

**St. John's Anglican Church**, 31 Avenue Carnot, 06500 Menton, France

Website: <http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com>

**Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30am**

Priest-in-charge: Vacant

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**The English Library, St. John's Church, Menton** – Closed at present

Books available on loan in The Louvre on Saturday mornings from 9.30-11.30

Refreshments also available

**The British Association, Menton** Chair: Birgitt Nordbrink Tel. 04 93 28 10 02

A representative of the Association is present in the Louvre, Saturdays 9.30-11.30

**The Anglican Community, Bordighera**

The English Cemetery Chapel, Via del Campo, Bordighera, Italy

**Eucharist Service: usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month – 10.30am**

Telephone for confirmation

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**The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova**

Piazza Marsala 3, 16122 Genova, Italy

Tel. #39 010 88 92 68

**Eucharist Service - Sundays 10.30am**

**Holy Communion or Shared Prayers – Wednesdays 12.30**

Website: [www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org](http://www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org)

# THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

## **ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**Services held in the Chapelle St. Roch, Place Saint Roch, Menton**

**EUCCHARIST**

**EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

# EPIPHANY

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL  
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST**

**WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY - 10.30**

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**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA**

**EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30**

**HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30**



**Locum** The Revd. Paul Payton will remain with us for Epiphany until 8 January.

**The Restoration of St. John's** Work on the demolition of the damaged walls of the building of St. John's has begun !

**Gardening with Barbara** Need some exercise? Come and help tidy up St. John's garden with Barbara Corry during the afternoons of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Tools supplied. Check with Barbara when she will be there. Evidently the gardening group has enjoyed their gardening with prayer meeting combined – once, inside the church on St. John's Day!

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** 18-25 January 2018.

**Prayer Circle** meets Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at Carolyn's home early afternoon. Check for time.

**Council Meeting** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

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#### NEW YEAR CRACKERS . . .

Q. Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A. To get to the other slide.

Q. Why did the duck cross the road?

A. It was the chicken's day off.

Q. What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary one?

A. The Christmas alphabet has Noel !

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. . . . . I know of nothing else but miracles.....

to me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,  
every cubic inch of space is a miracle,  
every square yard of the surface of the earth  
is spread with miracles

Walt Whitman

(3)

#### LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH JANUARY .....

**Heavenly Father,**

**We praise You and give you thanks and in our prayers .....**

- 1 Give thanks to God who makes all things new
- 2 give to God: this new year - our resolutions – our hopes and aspirations
- 3 the Prayer Circle meeting today with Fr. Paul
- 4 all who are working on the restoration of St. John's building - their safety, their good work
- 5 our wardens and council and all who are following the restoration work .....
- 6 for the protection of children and young people
- 7 A voice came from heaven; *'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased .)* (Mark 1. 11)
- 8 for teachers, and leaders of children's groups
- 9 the church Council meeting this morning
- 10 for those who care for elderly relatives at home
- 11 for those sleeping rough in our towns this cold weather .....
- 12 ..... for those who try to help them
- 13 give thanks for the laughter and chat at the coffee morning in the Louvre
- 14 Philip told Nathaniel *'We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph of Nazareth .....* come and see' John 1.45
- 15 Give thanks for the work of the British Association in Menton
- 16 for migrants and those without a home
- 17 for the officials manning the French/Italian border
- 18 Prayers during the week for Christian Unity begin today .....
- 19 for all churches everywhere spreading the good news
- 20 give thanks that through the love of Christ we may be united without being uniform in our outlook
- 21 *'His mother said to the servants "do whatever he tells you"'* (John 2.5)
- 22 Bless the Ecumenical service for Christian Unity in the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sanremo this evening
- 23 may our Christian values be visible signs of our unity to others
- 24 for those who drive trains, buses, taxis to help us on our journeys
- 25 give thanks for modern technology and apparatus which helps the blind and deaf
- 26 for those who work for justice in world trade .....
- 27 ..... and for us as we buy fair-traded goods
- 28 *'What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'* (Mark 1.27)
- 29 Give thanks for the Lord's gift of the Bible – may we use it as our guide
- 30 give thanks for the rainfall this winter and the early signs of spring
- 31 give thanks for the simple pleasures of life

Thank You for listening, Lord,  
May we, too, listen and act. Amen

(8)

**READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in JANUARY 2018 - YEAR B**

January 7 <b>EPIPHANY 1</b> <b>The Baptism of Christ</b>	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 1. 1-5 29 Acts 19. 1-7 Mark 1. 4-11
January 14 <b>EPIPHANY 2</b>	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 (11-20) 139. 1-5, 12-17 Revelation 5. 1-10
January 21 <b>EPIPHANY 3</b>	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 14. 17-20 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11
January 28 <b>EPIPHANY 4</b>	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Deuteronomy 18. 15-20 111 Revelation 12. 1-5a Mark 1. 21-28

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**BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS**

arrangements may be made by contacting  
the churchwardens

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The Church of England invites to Holy Communion all baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and who are in good standing in their own church. Those who are prevented by conscience or the rules of their own Churches from receiving the Blessed Sacrament are invited to receive a blessing.

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O God, who art peace everlasting,  
let the light of your love shine evermore  
in all our hearts.

written in my book. *(Psalm 139:15-16)* You May not know me, but I know everything about you *(Psalm 139:1)* I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. *(Acts 17:26)* You are fearfully and wonderfully made. *(Psalm 139:14)* I knit you together in your mother's womb. *(Psalm 139:13)* and brought you forth on the day you were born. *(Psalm 71:6)* I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. *(John 8:41-44)* I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. *(1 John 4:16)* And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. *(1 John 3:1)* Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. *(1 John 3:1)* I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. *(Matthew 7:11)* For I am the perfect father. *(Matthew 5:48)* Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. *(James 1:17)* For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. *(Matthew 6:31-33)* My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. *(Jeremiah 29:11)* Because I love you with an everlasting love. *(Jeremiah 31:3)* My thoughts towards you are countless as the sand on the seashore. *(Psalm 139:17-18)* And I rejoice over you with singing. *(Zephaniah 3:17)* I will never stop doing good to you. *(Jeremiah 32:40)* For you are my treasured possession. *(Exodus 19:5)* I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. *(Jeremiah 32:41)* And I want to show you great and marvellous things. *(Jeremiah 33:3)* If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. *(Deuteronomy 4:29)* Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. *(Psalm 37:4)* For it is I who gave your those desires. *(Philippians 2:13)* I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. *(Ephesians 3:20)* For I am your greatest encourager. *(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)* I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. *(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)* When you are broken hearted, I am close to you. *(Psalm 34:18)* As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. *(Isaiah 40:11)* One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. *(Revelation 21:3-4)* And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. *(Revelation 21:3-4)* I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. *(John 17:23)* For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. *(John 17:26)* He is the exact representation of my being. *(Hebrews 1:3)* He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. *(Romans 8:31)* And so I tell you that I am not counting your sins. *(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)* His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. *(1 John 4:10)* I gave up everything (5) I have loved that I might gain your love. *(Romans 8:31-32)* If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. *(1 John 2:23)* And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. *(Romans 8:38-39)* Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. *(Luke 15:7)* I have always been Father, and will always be Father. *(Ephesians 3:14-15)* My question is ... Will you be my child? *(John 1:12-13)* I am waiting for you. *(Luke 15:11-32)*

Love, Your Dad  
*Almighty God*

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2017**

The message of Christmas is so much bigger and better than the trappings of Christmastime! As I write these words, the temperature is about 23 degrees. The red hot poker and bird of paradise are in flower and large bunches of bananas are hanging from the trees. I am visiting the island of Madeira – a thousand miles away from the land of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' and the German Christmas markets which have so conditioned the contemporary northern European Christmastime. So the absence of some familiar trappings (like cold weather!) turns me back to the gospel and to the great mystery of the incarnation recounted by St. John.

'In the beginning', says St. John, 'was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God.' The good news, with which John's gospel starts, is that we human beings are not first in the world nor alone in the world. The Word is first and has come to us. He is before us and with us. So, John's prologue lifts us above history, into a mystery: the glorious world of God's eternity, glory and saving purposes. John talks about the nature of God. He explains who Jesus is. And he announces who we can become through believing in him.

In John's prologue, the most important affirmation about God is the last one: that God is Father. God is in a unique way the Father of Jesus Christ, and he seeks a warm, intimate relationship with all who will receive, believe and abide in him.

Jesus is sent from God bringing light and life. He is like one torch lit from another. But the light is in continual tension with darkness. The darkness doesn't understand or comprehend the light. But neither can it overcome the light and put it out. There is a blindness in the world which means that people don't know the light when it comes. So when Jesus comes to his own people they receive him not.

Yet to those who do believe, Jesus gives the power to become children of God, children of the same heavenly father. It has been called a 'leap of faith'. But that makes belief in Jesus sound weird or irrational. We might better talk about a 'leap of imagination'. It is about daring to imagine the colours in which our lives could be painted. It is about extending our minds to comprehend a person who embodies goodness and truth and grace.

To put it another way, believing in Jesus is a matter of growing in relationship with the truth. We have dismally learnt to think of ourselves as 'post-truth' - a society where truth is simply lost in emotion and clamour and nothing can be believed. Instead, the Christmas gospel invites us to a relationship with the God who is truth where we can find enduring stability and peace.

The final verse of John's prologue is the climax towards which the passage is building. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." This is the astonishing affirmation that the God who is eternal spirit becomes man in a particular time and a particular place in human history. God becomes flesh – this stuff which is mortal, so fragile, so easily damaged.

Amongst all the Christmas gifts, this is the supreme gift – God's greatest ever gift to the world. It is the gift of a person full of grace – of loveliness, goodness, graciousness – in contrast to the ungraciousness and ugliness into which he is born. And it is a gift, a person, full of truth – reality, integrity, trustworthiness. In fragile flesh he comes and dwells, or literally 'pitches his tent', amongst us. And what a resonant image that is in our current circumstances. God who is outside space and time comes into human reality to transform it from within.

The incarnation is an event which human beings have from time to time realized is of world changing significance. Which is why people were right to reset our Western calendar at zero to mark this birthday. And in our own day and in our Anglican diocese in Europe I meet individual Christians and churches who are inspired by their own encounter with Jesus to do things which make a difference. Building bridges between people of different countries, creating community, reaching out to strangers, helping – those fleeing as refugees to find a new home.

We each of us have a tendency, sometimes called 'sin', to turn in on ourselves. Perversely, we often prefer darkness to light and perhaps in this past year the sense of darkness has seemed stronger. But as we prepare for Christmas we recollect again that the light comes into the world in the person of Jesus, that the darkness has not overcome it, and that the inspiration Jesus has provided to his followers continues to ensure that the light shines brightly.

Wherever you live in our vast European diocese, I wish each of you and your families a very happy Christmas. And I hope that during 2018, whatever the year ahead brings, God will irradiate your lives with his presence and peace.

**+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe**

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**"For anyone united to Christ,  
there is a new creation..."**

(Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 5. 17)

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**18 – 25 JANUARY 2018**

This year there are to be some changes in the usual format of other years. The Lutheran Evangelical Church has been chosen as the venue for the main ecumenical celebration. This will take place on Monday 22 January at 20.45 hrs. with all six of the churches present: Lutheran Evangelical, Roman Catholic, Rumenian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Waldensian and our Anglican church.

During the week, the different churches will open their doors to the township, each on a different day, from 16.00-17.00 hrs. so that people may experience the various Christian traditions.

The Anglican church will start the week by opening in welcome the door of its former church of All Saints on Corso Matuzia 1, Sanremo at 16.00 hrs. 18<sup>th</sup> January Except for the Lutheran Evangelical church, which hosts the main celebration, the other churches will open their doors at 16.00 hrs on the following days:-

- Rumenian Orthodox - Friday 19 January
- Roman Catholic - Tuesday 23 January
- Russian Orthodox - Wednesday 24 January
- Waldensian - Thursday 25 January

We hope as many of you as possible will take advantage of praying together for Christian unity in the different churches. We look forward to welcoming you.

Elizabeth Cordone

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Remembering Christmas .....

*May the humility of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the joy of the angels,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be God's gifts to us now and always*

**INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR THE MIGRANTS**

On the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December a group of us from St. John's joined others at an interfaith meeting outside the Caritas Intemelio building in Ventimiglia to pray for the migrants. There, hundreds can find food each day and be given help and advice.

We were around 40 people and a small choir led us in a hymn “Il giorno ormai scompare” (The day is coming to and end). Bishop Monsignor Antonio Suetta of Ventimiglia opened the meeting with a prayer for the migrants. We heard stories of individual plights.

President Hassan Taki of the Islamic Culturale Brothers of Ventimiglia gave a reading as did Imam Kamil Abd Al-Salam Siccardi, Leader of the Islam community of Italy. Father Paul read Matthew 2 v. 13-15 (the flight into Egypt) and a prayer for the refugees.

We ended singing the hymn “Tu sei la mia vita” (You are my life).

We were all given a candle and we processed to Ventimiglia Cathedral for a mass to celebrate the beginning of Novena, although the St. John's contingent did not stay for that.

As Father Paul reminded us it was very heartening to see people of all faiths or no faiths standing and praying in solidarity. We felt that God hears and knows the huge obstacles the migrants must overcome and it does make a difference to pray together in unison and gives many the will to keep going.

The same evening there was a large demonstration on the frontier for the migrants and banners saying “You are welcome, No Borders”. So let us keep praying for them and those who work so hard at Caritas.

Heavenly Father,  
You are the source of all goodness, generosity and love.  
We thank you for opening the hearts of many  
to those who are fleeing for their lives.  
Help us now to open our arms in welcome,  
and reach out our hands in support,  
that the desperate may find new hope,  
and lives torn apart be restored.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who fled persecution at His birth  
and at His last triumphed over death.  
Amen