

History of the hamlet of Le Charaix Municipality of St Christophe et le Laris

Situation St Christophe et le Laris

Since 7 June 1791, the municipalities of St Christophe du Bois and Le Laris have been merged into a single municipality called 'St Christophe et le Laris'.

Four places mark the history of the municipality:

- the site of the old church of Saint Christophe du Bois,
- the site of the former commandery of **Laris**,
- the village of **Charaix**,
- and the village of Saint Christophe, which faces the Limone Valley.

Le Laris

Le Laris was a hospice belonging to the Order of Jerusalem. Le Laris belonged to the Commander of Saint Paul Lès Romans. It had very few inhabitants and the territory was quite small. By the 19th century, the commander's house no longer existed; all that remained was the dovecote, which is probably the remains of the tower located on the heights of Le Laris.

Le Charaix

Le Charaix was attached to the municipality of St Christophe et le Laris in 1842. In 1868, Le Charaix had 173 inhabitants spread across around thirty farms, who lived mainly from growing cereals and raising livestock.

The hamlet of Le Charaix had several large farms and also had a church and cemetery, a presbytery, a school and a "miraculous" spring (La source Saint Pierre), which still exists today. The buildings and courtyard of the Charaix school were located just below the church. This school, which also welcomed children from the surrounding municipalities (Montchenu, Hauterives and Tersanne), had around forty pupils in 1884. It closed in June 1961.



Church in ruins (between 1960 and 2000)

Several priests stayed at the rectory and officiated in this church. The parish registers from 1619 to 1797 mention about ten of them. Worship continued at St Pierre du Charaix Church until 1960. The building deteriorated rapidly and eventually fell into ruin. The two bells, one of which weighed half a tonne and was cast in 1868, were transferred to St Christophe Church in 1968.



*The house that served as the presbytery (from 1619 to 1905) before becoming the village school until 1960.
(2024)*

The Charaix church dates back to the 11th century. Since its inception, this church has undergone several transformations. Part of it even burned down, traces of which can be found on the walls. The eastern part was enlarged and the altar was built on unstable embankments, probably due to cracks and deformations in the walls. Given the damage, the church was officially closed on 4 March 1967.

Preserving heritage

In 2000, a few former pupils of the school and/or residents of Le Charaix decided to save this church from ruin and created a heritage association. After raising funds, the first two sections were restored, which now allows for a few cultural events to be held each year. Other necessary work is awaiting funding.

*View of Le Charaix from
Chemin du Rachinier (2024)*



The stained glass windows of the church in Charaix (2025):



Côté Nord : Terre



Coté Est : Feu



Côté Sud : Eau



Coté Est : Lumière



Vue sur l'Est, sur la vallée et le Vercors, à partir de la maison 255 Chemin du Charaix (2025)

The house at 255 Chemin du Charaix, 26350 St Christophe et le Laris

The house, a former farm, dates back to the 19th century, although the exact date remains unknown.

For a long time (between 1990 and 2016), the house was abandoned and fell into ruin. René Veyrat inherited the land and the house around 2014. In 2016, Jean-Charles and Joyceline Foulhoux bought the house as it was and partially renovated it in the following years. They did not live in the house. On 15 October 2024, the house was sold to Rob Noteboom and Anita Weststrate. On 1 December 2024, the Dutch couple moved permanently to France, ... to Le Charaix!



House in 2015



House in 2015



House in 2024



House in 2025

Improvement works are continuing.

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