

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

Sunday Service 10.30am Eucharist
In the Chapelle St. Roch, Place Saint Roch, Menton

Website . <http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com> - also on Facebook

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The Bordighera English Cemetery Congregation, Italy

The English Cemetery Chapel, Via del Campo Santo, Bordighera

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Eucharist Service: usually at 10.30am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
Telephone for confirmation

The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova, Italy

Piazza Marsala 3, 16122 Genova Italy 010 88 92 68

Eucharist Service: Sundays 10.30am
Holy Communion or Shared Prayers: Wednesdays 12.30am

Website: www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

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

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

The British Association

Chairman of the Association: Birgitt Nordbrink 04 93 28 10 02
A representative of the Association is present in the Louvre, Saturdays 9.30-11.30am

THE

CROSS-BORDER



DECEMBER 2014

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

The Bordighera Community
The English Cemetery Chapel
Bordighera, Italy

Cost to produce: 60cents per copy. Your donation welcome.

St. John's Church At present services are held in the chapel of St. Roch, Menton

Website: anglicanchurchmenton.com - also on Facebook

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|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| December 7 | 2 nd SUNDAY of ADVENT | | Eucharist 10.30am |
| “ 14 | 3 rd SUNDAY of ADVENT | | Eucharist 10.30am |
| “ 21 | 4 th SUNDAY of ADVENT | Carols with | Eucharist 10.30am |
| “ 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY | | Eucharist 10.30am |
| “ 28 | HOLY INNOCENTS | | Eucharist 10.30am |

The English Cemetery Chapel, Bordighera

Eucharist - 10.30am -Wednesday 10 December
(join us at lunch afterwards in a Restaurant in Bordighera Alta)

(please check date and time with Barbara Corry)

The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova

EVERY SUNDAY - EUCHARIST -10.30am

WEDNESDAYS: Holy Communion or Shared Prayers – 12.30

See the website for more information : www.anglicanchurchgenoa

Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and are in good standing in their own Church shall be admitted to Communion in accordance with Canon B 15A.
Those who are prevented by conscience or the rules of their own Churches from receiving the Blessed Sacrament are invited to receive a blessing.

The Christmas Card List

There is a list of folks I know, all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize those names are all a part
Not of the book they're written in, but deep inside my heart.

For each name stands for someone who has touched my life sometime,
And in that meeting they've become a special friend of mine.
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name,
And my life is so much better than it was before they came.

Once you've known that "someone", all the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face,
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a list that are forgotten in between.

For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It is because you're on that list of folks I'm indebted to.
And whether I have known you for many years or few,
The greatest gift that God can give is having friends like you!



*"If instead of a gem or even a flower,
we should cast the gift of a loving thought
into the heart of a friend,
that would be giving as the angels give."*

(George MacDonald)



A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year:
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season's here.
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him,
he comes close to the sublime.

The delights of reaching sixty!

I thoroughly enjoyed reaching sixty at the start of November. What a wonderful age! My family and friends enabled me to travel to Istanbul, where I spent a glorious few days. My memory is still flooded with the most beautiful Mosques I think I will ever see; the haunting Calls to Prayer five times a day; the crush of people on the pavements (always heading towards me it seemed); the riot of colour and smell of spices; a delicious range of vegetarian food, and sweet cakes served with a potent Turkish coffee. And I got my first “pensioner” discount on a ferry, where the guy called me “papa”. Loved it!

To those of you who sent me special wishes, and contributed to a generous insert to my birthday card THANK YOU! I’ve been richly blessed by your kindness.

And now, I’m looking immensely forward to the decade that lies ahead!

With love, and thanks,

David.

More Thank Yous

To all those people who gave articles, ideas, comments, donations and encouragement in producing the Cross Border, ‘Thank You!’

Please continue, especially with anything which has a special interest for our local church communities in France and Italy.

Editor

“People are like stained glass windows; they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but it’s when the darkness sets in that their true beauty is revealed by the light within”.

Elisabeth Kubler Ross

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From our Priest-in-charge

Advent Greetings!

When this copy of the Cross Border arrives in your hand, or in your inbox, we will just have celebrated the start of Advent – my favourite liturgical season.

Advent signals many things. At a very practical level, the start of the new liturgical year. In the year that has just ended (2013-2014) we were making our way through the Gospel according to Matthew, getting to know the Jewish heritage of Jesus and of our faith.

In this liturgical year (2014-2015, Year B) we’ll be reading, meditating upon and discussing the Gospel according to Mark. It’s Mark who provides us with another aspect of Advent.

Mark begins his Gospel narrative with the words, “the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” And that good news? “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.”

So, of all the many things that could and will be said, and written about Advent, let me mention just one:

Advent is an opportunity for new beginnings.

In the growing frenzy of last minute shopping, rekindled communications with friends and family, and all manner of catering delights and bottles of “Christmas cheer”, we, the People of God, are invited to set time aside for silence and reflection, time which has the potential to lead us into a growing consciousness, and awakening, of God’s outpouring of love in the Christ child. It is this love which enabled Mary to say, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”, which filled the angels’ hearts with song, the shepherds’ hearts with awe, and called the wise men from the East to pay homage.

It is the good news, this love in the heart of God, so great that he gave his only Son, that calls us to change direction, to repentance, *a metanoia*, when we turn around one hundred and eighty degrees, and set our face towards the kingdom of God.

And so I invite you to join with me, each day of Advent, as we pray the Collect for the First Sunday in Advent:

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*Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

God grant each of us, and all those whom we love and remember at this time, a holy Advent, and a Joy-full Christ-mass.

Pax et Bonum

David

CENTRE OF HELP FOR ETHIOPIA

News has arrived from the above charity, to which we subscribe, that Tekalign Denba, now 18 years old, has left the Centre. He has been our 'adopted' child from a distance for the last fourteen years and we have followed his schooling, supported him and his family when his brother died, and seen him grow into a fine looking young man.

We have now been invited to follow another boy, Fraol ABERA, born in Addis Abeba 1/1/2008. Fraol lives with his father, brother and two sisters in Gulele. Sadly, his mother is dead. The family lives in rented premises and his father is self-employed. We are told Fraol already attends the St. Francis School but, being classed as from a poor family, he needs our help in financing his studies.

Barbara Caula has visited the Centre and seen the good work they do in many isolated villages in the area around Addis Abeba. As well as schooling, there are courses to prepare for work in agriculture, building, sewing. There are day centres for hospital care and hygiene classes; wells are dug to provide clean water for neighbouring villages. The Centre is based on Christian values with its own churches. An annual contribution is made to cover one year's schooling.

If you would like to be part of this scheme which supports young children of poor families through their school years, or any other of the activities the Centre is involved in, please talk to Barbara Caula – 0039 339 66 89 122.

Let us pray together each day in December

Heavenly Father,

1. Those living and working with those suffering from incurable diseases
2. all forms of slavery – immigrants, refugees, human trafficking, sexual exploitation
3. help us Lord, to acknowledge our faults and open our hearts to change
4. let us do the best we can in all we do to prepare for the coming of Christ.
5. for every person you meet/see today think "God loves him/her too"
6. pray to turn from uncertainty and indecision to hope and purposefulness
7. 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way' (Mark 1. 2)
8. give thanks for the joy we feel as we walk through towns decorated for Christmas
9. let us never take for granted the freedom we enjoy in our daily lives
10. bless the service and congregation in the Chapel in Bordighera today
11. pray that universal human rights would not be a vain hope but an achievable goal
12. 'Thank You Lord' – just say – 'Thank You Lord', and remember why
13. for those who need encouragement to face the future
14. 'Among you stands one whom you do not know' (John 1. 26)
15. may we seek to renew our relationships with family members, workmates, friends
16. pray for those working with the homeless
17. keep all travellers safe and mindful of others
18. for all who are seeking You and those who are leading the way
19. those rebuilding their lives after the damage caused by the recent floods
20. for the Bishop's Advent Appeal
21. The angel said to Mary, 'the child to be born to you will be holy. He will be called Son of God.' (Luke 1. 35)
22. at this time of family reunions, pray for the bereaved and the lonely
23. Give thanks for all those working during the Christmas season; in public Transport, the Police, Hospitals, Hotels, shop assistants
24. Lord, open our hearts to hear you speak through music, worship and prayer
25. 'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' (John 1. 14)
26. Stephen had so much courage. Pray for those across the world whose lives are in danger because they follow You.
27. may all nations be illuminated by the Holy Spirit to start a new life of love and tolerance towards all
28. 'God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts' (Galatians 4. 6)
29. make us mindful of all children in danger – in their homes – on the streets
30. pray for all the clergy who have served St. John's in recent years
31. Give thanks to God for his faithfulness through the joys and challenges of the past year.

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

Bishop Robert's Advent Appeal 2014
One year after the tragedy off Lampedusa

I am writing this letter on the anniversary of the Lampedusa migrant shipwreck. On 3rd October 2013, a 20 metre fishing boat carrying migrants from Africa caught fire and sank just off the southernmost point of Italy, killing over 300 people. The tragedy was marked by a day of mourning in Italy. The European Commissioner for Home Affairs said "Let's make sure what happened in Lampedusa will be a wake-up call to increase solidarity and mutual support and to prevent similar tragedies in the future."

Following the Lampedusa tragedy, the Italian government has launched the Operation "Mare Nostrum" with a wide scope to save and rescue persons in distress at sea. Despite this impressive operation, many other tragic incidents have happened and still happen in Greek, Italian, Spanish, Cypriot or Maltese waters. The sea tragedies remind us of the plight of all those fleeing war and conflict – people desperate to find sanctuary in the relative safety of Europe. At the present time, we are particularly conscious of those escaping cruelty and destruction in Middle East, particularly refugees from Syria and Iraq.

In this light, I present to you my first Advent Appeal as Bishop with the intention that our European diocese can express solidarity with some of the most vulnerable people in Europe.

+ Robert

Please respond to Bishop Robert's very first Advent Appeal as our new Bishop in Europe. Bring or send donations indicating 'Bishop's Advent Appeal'.

The Lampedusa Sanctuary – on the hillside above Taggia is the Sanctuary; a thanksgiving votive made by a local shipwrecked sailor in the 1600s. The sailor, Andrea Anfosso, found safety from pirates by escaping from his ship on the Island of Lampedusa and tying a painting of the Virgin Mary and Child to a dug-out tree trunk, thus making a rudimentary boat. Sailing from Lampedusa he made a safe landing on the Ligurian coast. Together with his village friends from Taggia the decision was made to build the Sanctuary as a thanksgiving for his safe return.

If you visit the Sanctuary the painting can be seen behind the altar.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

In the church of the Holy Ghost, Genova



13 – 14 December
Entrance from 10 – 18.00
Free Admittance



If you would like to decorate a tree
see: info@anglicanchurchgenoa.org
for application forms and further information
(a charge of €5 will be made to book a tree)

*“O Christ our Morning Star, Splendour of Light Eternal
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
Come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy
and renew us in your gift of hope.”*
(The Venerable Bede)

**May you have a
blessed Christmas
Full of joy and peace**