WHITE**

is for the grace he gave.

**PURPLE**

is for his hour of sorrow,

**PINK**

is for our new tomorrow.

*An egg full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet,  
is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.*

*May the joy of Christ's Resurrection fill  
your heart and bless your life.*

-UNKNOWN

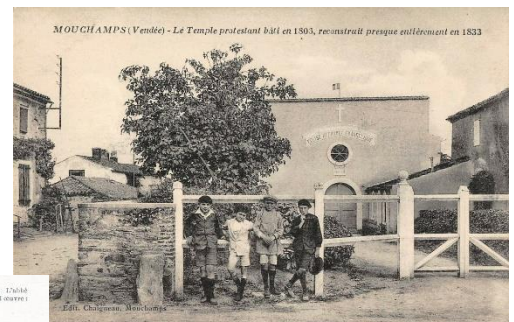
## Garden Open Day in Vouvant on Sunday 19th May from 10hr00 to 17hr00



On the 19 May 2024 - Rupert Catell will be opening his garden to the public as part of the Vouvant Flower and Garden Festival. There will also be guided tours of the town walls - he has a substantial portion in his garden - at regular intervals throughout the day. More will follow on this as the details are finalised. The proceeds will be donated to All Saints' Vendée.

And also.....

**18 July 2024 – Ecumenical walk around Mouchamps, starting at the church at 14.00, followed by a picnic and a free choral concert**





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 from now on will be delivered to the local depot at La Châtaigneraie

**Please phone Mike before leaving goods with him  
at Mouilleron-en-Pareds: 02 51 51 07 36**



### Restos April Report

Thank you all for a splendiferous April bumper donation for Restos du Coeur La Chataigneraie. Mike delivered everything on Tuesday 16th April, with 20 families already queuing patiently half an hour before opening time and a further 10-20 families expected. The shelves looked fuller and more inviting once the ever-cheerful volunteers had transferred ASV donations from the boot to the shelves using a battered but serviceable old shopping trolley. This time round ASV donations accounted for 3 trolley-loads full :-)

60% of the families that attend have children, so your generosity continues to protect them against hunger, illness and all the evils of poverty in challenging times.

Our next collection will be at the service on Sunday 12th May 2024. God bless you all.

*Dominique Mylod*



Did you know  
PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS  
can be read at:  
**[www.allsaintsvendee.fr](http://www.allsaintsvendee.fr)**  
See : **John Matthew's recent Talk**



Thank you, Doug, for this Voting Update:

## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO U.K. VOTING FROM OVERSEAS**

On Tuesday 16th January there were important changes to the UK's electoral system. One change was to remove the 15-year limit on the rights of eligible British citizens to vote in U.K. Parliament elections.

The online registration process is quite straightforward and shown below is the information sent out by The British Embassy Paris.

Doug.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the British Embassy Paris, dated 1h ago. The post title is "Changes to voting in UK Parliament elections from overseas". The text of the post reads: "In 2022, the UK Parliament passed the Elections Act, which made several changes to the UK's electoral system. These changes include the removal of the 15-year limit on the rights of eligible British citizens to vote in UK Parliament elections. If you are a British citizen living abroad, you can now vote in UK Parliament elections even if you've lived outside the UK for more than 15 years. You will need to have previously lived in the UK or been registered to vote in the UK at some point in your life. Your overseas declaration is now valid for three years, lasting until 1 November in the third year after it takes effect (for example, if your declaration takes effect on 1 March 2024, it will expire on 1 November 2026). You can register online at [www.gov.uk/registertovote](http://www.gov.uk/registertovote). This applies to UK Parliament general elections, by-elections and recall petitions. It does not apply to local elections or elections for the Scottish Parliament, Senedd or Northern Ireland Assembly. For more information visit : <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/news-and-views/elections-act/changes-overseas-voting>." Below the text is a large orange graphic of a paper airplane with a black outline of a ballot box on its side. The Facebook interface shows the time 13:20 on Tue 16 Jan, a battery level of 53%, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for Home, Friends, Video (with a 9+ notification), Marketplace, Notifications, and Menu.

## ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

### The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship - Ladies Group -

**Ladies group/sewing meetings all postponed until further notice.**

contact [jennywilkinson213@gmail.com](mailto:jennywilkinson213@gmail.com)  
or Joan Stewart [jpsmorandiere@outlook.com](mailto:jpsmorandiere@outlook.com)



#### Safety in a little plastic box

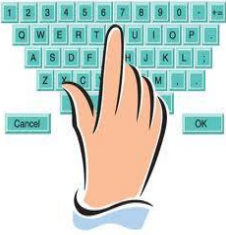
Whether we like it or not, or whether we admit it to ourselves, or not, we are, all of us, getting older! Some of us, whether by choice or by loss, are living on our own. Even those of us blessed to have partners may not always be in a position to help if a medical crisis situation arises. I have recently been told about an excellent free system run by the Lions Club International called Lions SOS. It seems to me a wonderful and very practical idea for us all to take up.

'LIONS SOS' involves placing written vital information relating to the person's health in a small plastic box stored in the refrigerator door. This immediately tells the emergency services about the patient's state of health and medications and can save vital time. On arrival they will see the 'LIONS SOS' sticker on the back of the front door and know that an information sheet is available in the refrigerator.

Using this system can help to bring peace of mind to the beneficiaries, elderly, isolated people, those weakened by illness, those with disabilities and others, as well as their families.

The little plastic boxes and full instructions may be collected FREE OF CHARGE from many Pharmacies across much of France, certainly in both the Vienne and Deux-Sevres

Geoff and I have already collected one each. WHAT A GREAT IDEA!



I do hope you have enjoyed this, which is definitely, my final edition of "Grapevine".  
(*Stuart and I have sold our house here and we will move back to the UK, in The Wirral,  
at the end of June. I do hope you will keep in contact by email  
sjfamily66@hotmail.com*)

As ever, my thanks to all the Contributors

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

For the **June edition**, please send your contributions

**not to me**, Jacqui Stainton-James,

**but to: Nigel Pearce at [njp78@hotmail.com](mailto:njp78@hotmail.com)**

**before 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

*We wish Nigel a speedy recovery*