

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

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

MARCH 2017

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 8 March 2017

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30

LENT

A JOURNEY TO COMMUNITY

(see inside)

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN MARCH 2017 - YEAR A

5 th 1 st Sunday of Lent with Imposition of Ashes	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 2. 15-17; 3. 1-7 32.1-8 Romans 5. 12-19 Matthew 4. 1-11
12 th 2 nd Sunday of Lent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 12. 1-4a 121 Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17 John 3. 1-17
19 th 3 rd Sunday of Lent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Exodus 17. 1-7 95 Romans 5. 1-11 John 4. 5-29
26 th 4 th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Exodus 2.1-10 34. 11-20 2 Corinthians 1.3-7 Luke 2.33-35

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

arrangements may be made by contacting David
or 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.

**Prayer isn't just a solitary thing -
when you pray with others you become a community
filled with God's spirit.**

(Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury)

FROM THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Church of England is to undergo a major “culture shift” to mobilise lay members to spread the gospel in their everyday lives. General Synod has given its support to the report, “Setting God's People Free”, which calls for Christians to be equipped to live out their faith in every sphere – from the factory or office, to the gym or shop – to help increase numbers of Christians and their influence in all areas of life.
(See full report on <http://bit.ly/layculture>)

Members of the Synod ... backed a motion on supporting further reconciliation between RC and reformed churches as Christians around the world commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation and celebrating the “rich spiritual blessings” the Reformation brought to the Church of England.
(see full report on <http://bit.ly/500reformation>)

Mothering Sunday

Lord Jesus,

you know well the blessing an earthly home can bring: receive our thanks for all the love we have received in our homes, especially from those who have nurtured us from our earliest years.

Hear our prayers for mothers everywhere, that they may never lose heart nor ever be taken for granted, but receive from their children the honour and love you showed to your mother, Mary, even as you were suffering on the Cross.

Bless and keep them all, for your love's sake.

Amen

God give us a future daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us for new life starts now.

Amen

(from an Australian hymn)

PRAYERS FOR MARCH

Heavenly Father, We praise and worship you in our prayers, and pray for:

1. ASH WEDNESDAY - "*We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God*" (2 Corinthians 5. 20b)
2. May we hear your voice, Lord, as we journey with You through Lent
3. World Day of Prayer – pray for people of the Philippines & their problems
4. meditate on the difficulties our church has in spending time together
5. "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.*" (Psalm 32. 9)
6. the church council at their *Indaba* this morning
7. As we seek to become a strong Christian community, grant us perseverance, insight, and vision
8. pray for the eucharist service in Bordighera and the Lent group meeting today
9. Lord, may we be ready to follow your will, whatever the cost to us
10. for men and women who feel their lives have little value
11. for those in the media responsible for TV programmes that give us news
12. "*God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*" (John 3. 17)
13. Give thanks for all the blessings in your life
14. for those who have no work – O God, give them strength to keep seeking
15. give thanks for communities who work tirelessly for others without recognition or reward
16. help us to share the good news of the gospel with those in our part of Your world
17. consider how you can meet the needs of the poor and the migrants you see daily
18. give thanks to those who set up St. John's website which informs us and visitors alike about our church and its activities
19. *O that today you would harken to his voice! Harden not your hearts.* Psalm 95.7b
20. give thanks to God for the freedom to worship whenever and however we choose
21. for our church council; may wisdom and good judgement prevail in its decisions
22. O God, help us to choose rightly
23. We thank God for the generations – may young and old be drawn to one another in mutual appreciation with a will to listen and learn from one another
24. for those who help to bring relief and aid to the needy
25. for all mothers – enable them to care for their children in whatever society they live
26. *Unless the Lord builds the house, their labour is in vain.* (Psalm 127. 1)
27. give thanks to God that as Christians we can achieve much together
28. Ask God's blessing on the work of the community of St. John's
29. May we reach out in welcome to all those who enter our church
30. Ask God's blessing on all those you love
31. Give thanks to God for the joy of sharing times of prayer, thanksgiving, worship

Thank You for listening, Lord,

May we, too, listen and act according to Your will. Amen (5)

Lent: A journey to Community

By the time you read this edition of the *Cross Border*, we will have begun our lenten journey of forty days between Ash Wednesday (1st March), and Holy Thursday (13th April), known to many as Maundy Thursday. For the mathematicians amongst us, the forty days *exclude* the six Sundays of Lent!

Traditionally, people look on these forty days as a time of abstinence, a time to give up some pleasure. What if this year we give up giving up? What if this year *we look towards making a journey*, accompanying Jesus who has "*set his face towards Jerusalem*" (Luke 9.51), and seek to establish a more visible presence of Community, just as he sought to establish a more visible presence of the Kingdom of God.

There are (at least) three elements that contribute to that visibility – of Community, of Kingdom: *Being, becoming and belonging*. If we commit ourselves to journey this Lent conscious of these, it may be that we'll come to the Paschal Feast as *Community* – a Community which is more visible, more present in God's world.

Together each Sunday, we'll reflect on the eucharistic readings, and weave in and out of what it means, and how it looks, *to be* – to deeply embrace the person God has gifted each of us to be; *to become* – to explore our individual and collective transfiguration from church to Kingdom people; and our *belonging* in that Kingdom of resurrection Life, "*Life in all it's fulness*" (John 10.10). And as we reach the Paschal Feast, the *temenos* of our journey, we'll break bread to share in the body of Christ, and "*though we are many, we are (will be) one body, because we all share in the one bread.*" Our Community, made sacramental through our journey, becomes the outward and visible sign of an inward and hidden grace.

Community meals are being planned – small gatherings, perhaps between six and eight people, at midday or in the evening. This will give expression to our being, becoming and belonging. Dates of these "*building Community around the table*" gatherings will be advertised in the Sunday notice sheet, and on the St. John's website.

If you're willing to provide hospitality around your table, please email anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com or telephone (France) 04 93 57 20 25.

Peace and Every Good as we commit ourselves to make this journey towards Community.

David
St. John's Church, Menton

WORLD DAY of PRAYER

Lutheran Church,
Corso Garibaldi, (next door to the Pala Fiori), Sanremo
on Friday 3 March 2017, at 3.00pm

The **World Day of Prayer** is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto “**Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action**”, and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The programme this year is written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Philippines using the reading from Matthew 20:1-16. In the story Jesus told about the kingdom of heaven, he saw no wrongdoing in giving equally. However, the workers complained. This dialogue is turned into a question for the 2017 World Day of Prayer theme:

“Am I Being Unfair to You?”

Join with members and friends of the churches in an afternoon of prayer and fellowship in the Lutheran Church.

Thoughts on Lent community

We pass our lives in many types of community. To name but a few, there is the family, school/university, workplace, leisure activities, neighbours, regular travel companions, voluntary work and, of course, our church. The community continually enlarges or diminishes as our lives unfold and interests and necessities change. Some communities remain with us throughout our lives - some just disappear.

It is going to be interesting to see what type of community we think our church is and to discover what it will become during the '*Lenten Journey to Community*' proposed by David for the forty days of Lent (see page 2). I am looking forward to it and hope our meetings will be enlightening, will help us grow, and will be fruitful. Of course, we need to take part, so - accept the invitation!

Elizabeth Cordone

25/26 MARCH 2017 - SUMMERTIME BEGINS
CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR

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SOW A SEED IN PRAYER

God of welcome, take our mustard seed of faith;
nourish it with the Holy Spirit, that confidence will grow within us
to speak your words of invitation.

May our vision flourish

Amen.

God of welcome, plant the seed of compassion
in those who hear of our work.

Nourish it with the Holy Spirit that vision will grow
and commitment will flourish.

Amen.

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2017

The Menedékház Foundation, Budapest, Hungary

The Menedékház helps homeless families with children reintegrate into the workplace and society at large. A professional staff of social workers serves some 160 people, many of whom do not meet the criteria of other established social assistance programmes. The Menedékház is housed in aging Soviet-era military barracks. The Lent Appeal Project aims to fund the renovation of the family washrooms, providing individual cabins or cubicles for family groups to change, wash and shower. These facilities are essential and much appreciated by those who are vulnerable or just getting by. Learn more at:- www.menedekhaz.hu

A few quotes to meditate on and take us through Lent ----

“The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.”

(Archbishop William Temple)

“Returning to earth I realised I was a servant – not a celebrity. I am here as God's servant on planet earth to share what I have experienced that others might know the glory of God.”

(Col. James Urwin, Astronaut)

*“O God of Second Chances and New Beginnings,
here I am again”*

(from a poem by Nancy Spiegelberg)

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