Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

July 2022

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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4-Thought
July 2022

I have recently been privileged to take 4 blessings of marriage, 2 still to go. For one of those I was required to preach on the couple's choice of text, which was not one I was particularly familiar with : Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

> Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

This text is a part of Solomon's instructions for living a meaningful life. Solomon teaches that in order to live a life that counts you must learn to value relationships over possessions. You must value people more than things. You must find joy in fellowship, not pleasure. And Solomon makes this point in a simple, clear, and direct statement: "Two are better than one."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 declares and defends that principle that two are better than one. But the last line of verse 12 intensifies this principle with the statement: "a threefold cord is not quickly broken." From two are better than one to three are even better than two. A single cord can hold up only so much. A double cord can sustain more weight. But a threefold cord can bear three times more than a single cord. It is not quickly broken. This closing statement reminds us again that there is great strength in spiritual unity.

If you think that snowflakes are frail little things, remember if you get enough of them together, they can stop traffic. This is the power of unity with others. But this is also a statement about the power of faith in God. In any great relationship, God is the third strand. So, in our daily lives amidst all the hustle and bustle, let's hold onto the thought that God is the driving power.

Hazel

Emergency First Aid Course.

Geoff recalls his first aid course as a young lad in the Boys' Brigade. All he can remember is how to tie off the umbilical cord if confronted with a newly born baby! Surprisingly, the course we took in the salle at Puy de Serre didn't contain anything like that!

Many thanks go to Hazel and trainer daughter Becky and partner for flying over to France to get us up to date in basic first aid. Fifteen of us gathered for an extremely interesting and informative day. We all passed the end test and now proudly have our certificates. All this despite the fact that in kneeling to do CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the rubber, legless victim, you could hear the knees creaking as us 'first aiders' staggered down and up again!

You can all rest assured knowing that should any of you fall ill or have an accident in one of our services, one or more of us will immediately leap into action, completely panic free and calmly deal with the situation – well, anyway, that's the plan!

Margaret Kent

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers:

Ann, Brian and family
Chris and his family (Brian's son in New Zealand)
Colin and Hester
Ann and Peter (friends of David and Sally)
Anne
Dick
Heidi and Millie-Jean and their parents, Joël and Jo
Ken
Liam (Polly's nephew)
Malcolm
Mainir (Mair Pugh's Mum)
Pat and Roy
Peter
Polly
Sally and David

…and for the bereaved:

The family and friends of

Barbara Kenyon
Nan Rothwell

[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]

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Grapevine Treasurer's Report
May 2022:

Income:	752.63 €	
Expenditure:	2623.85 €	
We have a negative balance for the month:		-1871.22 €.

Our income from Planned Giving is now the lowest since 2019. If anyone wishes to join the scheme, please let me know at mcgregor@lalogette.com.

Our contribution to the Common Fund accounts for much of this month's negative balance, and, as everyone is experiencing, other costs are rising.

If anyone has any fund-raising ideas, or is even prepared to run an event, **please** contact a member of the PCC.

Iain McGregor
(Treasurer)

Churchwardens' Notes for July 2022

We continue with our services of Holy Communion at La Chapelle Palluau on the first Sunday of the month and at Puy de Serre on the second and fourth Sundays. LCP was particularly well attended in June and was followed by coffee in the church as usual. At PdS we now follow the service with coffee in the salle and on 12 June had our first bring-your-own picnic outside under the salle abri. It was so pleasant to be able to sit and chat over lunch – something we have missed since the Covid pandemic. So we hope to continue this practice and then get back to bring-and-share lunches. We are also hoping soon to return to using a common chalice for Holy Communion.

STOP PRESS

We have just concluded a Council Meeting and one decision was that we will recommence

Bring-and-Share lunches at Puy de Serre on the 10th July

Doug

The second of the three services planned to be held at Vouvant church will be held at 11.00 on Sunday 17 July, with coffee afterwards in the local Chateau de la Recepte. The third service will be held in the same venue on 21 August. While all three Services of the Word are aimed primarily at locals and holidaymakers, please make it an occasion for all of us to worship together, just in a different venue. If you haven't been into Vouvant church before, it is a beautiful Romanesque building with a very old crypt – well worth visiting, so you can visit and worship at the same time!

We haven't had a lot of response from you all concerning future events for ASV. These could be for fundraising for our church and other worthy causes, helping to bring other non-churchgoers in and for fun and fellowship. Do put your thinking caps on and let us know your thoughts.

I know we are in desperate need of steady rainfall, but do enjoy this lovely hot weather. Don't forget to wear sunhats and sun cream and drink lots of liquid (non-alcoholic of course!) and stay out of the sun when it's really hot in the afternoon. Well, that's our nag for the month!

Blessings,

Doug and Margaret

Archdeaconry Synod Report 2022

The meeting took place this year on Zoom. Consisting of three sessions, a Saturday morning and two Wednesday evenings.

First an introductory talk by Bishop Robert in which he mentioned how he and the Archdeacon had enjoyed his five-day visit to South West France.

As usual first Business session, finance in Synod all well and there is no increase in Common Fund (Make the treasurer happy)

Over £350,000 had been raised for the Ukraine.

Further information re safeguarding given, further info will come from Safeguarding Officer in the future.

In 2023 a new Standing Committee will be needed and new Synod Reps.

Both Wednesday evenings were given over to two speakers. One regarding the Roman Catholics in France and secondary the Protestants in France. We were given two questions regarding the talks:

1. What local activities de we have running or would like to run in collaborations with the Catholic and Protestant churches.

2. How can we help facilitate the local activities at an Archdeaconry level?

We split into groups and discussed both questions. Answers varied quite a lot mostly depending on whether the Chaplaincy was in a City or very rural like us. But we all seemed to take part in the week of Christian Unity in January.

I suspect the Archdeacon has been given a lot of new information and ideas on how we can collaborate in the future.

Martin Door

Dates for your Diary

July 2022

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

1st July Friday

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

10th Sunday **11hr00 Holy Communion at Puy de Serre** + 1st Bring & Share Lunch

14th Thursday 2pm **Sewing Circle**

17th Sunday **11hr00 Morning Worship at Church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption at Vouvant (85120)**

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

28th Thursday 2pm **Ladies Circle** Screen printing – led by Jenny; Cakes: Jenny

31st July Sunday

Dates for your Diary

August 2022

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

1st August Monday

7th Sunday **11hr00 Holy Communion at La Chapelle Palluau**

11th Thursday 2pm **Sewing Circle**

14th Sunday **11hr00 Holy Communion at Puy de Serre**

21st Sunday **11hr00 Morning Worship at Church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption at Vouvant (85120)**

25th Thursday, 2pm **Ladies Circle** Annual lunch and shopping trip – venue tba

28th Sunday **11hr00 Holy Communion at Puy de Serre**

31st August Wednesday

LECTIONARY READINGS
July into August 2022

3rd July **Third Sunday after Trinity**
2 Kings 5.1-14
Galatians 6.[1-6]7-16
Luke 10.1-11, 16-20
Psalm 30

10th July **Fourth Sunday after Trinity**
Amos 7.7-end
Colossians 1.1-14
Luke 10.25-37
Psalm 82

17th July **Fifth Sunday after Trinity**
Amos 8.1-12
Colossians 1.15-28
Luke 10.38-end
Psalm 52

24th July **Sixth Sunday after Trinity**
Hosea 1.2-10
Colossians 2.6-15[16-19]
Luke 11.1-13
Psalm 85 (or 85.1-7)

7th August **Eighth Sunday after Trinity**
Isaiah 1.1,10-20
Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16
Luke 12.32-40
Psalm 50.1-8, 23-end

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Sunday Club

No one will be turned away, everyone is welcomed

We are now open for children to attend Sunday Club activities.

Please contact Jenny if you require more information:
email: jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

...and there's much more...
..... KEEP READING.....

EAST & WEST VENDÉE – CHURCH SERVICE ROTA

JULY INTO AUGUST

DATE 2022	VENUE	TIME	SERVICE	PRES-IDENT	PREACHER	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGAN-IST	CHALICE	INTER-CESSOR	READERS	WEL-COMERS	NOTES
Sunday 3rd July	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD								Thomas the Apostle & 3rd Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 10th July	Puy de Serre	11.00	HC	HD		MK			JW	AC GK		4th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 17th July	Vouvent	11.00	MW	HD						RC MK		5th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 24th July	Puy de Serre	11.00	HC	HD		DG			CG	IMG FMG		6th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 31st July	No service											7th Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 7th August	La Chapelle Palluau	11.00	HC	HD								8th Sunday after Trinity

FORWARD PLANNING
July into August

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)	**3rd July HC 11h00 LCP**	**10th July HC 11h00 Salle at PdS**	**17th July MW 11h00 Vouvant**	**24th July HC 11h00 Salle at PdS**	**7th August HC 11h00 LCP**
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)					
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)					

These are YOUR pages.....

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

Vicarage Garden,
Pentecost at La Chapelle Palluau
ASV Ladies Circle;
Uplifting thoughts from Luxembourg
"Resto du Coeur";
Sunday Club

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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

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Thanks to Margaret R, who is a friend of ASV living in Luxembourg, who has attended the Anglican church in Luxembourg and is pleased to encourage All Saints Vendée because we are an English-speaking church in France. Margaret sends us this uplifting thought taken from "The Friendship Book" of Francis Gay 1988.

One word won't tell folk who you are - You've got to keep on talking;
One step won't take you very far - You've got to keep on walking;
One inch won't make you very tall - You've got to keep on growing;
One trip to church won't tell you all - You've got to keep on going.

A Pentecost like no other.

This was a special day for us in the West at La Chapelle Palluau, a Pentecost that we won't forget.

The beautiful old church was cool and welcoming, the huge old doors creaking as we entered.

We were few, yes just the three of us, plus the church in the east, that had come along to give us support which we so welcome.

Hazel had approached a temporary altar, close to us three, and no need to count out the precious gift of the communion.
The tea was set out, extra hot water to welcome the guests we were praying for.

We were all talking softly together, a before service word, an apology to Hazel and dear Martin, coming all this way for us three. *Then* there was confrontation at the back of the church, a rattling *of the door and* the difficultly of trying to get in, *when* in BURST a family of FIVE, two Adults *and* three little children, one in a push-chair, the other two running down the aisle towards us. We were astounded, overjoyed, as everyone rushed to welcome them, the wonderful echo of children's voices.

But wait a minute, God is not finished with us, as we settled the family, more rattling at the door and in came a lovely couple from Nantes that we have already met a few times. They are French but speak lovely English.

At this time, Hazel was thinking of breaking the communion wafers in half but, God wasn't finished with us and again the rattling of the door and in came three more! We were astounded, we rushed for more hymn books and settled them in.

[At this moment it would have been lovely to have Stuart burst in with his lovely playing, but he was still recuperating from a operation on his wrist].

We had a lovely service, the Holy Spirit was with us, as we tried our best to raise a sweet sound with our singing. And no one went hungry as the precious body of Christ was given out.

Joyce

Did you know

PREVIOUS SERMONS and TALKS

can be read at:

www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Vicarage Garden

Following John and Mair's article last month we have received the following letter from Marian Rackham which has been slightly shortened. DG

Dear Readers,

I read with interest John and Mair's letter to the Grapevine re. the Vicarage Garden and exhort anyone with a little time to spare to offer their services to them. It is not too onerous a task is shared by several but a lot of work for one couple on their own.

However, I would like to make one amendment to the article as the list they referred to had not actually disappeared, but had been formerly finished and the team thanked. I would hate the team to feel they had not been appreciated because they certainly were, most taking on one slot a year for two hours but several doing much more. I am aware that many of them have sold their homes and moved back to UK but all the team bar one family were second home owners so if any of them are still around perhaps they could offer their services again to Mair and John who I know would appreciate their help.

I am sorry I am not there to lend a hand to but wish you all well.

May God bless you all,

Marian

Please contact Mair and John by email
at: pughsnews15@gmail.com
if you think you can help.

I should like to add my own thanks to Marian, the team, council members and other individuals who have helped in the past and now to John and Mair who have worked hard to keep the garden tidy. I repeat below the final part of John and Mair's article published last month.

Doug

ASV LADIES' CIRCLE

The Ladies' Circle and Sewing Group take place at:
Joan Stewart's, Mouilleron-en-Pareds.
Both groups always welcome newcomers.
Contact: Joan Stewart, or Jenny Wilkinson
Jpsmorandiere@outlook.com
Jennywilkinson213@gmail.com

Ladies Circle had a Queens Platinum tea party, with our own Queen

We gathered at Mouilleron en Pareds in the garden of Joan Stewart and shared Coronation chicken, cucumber sandwiches, trifle, shortbread, etc.,
And the sun shone, twas a grand gesture enjoyed by all, in honour of our Queen Elizabeth the 2nd whom reigned in honour of her people for 70 years. The longest reigning Queen in the world.
God Bless Our Queen
Jennifer Wilkinson

"We even had the Queen!"

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022

Thursday 14th **July**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 28th July, 2pm
Ladies Circle Screen printing –
led by Jenny
Cakes: Jenny

Thursday 11th **August**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 25th August, 2pm
Ladies Circle
Annual lunch and shopping trip – venue tba

Thursday 8th **September**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 22nd September, 2pm
Ladies Circle Macrame –
led by Jane Lock, plus starting makes for table top sale in November
Cakes: Jean

Thursday 13th **October**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 27th October, 2pm Cards and tags

Thursday 10th **November**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 24th November, 2pm
Ladies Circle Table top sale –
Invite friends for a cuppa
Cakes: Pat, Jaynie and Joan

Thursday 8th **December**, 2pm
Sewing Circle

Thursday 15th December, 11am
Ladies Circle
Get ready for Christmas!
Bring and share Christmas lunch

Sunday Club

THE GIFT BEYOND IMAGINATION

The gift was simple...the gift was small...But the promise it held was larger than life!!

Emma rushed to open it, but when the gift fell out, she just looked at it. It was just a seed - a tiny black seed. Why did Granny leave her a seed before she died?

Emma was eight, and her Granny had said she would be leaving soon, on a trip to heaven. Granny assured her that before she left, she would leave her a special gift...a gift beyond imagination!
The little girl clung to the promise of the gift as she saw her gran begin to fade away. The illness had made her so thin and frail, but Granny still smiled and said Jesus would be travelling with her in this trip. 💗

Even now, two weeks after Granny had left on "her new journey" a she had called it, Emma clung to the promise. But a seed ...? What had granny been thinking? Tears of disappointment began to appear in Emma's face. She had hoped for more. But what was there left to do now except plant the tiny seed. An old clay pot was found behind the shed, so she filled with chilled spring soil. She planted the seed deep into the earth as she thought of Granny. Two long months had passed and oh, how she still missed her! New tears of sadness and grief slid down her cheeks, gently watering he seeds new resting place.

Finally, about a week into summer, the tiny plant poked its head above the soil and drank in the rays of sunlight, making it grow taller and stronger each day as Emma watered and cared for it, and soon bloomed into a wonderful Red Poppy, and Emma would wake up each morning and smile thinking of Granny. It was like hearing Granny say "I Love you". 💗 But after a few days the flower began to fade more each day until finally it shrivelled and died. Emma couldn't bear to throw it away, as each day she felt saddened and brought thoughts of Granny sickness. So, Emma decided many weeks later it was time to throw it out, as the air began to chill, and leaves 🍃 were falling from the trees. But as Emma did so, she had noticed tiny specks began to fall, they were SEEDS!

This is when Emma remembered what Granny had said "Winter may come, but that just means Spring is on its way " with this thought, Emma began to 😊 smile. She now understood that Granny's spring had come in Heaven! She also realised the preciousness of Granny's gift. The real gift was a lesson about life, a lesson about Christ - wrapped in the red scarf of his Love ❤️, the seed of our life. 💖

Written by Susan Noble-Ball
Adapted by Jenny Wilkinson

The seed of God's love was once wrapped in a draping of red....His son's blood. Even when Jesus appeared to be dead and buried, life was born anew, as the Father raised him from the dead. The bible says in 1 John5:12, He who has the son, has the life; he who does not have the son of God, does not have life."

Jenny and Trudy

Sunday Club

Lord, Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.
We turn to you as the sounds of war resound in Europe.
We pray to you for Ukraine.
We pray to you for Russia.
We pray to you for Europe and the world.
Be the support of all those who are shaken, disturbed by fear, anxiety and violence.
Break the pride of the powerful.
Inspire wisdom to those in government.
Change hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.
Keep in each of us the spirit of love that distinguishes in others a brother,
a sister and not an enemy.
Lord, make us peacemakers.

P Michel Pagès, Aumonier national LCE
Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)
Trudy

Sign seen in front of a Baptist Church:

The fact that there's a
Highway to Hell
and only a
Stairway to Heaven
says a lot about
anticipated traffic numbers!

Thank you, Trudy

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

Send your items for the August edition to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th July 2022