

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 2nd 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

THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter

MAY 2018

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

(until restoration of St. John's Church is completed)

**EUCCHARIST
EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

PENTECOST & TRINITY

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST
WEDNESDAY 09 May - 10.30**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30

Let us pray together through May

Heavenly Father,

- We praise You and give you thanks and in our prayers
- 1 pray that the restoration work of St. John's may continue safely and well
- 2 give thanks to God for all his good gifts
- 3 for all having difficulty in reaching their work because of the French rail strikes
- 4 for our churchwardens and council members, give thanks for their commitment
- 5 the British Association, their work
- 6 *"The love of God is this, that we obey his commandments."*
- 7 for all who serve in local or national government
- 8 life can be demanding – be still and reflect and dream a little with God
- 9 Europe Day – Pray for Church Representation to the European Institutions, especially Bishop Robert as Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the EU and the Attachè David Fieldsend
- 10 ask God to help you be enthusiastic in all that you do
- 11 for people who behave in anti-social ways – turn their hearts, Lord
- 12 bless those who meet in the Louvre this morning
- 13 *"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*
- 14 ask God to help you take the first step to do what he is leading you to do
- 15 for our sister churches along the coast in France and Italy
- 16 open yourself to another person today and go forward together
- 17 for young people preparing for exams
- 18 for our locums, their families, their mission
- 19 for those with disabilities, who rely on the kindness and patience of other people
- 20 *"if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."*
- 21 may we use modern technology for our improvement and for the good of others
- 22 give thanks for God's wonderful creation all around us
- 23 for all who work to keep our towns safe and a pleasure to live in
- 24 help us to live healthy, fit lives, Lord
- 25 may our meetings with migrants give them hope and strength
- 26 Springtime – blossom where you are planted
- 27 *"all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."*
- 28 Ecumenical celebration of Pentecost in Sanremo this evening
- 29 pray that God's Holy Spirit may direct our lives
- 30 all those who work hard to conserve and care for your creation, Lord
- 31. pray for our twinned church of Arnhem-Nijmegen, its chaplain Jos Strengholt, their new members, their students, the children & grandchildren of older members

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

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum Bishop Rob Martin has been with us since mid-April and continues until 28 May. His wife Sue will be with us for the latter part of their stay.

Gardening with Barbara

This usually takes place on the afternoon of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month. If you would like to come along and give your valued help, please check with Barbara that she will be there to welcome you,

Barbara's bottle Visitors and residents alike are invited to save their coins and put them in the bottle at the back of the chapel every Sunday. Doing this lightens your purses and improves the finances of the church. Thank you.

Financial Situation The annual Financial Update of St. John's Church for 2017 showed some large exceptional cash flows, in common with 2016. This is due to the costs of rebuilding parts of the church fabric and assuming ownership of the church and land when it passes to us from the United Society.

However, the good news is that 2018 has started well and instead of showing annual shortfalls of about €16,000 (2016) and €4,000 (2017) there may be a net surplus at the end of the year 2018! It would be a well deserved reward for all of the hard work done by the Council and community.

Income details Income for the year 2017 was €30,700 including a donation of €11,500 from the Dewhurst Foundation. This sum is being used to restore and protect the church windows.

Sunday collections at €9,900 were similar to 2016, and were quite reassuring as we moved from having a permanent priest to a series of locums, which might have affected attendance and contributions.

Outgoing details for 2017 Outgoings were €45,000 down from €95,000. Exceptional items include €6,000 for the rent of the St Roch Chapel, €7,000 for church windows, €7,000 for pew and library storage.

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**"Without God's Spirit
there is nothing we can do
that will count for God's Kingdom.
Without God's Spirit the church simply cannot be the church."**

N. T. Wright - former Bishop of Durham

READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in MAY 2018 - YEAR B

May 6 EASTER 6	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 10. 44-48 98 1 John 5.1-6 John 15.9-17
May 13 EASTER 7	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 1 1 John 5-9-13 John 17.6-19
May 20 PENTECOST WHIT SUNDAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 2.1-21 104.25-35, 37 Romans 8.22-27 John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15
May 27 TRINITY SUNDAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 6.1-8 29 Romans 8.12-17 John 3.1-17
June 3 TRINITY 1	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 8. 26-40 22. 24-30 1 John 4. 7-21 John 15. 1-8

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

arrangements may be made by contacting
the churchwardens

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.

RESULT OF BISHOP ROBERT'S ADVENT APPEAL 2017 - £15,394-63p

From the Diocesan website we learn:

Bishop Robert was delighted with the result of his 2017 Advent Appeal which aimed to support homeless refugees and asylum seekers in Rome with humanitarian assistance (a daily, cooked breakfast and essential items for personal dignity and warmth) for 6 months. This is through a well-established and well-run project established by our Episcopal sister church of St. Paul's Within the Walls in Rome.

The Joel Nafuma Refugee Center assists approximately 17,000 people per year, and is the only day center open to receive homeless asylum seekers and refugees in Rome. Every day JNRC welcomes 200-250 guests. The guests come from many different nations including Mali, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Pakistan, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. Half of them are homeless, sleeping in parks, or on the pavement outside train stations.

While they wait for shelter, they are welcomed by JNRC, given a nutritious, cooked breakfast, as well as items for their personal dignity (toiletries, second-hand shoes, clothes and blankets) and offered legal advice. If they wish they can join a language session, learn to use a computer, or simply watch the news on the TV. JNRC has a multi-faith prayer space where guests can meditate and pray. JNRC is the only place in Rome that takes in homeless and dormitory-housed refugees during the day, giving them a safe refuge from the streets.

To learn more see the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center website: <http://jnrc.it>

REJOICE

**Relish every action which seems wise and fair
Enjoy each blessing, and each blessing share
Jot down details of every answered prayer
Observe God's handiwork always, everywhere
Incline your ear to the Spirit's voice,
Counselled and comforted in every choice -
Even in the dark times, yet you may rejoice.**

(Acrostic by Harry Hunter)

MEMORIES OF A USPG* MISSIONARY - (Continued)
by Bernard Bligh

Optician

The bishop wanted me to start a rehabilitation centre. I drove the doctor, the matron, and a nurse to the places where families kept their handicapped members out of sight, and everybody gathered round for a public open-air clinic. Two things became clear: nobody wanted to be put to work, and about half had eye problems. The bishop was very cross when I said his plan had no future, but he had to listen when a World Health Organisation expert told him the same.

The man who taught me to test eyes was very generous. He invited me to live in his house for a week and to spend every day in his consulting room. When I asked him why he was so generous, he said it was because he was a freemason. The Lions Club paid for the equipment. I had glasses made to measure and prescription by a firm in South Africa, and charged cost price to my patients. That made me the fourth supplier of glasses in a country with ¾ million people. By the time I left Botswana I had supplied more than a thousand pairs of glasses.

Communism

In later years I tested eyes in a government hospital, sharing the consulting room of a Chinese lady eye surgeon. One day I heard an argument behind me and, when my patient had left, found an old lady needed a cataract operation and could not pay the fee, which was less than a pound. I paid it and later the surgeon and her interpreter came to ask how I would get it back. There were thirteen in the Chinese medical team. Once a week I gave them an English lesson and they gave me a Chinese meal. They could not understand why I would not accept a fee because Christians are meant to help people for no reward. They could not understand Christianity any more than I could understand communism. When I started to test eyes, people asked if I could do teeth.

Bewitched

A head teacher lived in one of the mission houses. I was told to make him pay his rent, so I did. He got the traditional doctor to bewitch me, and the whole village watched. When nothing happened to me some people thought it might be because I did not believe in spirits, others thought it didn't work because I was a white man.

Later on, at a secondary school, I led assembly for a week from time to time. I said once that I would talk about a different prophet each day. To show what is not meant by prophecy, I said that on a certain date assembly would be cancelled because of heavy rain. It was; this was a safe bet because in every year but one in recent times the autumn rains had started on that date – how else would the rainmakers be so successful? My 'prophecy' misfired: everybody said “Sorcery!”

A chicken farmer living near – four miles away is near in a desert – was taken before the district commissioner by his wife who complained that she was not receiving her share of the profits. He was told to come back with his accounts. I wrote his accounts and put on the front a note showing that his wife received most of the profit, his son came next, and he came last. The accounts never reached the district commissioner. The wife read the note, burnt the accounts and said that was the end of that.

Train!

The head of a village school came, with a boy carrying a length of pipe. Would I thread it? Without once touching the pipe, I took the boy step-by-step through the whole process. The boy went away delighted: he could now thread a pipe. The head said, “I see a boy as someone to carry a pipe. You see him as someone to train.” I said that was how the rich nations grow richer.

Driving lessons

I taught four hospital workers to drive. It took a hundred hours each time. Once the examiner failed the truck, not the driver. Another driver failed the test and said that he could not face the shame of failing a second time. The woman driver passed. When she went to a government filling station for petrol she was told it was unthinkable that a woman should bring a truck for petrol, and she had to go away and find a man.

Gratitude

When our doctor was away, if there was a difficult birth at night I would take the patient and a nurse by truck to a government hospital ten miles away. I always asked the nurse whether to give her an easy ride or get there fast, and the answer was always to get there fast. A couple of weeks after one of these journeys, a mother came to my door with all her relatives in their best clothes to show me the baby and say thank you. This is the nicest thing that has ever happened to me. The church gave the hospital to the government, and I lost my job after four years. When I left, to manage a school, the chief addressed me as *Rraetšo*, father of our people. This was a great honour, but not as moving as the family's thanks.

* *now US United Society, and the former owners of the church of St. John's*
(From The Beacon – March 2008)

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**The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace
Father, we know that your world needs love and harmony
Lord, come to bless us**