

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"



The Grapevine



January 2012

CONTACTS:

Priest: Position vacant at the moment

Church Wardens : Doug Green Phone no: 0549 72 18 46 e-mail: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk
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PREFACE



Dear Friends,



January finds us with the tail end of Christmas and, this year, with the whole of the short season of the Epiphany. Two quite separate seasons it would seem, the one looking back to the events two thousand years ago in and around the little town of Bethlehem; the other to the spreading of the news of these events out to the whole world, to all nations and to all mankind. One tells of the birth of Jesus, the other of the visit of the `wise men` - who followed the star and returned to tell the story of the birth of Our Lord.

We get to associating colours, that is liturgical or church colours to each season as it comes. Gold and white prevail at Christmas, though this is not altogether a season of joy and gladness, when we think of the difficulty of the journey to Bethlehem, the search for somewhere to stay and the condition and problems of the birth in the stable. Remember, too, that Christmas is not a one day event; it is a season – the twelve days of Christmas – a season that does not start until Christmas Eve. It is a season in which we celebrate not just the Birth, but then on the next day, we remember the death of the first Christian martyr, St Stephen. Then, two days after, we remember the killing of the babies, the Holy Innocents. These twelve days then were not all gladness and joy. This time for many is a sad, lonely and fearful time, not only in strife stricken lands, but amongst friends and families in these difficult economic times.

In my younger days and in less stressful times, the colour for Epiphany was green – a time of outgoing and growth. Our new lectionaries now keep the white theme going throughout Epiphany - not gold but still white. I ask the question why. In the other `green` season of Trinity, we think of mission, our mission to be the `Body of Christ` in the world today. We try to carry this out in the strength of the Holy Spirit. Epiphany is different – as yet no experience of Good Friday, Easter or Pentecost. Epiphany is the showing and telling about the Christ child, of God's initiative to send His Son into the world as a tiny baby, to live among us and to die for us. So our Epiphany mission is to respond to God's initiative, to tell and live out in our lives the wonders of the first Christmas. Our Epiphany call is R and R – **not** rest and recuperation, but to recognise and respond to the tasks he sets before us.

New Year blessings
on you all

Herbie

JANUARY CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

01/01/2012 No Service

08/01/2012 Epiphany 1

1st. Lesson: Isa. 60: 1-6

11:00 am PdS: HC(CW)

Epistle: 1 John 5: 5-13 Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11

15/01/2012 Epiphany 2

1st. Lesson: 1 Sam. 3: 1-10

11:00 am LCA: HC(CW)

Epistle: Rev. 5: 1-10 Gospel: John 1: 43-51

22/01/2012 Epiphany 3

1st. Lesson: Gen. 14: 17-20

11:00 am PdS: HC(CW)

Epistle: Rev. 19: 6-10 Gospel: John 2: 1-11

29/01/2012 Epiphany 4

11:00 am PdS: BCP

Epistle: Rom. 13: 1-7 Gospel: Matt. 8: 23-34

05/02/2012 3rd Sunday before Lent

1st. Lesson: Isa. 40: 21-31

11:00 am LCP: HC(CW)

Epistle: 1 Cor. 9:16-23 Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39

12/02/2012 2nd Sunday before Lent

1st Lesson: Prov. 8:1, 22-3

11:00 am PdS: HC(CW)

Epistle: Col. 1: 15-20 Gospel: John 1: 1-14

LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau

WW=Word & Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship); BCP=Book of Common Prayer



*Please join us for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services, followed by a Bring & Share Lunch
(Unfortunately, when there is a service on the fifth Sunday in the month, the hall is not available).
Everyone is welcome to join us - even if you have not brought anything.
There is always enough to go round!*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

15th January, Sunday, Home Worship Group, 11am at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin: 0251 507559, or email Christopher.taylor85@orange.fr

16th January, Monday, Prayer Group, 8pm at Chris and Julie Taylor's in Saint Pierre-du-Chemin

26th January, Thursday, Ladies Circle, 2.30pm at La Morandiere, Mouilleron-en-Pareds. For further details, please contact Joan Stewart on 0251 00 34 70

Website www.allsaintsvendee.fr

At the present time we are trying to make the website more responsive to viewers needs, particularly for visitors. I would welcome any suggestions from Grapevine readers and also any photographs of church activities for use on the site. Please contact me at peter.mills@wanadoo.fr

Thank you!

Peter Mills



Names on our Prayer List.....

Desmond Vine – who was recently taken ill and is due to have an operation on 21st December. He will be in hospital for approx. 12 days which means he will be in over Christmas. Please also remember Elizabeth in your prayers.

Sally Mills – Sally is now recovering well from her hip operation

Jo Collinson – who is coming to the end of a long and intensive course of radiotherapy.

Rachel & Peter Hutchinson - problems of ill-health and they are struggling to maintain their large property.

Colin Phipps and Katherine – Colin continues to need regular treatment.

Celia – who seems to be settling into her new environment.

Jean Mylod - who is recovering from hip replacement surgery on 2nd December.

Carol Stocking – who is recovering from knee surgery on 9th November.

Pat Kent – who is regaining her strength between sessions of chemotherapy.

Vivienne Kwok – who is coming to the end of radiotherapy treatment

Claire Ricketts, now staying in the UK (daughter of Neville Dilkes), who is receiving treatment for cancer. Please pray for courage and support.

Marian & Richard Rackham's sister **Vivian**, in the UK, who is very poorly.

Update on Dawn's friend, Midge Hall.

She is due to go home on 10th Jan. 2012 after many months in The Spinal Rehabilitation Unit at Salisbury. She is unable to walk and will always need a carer. Her ground floor flat has been adapted to allow wheelchair access. She was recently interviewed by the police and was told that the person who caused the accident was already disqualified from driving. Midge's only concern is that he never gets behind the wheel of a vehicle again - not that he may eventually only serve a very short prison sentence. She has made remarkable progress considering she was in a hospice at Exeter for some weeks following the accident. Midge hopes that the injury settlement may be enough for her to have an all-terrain wheelchair so that she can continue to join her friends in the Rambling Group, where she was formerly such an active member.

THANK YOU LORD JESUS.

Please let Dawn have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers.

☎ 0240 33 12 21 or ✉ dawn.collinson@wanadoo.fr.

"Thank you all for your continuing prayers"

Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator is **Pat Kent**. Please let Pat have details of those who are ill, in hospital, or have other pastoral needs, as soon as possible. She will then forward information to the Prayer Co-ordinator.

Pat's phone number is: ☎ 0549 72 27 72 and email: ✉ Geoffrey.Kent@wanadoo.fr

SOME THANK-YOUS.....

Mike and Jean Mylod would like to thank you all for your prayers, calls, visits and cards during Jean's recent stay in hospital. She is now home and making good progress.

All your support is deeply appreciated

I would like to thank all of you for the lovely card, signed by so many of you, that I received whilst still in hospital. Thank you, too, to all those who have asked after me and sent get well wishes.

I am not allowed to walk very far yet, but hope to be back at church very soon

With my love and blessings.

Carole Stocking

Notes From Doug Green:

New Priest / Locum.

Sorry no news of a new priest or a locum at the moment. I will wait until after the Christmas Holiday and try to find out what is happening and what is our next move. In the meantime can I ask again that everyone uses their own contacts in the UK and elsewhere to try to find someone to fill either position. As far as a locum is concerned we need someone who can commit to 3 months here (minimum) - surely there is a priest who would love to minister to us in this lovely part of France? As far as accommodation is concerned we needed to find another property now that Brian Davies' house is sold. We are pleased to say that we have completed an agreement to lease a fully furnished and equipped house for a period of 12 months from April 2012. We put our trust in God that we can find a priest/locum to live here. In the meantime again our thanks to Herbie Floate who is helping so much and to Geoffrey Colman and Tom Goode.

Communications Officer / notices

Nobody has answered my plea for someone to take on this post completely and so I repeat it here. We do need someone who will be the focus for all information about our church and forthcoming events etc. and to communicate this to the congregations, outside bodies, local press, free magazines etc. Please think carefully if you could do this job and let me know. In the meantime, Barbara Kenyon has agreed to produce a Notice Sheet for each church service so please let her know if you have any information/reminders that need to be included. Remember, this is a supplement to information in Grapevine and on the Website. Have you looked at the website recently? Peter Mills has modified it incorporating his own ideas and those of Jacqui and there is now a "Stop Press" for very recent news. Please have a look www.allsaintsvendee.fr

Setting up the Hall at Puy de Serre.

My plea for more volunteers last month produced just one person who would be willing to help if someone else could help her. I repeat my plea - please will some more people come forward - especially couples - to set up the hall before services and clear up afterwards. It is not an onerous task and coffee and the bring and share lunch are such an integral part of our fellowship on a Sunday. Unfortunately, I have to report that the School hall will no longer be available when the normal hall is in use by others. This means we will not be able to have Coffee or a Lunch on these occasions unless someone can find an alternative venue at a reasonable cost. Please make enquiries if you know of anywhere nearby and let me know.

Doug Green

THE FINAL QUIZ OF THE YEAR - 9TH DECEMBER

This was attended by 28 people who seemed to be enjoying themselves quizzing away and munching through a variety of seasonal and other UK favourites! The quiz was finally won by 'The Duffers' [apologies for mishearing the scores for the picture round], closely followed by the 'Deux Sevriens' and 'Don Quizzote'. I would like to thank John and Barbara for their help in the organisation.

There will be a quiz available on the web site shortly (I hope). Can be returned to me until the end of the year for a (liquid) prize.

Polly Ward

[Thank you, Polly, for a really good series of quizzes this past year! -Ed]

LENT COURSE

For centuries, many Christians have celebrated Lent, as a time of personal preparation for Easter; to help understand, and apply to their own lives, what the suffering of the crucifixion and the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, mean to them.

This year, All Saints Vendée is proposing to hold a Lent Study, commencing the week of 27th February, and held for 5 weeks, until the end of March. We hope many of you, and maybe some of your friends who do not regularly come to church, will join us.

We will be following a Lent Course by John Birch, called 'Toward the Sunrise'. The themes of the 5 weekly studies are as follows:-

Week 1. Map. (*Be prepared. plan the journey*)

Week 2. Map and a pair of binoculars. (*What are we looking for?*)

Week 3. Map, a pair of binoculars, plus guide book. (*Walking towards the sunset, Jesus walks with the disciples, he guides their thoughts.*)

Week 4. Map, a pair of binoculars, guide book plus snack bar. (*Walking to the sunrise; Jesus is revealed in the sharing of a meal.*)

Week 5. Map, a pair of binoculars, guide book, snack bar plus a stone. (*Destination in sight, the empty tomb is no longer a mystery, but central to the story.*)

Our home groups have used several of John Birch's studies before, and found them very good. The course is thought provoking, and challenging: perhaps as any attempt at personal preparation must be!

It is initially planned to have two study groups, but we can add to this if demand requires it! If you feel you might like to join in, please speak to, (or email) Doug Green, Lucia Golding, or Chris Taylor, whose contact details are below. It will be really good to meet together informally, and share with one another, the wonderful truths of the Gospel!

Doug Green.	greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk	0549 72 18 46
Lucia Golding	lucia.golding@wanadoo.fr	0251 34 36 25
Chris Taylor.	christopher.taylor85@orange.fr	0251 50 75 59

Bonne Année!

As we all know, the French like to celebrate with good food and wines – particularly at the reveillons for Christmas and the New Year. We don't really have a word in English that translates 'reveillon' properly. 'Party' just doesn't do it for me. Maybe 'vigil' [without its implied austerity] comes closer, for the revellers certainly stay awake until the early hours of the morning to greet the special day!

These feasts, of course, consist of several courses and often include foie gras and seafood, especially oysters, in this part of France. The Christmas reveillon is normally celebrated with family, the New Year one, 'le Saint-Sylvestre', is often celebrated with friends.

So who was Saint Sylvester? He was, apparently, Bishop of Rome in 317AD. He lived during the time of Constantine the Great and is believed to have brought about his conversion to Christianity by miraculously curing him of leprosy. At New Year 's Eve, the Romans would eat as much food as possible until the new year arrived. The more you eat, the more prosperous you will be in the coming year. So perhaps it is this tradition that our neighbours are continuing!

However you are celebrating the coming season, may you be surrounded by friends and people who love and care for you...

As I am writing this, the storm is raging outside. Winds up to 140kph are threatened and it has not stopped raining for more than a few minutes for days, it seems. Let us hope for a peaceful start to the new year!

`Calme et Claire
nuit de l'An
a une bonne année
donne élan`

Here's hoping!
Happy New Year, everyone!

Joan Stewart

Pugh's News

At the moment of compiling this, December 13th, John and Mair are still apart. Mair is in England having medical investigations and follow-up appointments are running late into December, so it is unlikely that she will be back in Tanzania for Christmas. On the upside, Mair has been able to see her grandchildren in their nativity plays.

John does not feel that he can leave the school to return to the UK for a break at the moment, as the students only have a long weekend break over Christmas (they break up for 6 weeks at the end of January) and plunge straight into their end of 2nd year exams in early January (with an external examiner coming to oversee these). John wants to make sure they are totally prepared and to give them all the support they need. He is frustrated that the diocese does not seem to have made any moves to replace him when he leaves, and feels that they are banking on his good nature to stay longer if a replacement has not been found. It is especially hard for him to be on his own during this period, and would value your prayers for physical and emotional strength as he writes and prepares the exams and does all the other arrangements needed to make the process go smoothly.

There is very good news about Bethany, the small girl who had a brain haemorrhage in the UK. The family now have her at home, though still needing a ventilator, and was able to go to school in her adapted wheelchair and was awake enough to enjoy the children's chatter and feel the cold air on her face.

John says the old Land Rover is in need of an engine transplant and it has been decided to use all of the money in the International Fund's Vehicle Fund to go towards a new engine and suspension kit. A lot has been asked of the old vehicle and the time has come to replace the failing parts before they are seriously stranded on one of their long journeys, usually well loaded up.

Mair and John thank everyone for their involvement in their lives and send much love as Christmas approaches. Mair can be contacted by post at 29 Wayland Road, Sheffield S11 8YD and John can be phoned on 00255 657 328 778, but please remember that he is 2 hours ahead of French time, so don't ring him after 8.00 pm as he will be in bed!

Our prayers are asked for:

John's situation and the need for a new teacher

Mair's health

For Ute at the orphanage, and the children, that they may eventually be granted visas from Germany

Praise God for:

John and Mair's 36th wedding anniversary on 13th December

For Liz Hodgkins returning to Berega to help at the orphanage

For Ceci having been discharged to Berega, although still confined to bed with a fractured pelvis

For Mair's medical care in UK which has been fast forwarded

Pat Martin

Desmond and Elizabeth would like to share this with us all:

That's My King! transcript

[The late Dr. S.M. Lockeridge, a preacher from San Diego, California proclaimed the greatness of our God and King in this sermon in Detroit in 1976.]

My King was born King. The Bible says He's a Seven Way King. He's the King of the Jews - that's an Ethnic King. He's the King of Israel - that's a National King. He's the King of righteousness. He's the King of the ages. He's the King of Heaven. He's the King of glory. He's the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords. Now that's my King.

Well, I wonder if you know Him. Do you know Him? Don't try to mislead me. Do you know my King? David said the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. My King is the only one of whom there are no means of measure that can define His limitless love. No far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of the shore of His supplies. No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing. He's enduringly strong. He's entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful. That's my King.

He's God's Son. He's the sinner's saviour. He's the centrepiece of civilization. He stands alone in Himself. He's honest. He's unique. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He's supreme. He's pre-eminent. He's the grandest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the supreme problem in higher criticism. He's the fundamental doctrine of historic theology. He's the carnal necessity of spiritual religion. That's my King.

He's the miracle of the age. He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to call Him. He's the only one able to supply all our needs simultaneously. He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He's the Almighty God who guides and keeps all his people. He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers. He forgives sinners. He discharged debtors. He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek. That's my King.

Do you know Him? Well, my King is a King of knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway of glory. He's the master of the mighty. He's the captain of the conquerors. He's the head of the heroes. He's the leader of the legislatures. He's the overseer of the overcomers. He's the governor of governors. He's the prince of princes. He's the King of kings and He's the Lord of lords. That's my King.

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you . . .but He's indescribable. He's indescribable. That's my King.

He's incomprehensible. He's invincible. He's irresistible. I'm coming to tell you this, that the heavens of heavens can't contain Him, let alone some man explain Him. You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off of your hands. You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him. The Pharisees couldn't stand Him, but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree about Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him. That's my King.

Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Well, all the power belongs to my King. We're around here talking about black power and white power and green power, but in the end all that matters is God's power. Thine is the power. Yeah. And the glory. We try to get prestige and honour and glory for ourselves, but the glory is all His. Yes. Thine is the Kingdom and the power and glory, forever and ever and ever and ever. How long is that? And ever and ever and ever and ever. And when you get through with all of the 'ever's, then . . .Amen.



CEILIDH

How better to celebrate St Andrew's Day on the 30th November than with a ceilidh?! And that's just what 70 of us did!



It proved to be an excellent evening's entertainment, from the dancing and the food to the half time cabaret...

Congratulations to Polly and her team for a really good supper of soup and baked potatoes [not forgetting that boozy pudding!] Thank you to Richard and Marian for organising, demonstrating and calling the dances, with excellent support from Christine and Willie. And what fun we had at half time with one of Christine's recitations and tap dancing from the talented twosome of Julie and Melanie. It was good to have Geoffrey back on form as our stand-up comic and encouraging us to get completely bewildered with the song 'Abdul Abulbul Amir'!

A great big thank you to everyone concerned. Can't wait for the next one!

[Photos, taken by David and Linda West, are now available on the Internet – Polly is hoping to publish a link to these on the web site shortly.]

Joan Stewart – Ed

RESULTS OF THE CHRISTMAS DRAW

Thank you, all those who supported us by buying tickets for the Christmas draw. Nearly 700 tickets were sold which is very pleasing. And special thanks to all those who sponsored prizes. Here is the list of prizewinners, along with the prizes and the winning numbers:

1	Turkey	00043	David West
2	Hamper	00444	Swift
3	Chocolates	00809	Colin Grimshaw
3a	Gammon	00486	Stuart Stainton-James
4	Christmas Cake	00768	Alison Taylor
5	Sparkling wine	00212	Sandy Hendry
6	Christmas Pudding	00609	Ann & Brian Hopkins
7	Christmas Crackers	00111	Dawn Collinson Richard & Marian
8	CD Set	00901	Rackham
9	Fish & Chip Supper	00039	Derek Fisher
10	Port miniatures	00304	Ticia Goode
11	Thermal Mug	00106	Mondelot
12	PC Check	00462	Dean Smalley

Thank you everyone!

Polly Ward

[A big thank you to Polly for organising the draw so successfully. Thank you, Polly, on behalf of us all! -Ed.]



**Please send your contributions and letters for the January issue to:
"The Grapevine" Editor at: jpsmorandiere@free.fr before 15th January.**

Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to Jacqui Stainton-James at:
sjfamily66@hotmail.com

