

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

 *The Grapevine* 

September 2023

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



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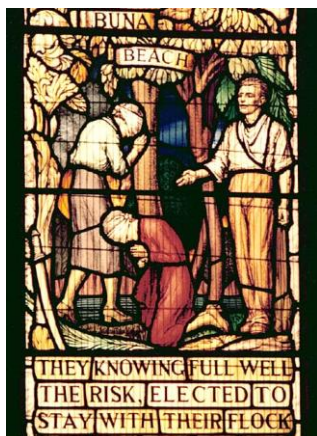
4-Thought
September 2023



Among the significant dates for September, one caught my eye:

2nd The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942.

Oh yes, I thought, not heard of that event so I read up on it.



Here courtesy of wordpress.com is what I found: New Guinea, the second largest island in the world, was on of the main frontiers of Christian mission in the twentieth century because of the difficult terrain and the cultural diversity of its peoples, who speak some 500 distinct languages. Christian missionaries first began work there in the 1860s and 1870s, with only limited success.

The Anglican mission began in 1891, and the first bishop was consecrated in 1898. Today the vast majority of Papuans describe themselves as Christians, a little over three percent of whom are Anglicans. Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and members of the United Church make up a majority of Christians on the island. There is a great deal of ecumenical cooperation among the Churches, particularly in the areas of health and education. Most of the rural health work, and nearly all of the training of nurses and community health workers, is carried out by the Churches.

The Church in Papua New Guinea was enriched by the witness of martyrs twice in the twentieth century. James Chalmers, Oliver Tomkins, and their companions were sent to New Guinea by the London Missionary Society, and they met their deaths by martyrdom in 1901. Forty years later, during the Second World War, New Guinea was occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army, and over three hundred thirty-three Christians of all denominations died for the faith. Among them were priests Henry Holland, John Duffill, and Vivian Redlich, who remained with their people after the invasion of 1942; evangelists Leslie Gariadi, Lucian Tapiedi, and John Barge; May Hayman, a nurse; and teachers Margaret Brenchley, Lilla Lashman, and Mavis Parkinson. Bernard Moore is also remembered, who was shot while presiding at Holy Communion in New Britain.

Other dates to be noted are more familiar:

- 8 The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 8 Accession of King Charles III
- 14 Holy Cross Day
- 21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 29 Michael and All Angels



Holy Cross Day takes me back to a Diocesan Synod meeting many years ago, which was held in the Cardinal Shultz Haus in Cologne. We were all gathered at a Eucharist in the Edith Stein Chapel and the preacher was Rowan Atkinson, then Archbishop of Canterbury. He turned and looked at this cross on the wall, and in tears, he said: "He died like that because He loved us", and went on to say very quietly, and "we love Him". There was absolute silence and many of us joined in the tears. A moment frozen in time that I shall never forget. Maybe you have special memories that you'd like to share with Grapevine readers?? If so, contact Jacqui our editor.....over to you.

Hazel.

Grapevine Treasurer's Report: July 2023:

Income: 1920.83 €

Expenditure: 539.53 €

We have a positive balance for the month: 1381.30 €

It may look very good, but we have a few bills to pay! We need to be vigilant, and start thinking of fundraising activities for the autumn - there is, of course, the quiz in early September, but we must do more!

Iain McGregor



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

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

SO

KEEP READING.....

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:



Colin and Hester
Gini and Martyn
Heidi and **Millie-Jean** and
their parents, Joël and Jo
Liam (*Polly's nephew*)
Nel (*Mair & John Pugh's*
daughter)

Pat and **Roy**
Polly
Bob (*Rev'd Caroline's*
Husband)
Jo and **Brian**

...and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of
Malcolm Butcher

The family and friends of
Richard (Dick) Hardwick

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]*



Churchwardens' Notes For September 2023

As I write, we are approaching the last of the three Morning Worship services we are holding over the summer months at Vouvant. They have proved to be popular with visitors, British and French alike. Rupert Cattell and his wife have graciously provided us with coffee afterwards at his home. Let us hope that the 'tradition' will continue next summer, as well as hopefully a carol service at Christmas. Hazel and John have officiated together and it's been so nice to hear the lovely organ being played. We are so blessed in our worship in our 'home' churches too to have uplifting hymns and anthems played so beautifully.

We will be sad to see Dee and Curtis leave for their new lives in England soon. They have been in our congregation at Puy de Serre for many years and certainly will be missed. They have staged several quiz evenings over the last year or so and will be presenting their last quiz on Friday 8 September. Do book and come along. Fun, good food and entertainment are guaranteed!

We asked in July for feedback concerning Bring and Share Lunches after services at Puy de Serre. Please give it some thought and tell one of us or any other member of the Church Council what you think.

I can't believe that it's almost time to get back to clubs and associations after the summer break! You probably are aware that at least eleven members of our congregation are members of local choirs. Although rehearsals can be tedious, singing in concerts in front of an audience can be almost magical. It can be so uplifting, as well as good for the health. We look forward to practising and singing some joyous Christmas music!

With our love and Blessings,

Doug and Margaret



Dates for your Diary

September 2023



1st September Friday

2nd Saturday The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea (see 4-Thought)

3rd Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

8th Friday 18hr00 **Curtis and Dee's Last Hurrah Quiz** in the Salle at Puy de Serre.
Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Accession of King Charles III (see 4-Thought)

10th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

14th Thursday Holy Cross Day

17th Sunday

21st Friday St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

24th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

29th Friday St Michael & All Angels/Michaelmas

30th September Saturday

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



Dates for your Diary

October 2023



1st October Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at La Chapelle Palluau

8th Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

15th Sunday

22nd Sunday 11hr00 **Holy Communion** at Puy de Serre

29th Sunday

31st October Tuesday All Souls Day

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

EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

SEPTEMBER INTO OCTOBER

DATE 2023	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRESIDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	INTERCESSOR	READERS	NOTES
Sunday 3 rd September	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD	HD		SS-J			
Sunday 10 th September	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	DG	SS-J	SP	IMG FMG	
Sunday 17 th September										
Sunday 24 th September	Puy De Serre	11.00	HC	HD	HD	MK	AM	CM	CH AH	
Sunday 1 st October	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

SEPTEMBER INTO OCTOBER

Responsibility (Organiser)	10 th September Puy de Serre 11hr00	24 th September Puy de Serre 11hr00
Refreshments after the service in Salle at Puy de Serre (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)	Jenny (Please note: No Bring & Share Lunch)	----- (Please note: No Bring & Share Lunch)
Flower Rota (Contact Barbara Matthews)	-	-

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.



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; Keeping in Touch; Oecumenical Walk around Foussais Payre; Sunday Club; "One more step along the world I go". "The Last Hurrah!" Quiz Night;



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 Mouilleron-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: www.allsaintsvendee.fr</p>	
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It's such a joy to hear from our ASV friends....

...Keeping in touch....

This from June West:

A little boy asked his mother, "Why are you crying?" "Because I'm a woman," she told him.

"I don't understand," he said. His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will."

Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked,

"God, why do women cry so easily?"

God said, "When I made the woman she had to be special.

I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort.

I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see my son," said God, "the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair.

The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart the place where love Resides x

This from Jim West:

A minister was taking the service last week, he wanted to increase the collection so he said the person who puts in the largest donation can choose three hymns.

After counting the money there was a cheque for £1.000 euros so he asked who wrote that cheque.

An old lady at the back put her hand up, he called her to the front and said "what three hymns would you like?" She looked across the congregation and saw three handsome men.

She said "I will have him
and him
and him".

[That's one way of increasing the congregation Jim]



and here's another one:

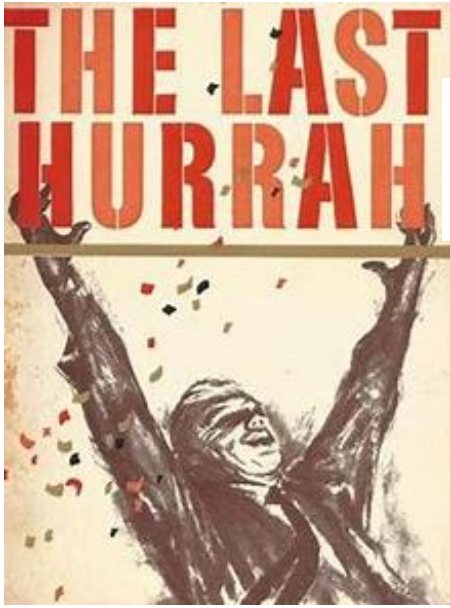
Wedding.

Did you know You can have 16 wives?

Four better
Four worse
Four richer
Four poorer.

[So there you are! Jim]

Don't forget this "Date for your Diary" is imminent!!!!



QUIZ

We have had confirmation from the Salle that
Curtis and Dee's Last Hurrah Quiz
will be on
8th September 18.00 hrs
in the Salle at Puy de Serre.

Fiona



Sunday Club *Something to chew over...*



On Friendship

From "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran

« And a youth said, "Speak to us of Friendship."

And he answered, saying: "Your friend is your needs answered. He is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving. And he is your board and your fireside. For you come to him with your hunger, and you seek him for peace.

When your friend speaks his mind, You fear not the 'nay' in your own mind, nor do you withhold the 'ay.' And when he is silent, your heart ceases not to listen to his heart. For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, All expectations are born and shared, with joy that is unclaimed.

When you part from your friend, you grieve not. For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, As the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain. And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit. For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its own mystery is not love, but a net cast forth: and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend. If he must know the ebb of your tide, let him also know its flood. For what is your friend that you should seek him with hours to kill? Seek him always with hours to live. For it is his to fill your need but not your emptiness. And in the sweetness of friendship, let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed."

Trudy



Sunday Club

Unselfish Giving

(Unknown Author)



In the days when ice cream was a lot cheaper, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. The waitress asked what he would like, he asked how much for an ice cream sundae? Fifty centimes she replied, the boy pulled out his change from his pocket, he studies the amount he has. Then replies well how much just for a plain ice cream?

She replied 35cents. By this time the waitress was feeling impatient, and other customers were waiting, the boy checked his change again and said OK yes plain ice cream then please.

The waitress brought the ice cream put the bill on the table and walked away.

The boy finished the ice cream paid the cashier and left.

When the waitress came to wipe the table, she began to cry, there neatly placed by the empty dish was a tip of 15cents. Because you see, he could have had the ice cream sundae but if he had, there would not have been enough to give the waitress a tip.

This little boy knew the meaning of sacrifice more than most.

When we give to Jesus, what proportion do we give.? is it just a percentage of all we have, or do we give unselfishly, even though we may need to sacrifice something else we may desire? Amen

Jenny Wilkinson



ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle Meeting and Sewing Group

Women's Fellowship - Ladies Group -

Always happy to receive new members

18th 22nd or 24th is up for discussion at Fontenay-le-Comte Chinese lunching-out Day !
all dates being considered.

Contact either Joan Stewart or Jenny

Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Jpsmorandiere@outlook.com

Just to clarify, everyone is welcome.



The Remnants

August 2023



La Chapelle Palluau

Our meeting this Sunday was at Alison and Ian's in Notre Dame de Riez. A lovely sunny summer's day. There were ten of us. Jill, Linda's friend, who we know well, was visiting from UK. She took the photo so we don't see her.

Alison lead us in a study of 1 Samuel. The childless Hannah gave up her precious first born as she promised the Lord, to the prophet Eli. My Bible shows a sketch of Hannah on a yearly visit to her little son, offering a new robe she had made for him. The boy Samuel has his arms outstretched toward his mother. This was all in God's long-term plan, as Samuel was the last of the great Judges.

Prayers and hymns followed and we all felt the value of meeting together and sharing our thoughts.

Later after tea and chats we had a shared lunch which was a great success.



Joyce

Reflections on an oecumenical walk around Foussais.

A small group of people met regularly over a few months to organise an oecumenical walk around Foussais-Payré, which was, in the sixteenth century, one of the centres of French Protestantism in the Vendée, and which, even today, reserves one-quarter of its cemetery for Protestants. A number of prominent figures have been associated with the town, and have left their mark on many of the buildings. It seemed, therefore, a logical place to explore.



On a sunny Friday afternoon in July, about 85 people met in the car park behind the church, dedicated to St. Hilaire, bishop of Poitiers in the fourth century. Maps were given out, water bottles checked, and off we went. A reporter from TV Vendée came with us and gave a few of the leaders a chance to talk to the camera – she stayed with us until the first stop, asked a few questions, long enough to make us run to catch up with the group! We meandered through the little alleyways of the village, often only wide enough for one person, and soon found ourselves in open country. We turned right down a track, and, after about 1 km, stopped at the first site, **Le Désert.**

Here, we discussed the importance of the site to the Protestant community, who assembled here, clandestinely, during the period after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Here is a rough timeline of the main events in the history of French Protestantism:

- 1517 Luther pins his 95 grievances to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, starting the Reformation
- 1534 John Calvin preaches in Poitiers, and starts the movement for the Reformed Church in France
- 1536 John Calvin publishes his "Institutes of the Christian Religion", a seminal work outlining his basic precepts, helping to formalise the Reformed Churches of France and Scotland
- 1562-1598 the eight wars of religion, brought an end by ...
- 1598 the Edict of Nantes, giving French Protestants the freedom of religious assembly and recognition of their faith
- 1685 the Edict of Fontainebleau: under pressure from Catholic dioceses, Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes
- 1787 the Edict of Tolerance: Louis XVI restores legal status in France to Protestants, but not freedom of assembly.
- 1789 the French Revolution: France becomes a secular state, and many abbeys and churches are closed, both Catholic and Protestant
- 1789 promulgation of the Rights of Man, to promote personal Equality, Fraternity and Liberty.
- 1793-6 General Louis-Marie Thureau unleashes his "colonnes incendiaires" known as "colonnes infernales" on the Vendée, destroying churches, burning, raping and pillaging, to try to subdue the Vendée - he fails miserably!
- 1802 Civil liberties are restored to French Protestants, but not yet the permission to worship freely.
- 19th C Protestant ministers made civil servants, with a salary (1500-8000 Fr), to the consternation of Catholics - resentment resumes and grows.
- 1901/05 various laws passed to clarify the situation and divide powers of Church and State. Laws gradually changed (latest change 2021), but essentially, that is the present status, with freedom of thought, speech and religion.

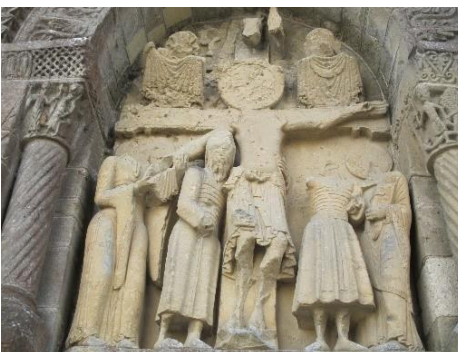
A very peaceful little place now, but four hundred years ago it would have been very different, with lookouts, people being told of the location of the assembly, minutes or hours beforehand, and everyone being scared of being discovered and having to flee for their lives. Capture for the men meant imprisonment or death, and for the women and children enslavement, or being sent to a convent for "re-education" ..



After hearing its interesting history, we moved on through the bocage, to the little hamlet of **Villeneuve**, where we stopped at what seemed to be no more than an old barn. It was the Protestant temple for many years, and, above the lintel, bears the inscription “ER 1834” (Eglise Réformée). It was hidden away as the Protestants, while now tolerated, still did not have the right to free assembly. We looked at a large slab which can be lifted to reveal two tunnels, into which the ministers and the congregation could drop down and make their way to two separate dry wells from which they could make their escape. Dry wells were chosen as they would not arouse any suspicion. The temple itself was sold in 1843 to pay for the building of the present structure in Foussais itself, for which we then set off.



It was a lovely walk, through the bocage with its small fields and hedgerows, a landscape very much unchanged since the eighteenth century. The weather was getting warmer as we reached Foussais and explored **the temple**. It was explained how the sermon was the central part of the service, starting with a small exegesis, then usually having a short section for the children (if any were present), and finishing with an interpretation of the contemporary relevance of the texts. Music is central to the service, and we were treated to part of a Bach cantata, which would have been sung in larger temples. There was a small exhibition, showing the developments of the Protestant faith in the Vendée, and the growth of church schools – Clavin said that no successful church can exist without a school. There used to be a small school beside the church, which closed in 1889. For many years it was mixed.



We then proceeded to the heart of the village, where we explored one of the glories of Romanesque architecture in the Vendée – the west front of **Foussais Church**. It represents, in very fine detail, various scenes from the New Testament as described in St. John’s gospel. And, totally unexpectedly, we have the name of the sculptor, who must have been so fiercely proud of his achievement – an inscription gives us the name “Giraldus Audebertus”. Even more unexpectedly, we may well know his face, for, gazing down at us from above the sculptures, is a face, which, miraculously, was not destroyed by the armies of Louis-Marie Thureau as they raped and pillaged their way across the Vendée in 1793-94. If you don’t know this church, it will fully reward the visit. We concluded the visit with a brief look at the interior and its wooden ceiling.

What a wonderful way to finish the walk – but there was more! Firstly, a picnic, which we had all brought in the car. After an apéritif provided by the committee, we sat down on long tables and spent a very pleasant hour talking about what we had seen and the people we had met. It quite revived us!

After the picnic, the committee had liaised with a choir which had been having a masterclass in the church all afternoon and had engineered an invitation for us to join their concert, which was due to be free. No-one had any idea of the glory that was coming – the concert was simply magnificent. Soloists, concert quality accompanying pianists: we were all riveted, and sat in total silence. The concert concluded, apart from the choral version of RVW’s “Fantasia on Greensleeves”, with a stupendous rendering of his “Dona Nobis Pacem”, written just before the outbreak of the second world war, and a standing ovation (very rare in France), even better than his own 1937 interpretation..

That was the conclusion of what proved to be a most enjoyable, if quite tiring, day. Everyone enjoyed it immensely, and Catholic, Anglican or Eglise Protestant Unie (or anything else!), we all learned a great deal. The committee are talking about repeating the walk next year around Mouilleron-en-Pareds. We’ll see you all there!

Iain McGregor.

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

“One more step along the world I go”

London-born Sydney Carter (1915-2004) became a teacher after graduating from Oxford, but increasingly spent time writing for radio and the stage, including revues with Donald Swann. His interest then moved to folk song, which was enjoying a revival in the 1950s and 60s, particularly appreciating the words in their realistic reflection of people’s lives, including their often political and subversive content that inspired a new wave of contemporary writing related to protest movements and social issues. Because of this, he began to write new Christian ‘folk songs’, from a personal position balanced between faith and doubt, frequently drawing on biblical scenarios. ‘One more step’ is the nearest of his songs to a hymn, and indeed it is often used as such by wedding couples. Another of his songs is “Lord of the Dance”, based on an American folk tune, as well as "When I Needed a Neighbour". During WW2 he was a conscientious objector and worked with the Friends’ Ambulance Movement in the Middle East and Greece.



Come on and Sing along I’m sure this version will make you smile....(just click on the link)

<https://youtu.be/RFBq--WK8RO>

Jacqui

*1)One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new,
Keep me traveling along with you:*

Chorus

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.*

*2)Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me:*

Chorus

*3)As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know:*

Chorus

*4)Give me courage when the world is
rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you:*

Chorus

*5)You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me traveling along with you:*

Chorus

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.*



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

Please send your items and comments for the **October edition**
to: Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com

before 15th September 2023

