

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

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

Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30am

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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 2nd Wednesday of each month – 10.30am

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The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova

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Eucharist Service - Sundays 10.30am

Holy Communion or Shared Prayers – Wednesdays 12.30

Website: www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am
in the Chapelle St. Roch, Place Saint Roch, Menton**

ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL

BORDIGHERA

EUCCHARIST - 10.30am

WEDNESDAY 14 December 2016

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30

A D V E N T

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER 2016 - YEAR A

4 th	2 nd Sunday of Advent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 11. 1-10 72. 1-7 Romans 15. 4-13 Matthew 3. 1-12
11 th	3 rd Sunday of Advent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 35. 1-10 146. 4-9 James 5. 7-10 Matthew 11. 2-11
18 th	4 th Sunday of Advent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 7. 10-16 80. 1-8 Romans 1. 1-7 Matthew 1. 18-25
25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 52. 7-10 98 Hebrews 1. 1-4 John 1. 1-14

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BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

arrangements may be made by contacting David
or 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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*“Where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes,
the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.”*

(Philip Brooks, clergyman and author 1835-1893)

*Wisdom for everyone with relatives coming to stay this
Christmas*

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. *(Anon)*

When we are out of sympathy with the young,
then I think our work in this world is over.
(George MacDonald)

Age doesn't always bring wisdom.
Sometimes age comes alone.
(Anon)

Long-suffering is a grace of silence.
(William Bagshawe)

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS,
AND EVERY GOOD WISH for
THE NEW YEAR
to ALL OUR READERS!**

Do you wonder.....

If Joseph was not the father of Jesus, why is his family tree in the Bible and not Mary's?

If you read the first chapter of Matthew, the first 17 verses tell you exhaustively about Joseph's genealogy, and then Matthew immediately goes to describe how Jesus was born of a virgin – and not related to Joseph at all. So what was Matthew up to?

Matthew was writing his gospel for the Jews, to show them that Jesus was the Messiah. And so he wanted to establish Jesus *legal* genealogy- which would have been important to the Jews. Legally, Jesus belonged to Joseph's family, and Matthew was saying what a 'pure' line this was – it stretched back to the royal family of David. Women's genealogies were not viewed as of the same importance, hence the lack of interest in Mary's family.

As for Jesus *actual* (though not legal) father, that was God – for He was 'conceived of the Holy Spirit'. Nowhere in the Bible is Joseph referred to as 'the father of Jesus', despite the numerous references to Mary as 'the mother of Jesus'.

The verse in Matthew runs, according to the best Greek texts: *Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.* That says it all.

(from The Beacon - 2006)

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

As we celebrate today the coming of Christ,
born in a stable far from home,
we pray for all refugees, internally displaced families
and those living in a climate of fear.
May the wonder of the nativity give them hope and peace,
despite their circumstances.

ECUMENICAL KERMESSE

Chapiteau Espace Fontvieille
Monaco

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016

Entry is free and the doors are open from 10.00am to 6.00pm
Buffet and Bar open all day

There are over 25 stalls including clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, antiques, Christmas decorations, Monegasque, Greek and British speciality stands, plus jewelry, household items, shoes, bags, gifts and novelties.

This year's Tombola has over 20 exciting prizes and tickets are just €2 each.

Your gifts are accepted at:- St. Paul's Anglican Church # 377 93 30 71 06
and at:- St Vincent de Paul # 377 93 30 21 38
and at the Chapiteau on 1st and 2nd December from 12.00 to 18.00

For more information, especially if you wish to donate items, please call :
Merville on Monaco #377 93 15 02 89

INTER-FAITH PRAYERS

followed by a TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION to
the Roman Catholic Cathedral.
Ventimiglia Alta

Prayers for 'The Environment, Peace, and The Victims of Migration'
organised by Caritas, Ventimiglia
with the participation of Muslims,
the Christian churches in the Ecumenical Group,
Archbishop of Monaco, Mons. Varsi
Bishop of Nice, Mons. Marceau
Bishop of Sanremo-Ventimiglia, Mons. Suetta

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER 2016 at 8.30pm
Starts in the Square in front of the RC church of St. Antonio,
Roverino, Ventimiglia

PLAY SAFE WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas trees look pretty – but they can be dangerous. A poorly maintained tree could result in your celebrations coming to a disastrous end. This year, consider the following precautions:

- secure your tree with a wire to prevent it tipping over.
- Keep your tree well away from floor heaters, radiators, fire-places and other heat sources
- fairy lights are one of the biggest causes of Christmas fires. Only use lights that have a CE mark or British Standards Institution Kitemark on the packaging. This means they have passed stringent safety tests. Even so, never join more than three strands of lights together.
- Ensure the mains plugs are wired the right way around.
- Always turn off the lights at night, or when you leave the house for any length of time.
- Replace blown bulbs, or the others may overheat.
- NEVER use candles on a tree.
- More electricity is used over Christmas than at any other time of the year, and overloads can occur.
- NEVER use indoor extension cables outdoors.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In other languages you may find useful

Danish – Glædelig Jul og godt nytår	French – Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
German – Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr	Greek – Kala Christougenna Ki'eftihismenos O Kenourios
Italian – Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo	Mongolian – Zul saryn bolon shine ony mend devshuulye
Rumenian – Cracuin Fericit An Nou Fericit	Somali – ciid wanaagsan iyo sanad cusub oo fiican
Vietnamese – Chuc Mung Giang	Croatian – Sretan Bozic (5)

♪♪♪ GOD IN MUSIC ♪♪♪

It is hard to imagine Christmas without the great hymn, “Hark! The herald angels sing.” Julian wrote in his dictionary of hymnody in 1891 that it was one of the four hymns that stood at the head of all the hymns in the English language.

Felix Mendelssohn wrote the music for this hymn, but originally to different words. It was part of two special works to celebrate the invention of printing 400 years previously. He knew that the melody would go well to other words and wrote to his publishers to say so. “*But it will never do to sacred words. There must be a national and merry subject found out, something to which the soldier-like and buxom motion of the piece has some relation*”, he wrote.

Dr. W H Cummings, the organist at Waltham Abbey, proved the composer wrong when he set the music to Charles Wesley's words, ensuring that this joyous, bright melody – perhaps even buxom – would become part of Christmas services up and down the land.

The Rev. Michael Burgess

St. Ephrem's Poem

The Lord of all is the treasure store of all things:
upon each according to his capacity.

He bestows a glimpse
of the beauty of His hiddenness,
of the splendour of His majesty.

He is the radiance
who, in his love,
makes everyone shine -
the small, with flashes of light from Him,
the perfect, with rays more intense,
but only His Child is sufficient for the might of His glory.

Accordingly as each here on earth
purifies his eye for Him,
so does he become more able to behold
His incomparable glory

(Taken from Archbishop Justin Welby's address 'A future vision for Europe' delivered at the Catholic Institute of Paris on 17/11/2016 during a ceremony awarding him an honorary doctorate. (full address see: churchofengland.org) (6)

BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house'
says the Lord Almighty. 'and in this place I will grant peace.' Haggai 2:9*

This year's Advent Appeal offers the opportunity to contribute to building up one of the most interesting and strategically significant churches in the diocese

St John the Evangelist, Casablanca

St. John's Anglican Church is a thriving English-speaking church in the heart of downtown Casablanca.

Built in 1906, it is the oldest operating church building in Casablanca and one of the few official places of Christian worship in the city. Although regular attendees hail from Europe, Asia and the Americas, a third of the congregation now comes from sub-Saharan Africa. Services are conducted in English, but between services the church grounds are filled with conversation in a wide variety of tongues.

The Problem

With a capacity of just under 100, St. John's is bursting at the seams every week. Pews are filled to overflowing. Folding chairs fill the back and are squeezed into the aisles to provide extra seating, leaving little room to pass by. Ceiling fans whirring overhead can't provide sufficient relief in the crowded sanctuary during the summer months. The average attendance during Sept-Oct 2015 was over 200 in a church that can only seat a hundred!

Moreover, St. John's has a limited space for meeting. A temporary tent structure serves as a fellowship hall, and a repurposed shipping container houses Sunday school classes, with the 11-14 Sunday school class meeting in a coffee shop across the road from the Church.

The Solution

St. John's would love to be able adequately to accommodate its congregation, serve the children better during Sunday school time and have proper space for social interaction and fellowship.

At the beginning of 2015, St. John's began to consider a development project. In May 2015, they commissioned an engineering firm, International Design and Development (IDD), to look at how the site could be developed. In September 2015

(3)

A day to remember – Eglantyne Jebb (1876-1928)

Eglantyne Jebb was born in Shropshire in 1876 and grew up at Ellesmere where she was encouraged to read, write, and develop her own opinions. She studied history at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she developed an interest in social issues. In 1906 she published her research into poverty in Cambridge.

When the Balkan Wars broke out in 1912, Eglantyne went to Macedonia to aid refugees. Here she began to form views and develop strategies for long-term constructive aid as being more effective than short-term hand-outs.

Her concern for suffering civilians was not limited by nationalistic considerations, and during the First World War she was horrified at the effects the Allied blockade on Germany and Austria-Hungary was having on their civilian population, especially the children.

The blockade continued after the Armistice in order to put pressure on the Central Powers to sign the harsh peace treaties. So at the beginning of 1919 Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton were among the founders of the 'Fight the Famine' Council, committed to ending the blockade and establishing a League of Nations. During a rally in Trafalgar Square she was arrested and later fined for distributing an uncensored leaflet, '*A Starving Baby*'.

'Save the Children', launched by Eglantyne and Dorothy at the Albert Hall in May 1919, was set up to raise money for food for the suffering populations of central Europe. The new charity came under criticism – some claiming that it was set up to support children who would become Britain's enemies in the next war. But 'Save the Children' quickly gained eminent supporters, church leaders (including 13 Anglican bishops), MPs and the likes of George Bernard Shaw.

As well as being a committed Christian, Eglantyne was also a businesslike professional: "The new charity ... must be scientific; it must have the same clear conceptions of its objects and seek to compass them with the same care, the same thoroughness, the same intelligence as are to be found in the best commercial and industrial enterprises." By 1922 'Save the Children' was one of Britain's biggest charities. It has since spread throughout the world.

Her *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, written in 1923, was adopted by the League of Nations the following year. The present United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is derived from it. But ten years of exhausting work for 'Save the Children' sapped Eglantyne's health and she died in 1928 in Geneva, aged 52.

The day we remember Eglantyne Jebb is

17th DECEMBER

(8)

PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER

Heavenly Father,

We praise and worship you in our prayers:

O Lord, during this Advent Season may we give time daily to reflect and meditate on the coming of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1. pray for all suffering from terminal, incurable or little known diseases
2. give thanks for all who work in the emergency services
3. for those who prepare our towns to welcome visitors for the Christmas festivities
4. *In his time shall the righteous flourish, and peace, till the moon shall be no more*
5. for those trying to raise money to restore their church buildings
6. for those who mourn, especially those who have lost loved ones this year
7. give thanks for the British Association and the work they do to help others
8. give thanks for prayers answered
9. St. John's council; sustain their commitment in resolving the many difficulties
10. give thanks for your family and friends
11. *He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation*
12. for those who work long hours in shops at this time of year
13. for prisoners of conscience
14. for those who work in the media, especially those locally
15. for businesses affected by the present economic crisis
16. for neighbours and friends who will be alone over Christmas
17. for all who meet in the Louvre this morning
18. *restore us, O Lord God of hosts, show the light of your countenance*
19. for all postal workers and lorry drivers with their increased workload
20. for those who work to relieve poverty
21. give thanks for the wonder and excitement of children at Christmas
22. pray that amid all the hectic preparations for Christmas you will have time to spend with the Lord
23. pray for the peace of God to come to us all
24. give thanks for time to be with family and friends
25. *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory*
26. pray for those who spent Christmas apart from loved ones
27. give thanks for all who work to bring peace to our troubled world
28. remember those who have had to work during the holiday
29. pray for all who have no home, those who sleep on the streets
30. give thanks for all who lead the worship at St. John's
31. give thanks for all God's blessings during the past year

Thank You for listening, Lord,
May we, too, listen and act according to Your will, Amen

they appointed a local architect.

Plans are now well developed. They involve a westward extension of the church to include a mezzanine level and the redevelopment of an existing parsonage building to provide Sunday School, meeting rooms and a roof-top terrace. You can find an inspirational U-Tube video of their plans here: [St John's Casablanca](#)

How you Can Help

The current estimated cost of the project is 300,000 GBP

Promised donations so far amount to about 100,000 GBP

I would be thrilled if the diocese could raise a significant sum to help them on their way. St. John's is a church of historical significance operating under special conditions in a majority Muslim country with an extensive ministry to Sub-Saharan migrants. As usual, we invite each chaplaincy to make its own arrangements for the collection of money towards the Bishop's Appeal and then for the local church treasurer to forward collections to the diocesan office.

With every blessing.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

*"Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being.
Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light".*

Albert Schweitzer

Enjoy a peaceful and reflective Advent !

*Our heavenly Father
as once again we prepare for Christmas,
help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer;
that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love
and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds.
So may our joy be deeper,
and worship more real,
and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us
through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen