

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

LOCUM: Revd. Neville Griffiths Tel. #033 04 93 57 20 25

Wardens: Valerie Aucouturier Tel. Fr. 04 93 57 36 53
email: anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com
Carolyn Hanbury hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com

Communications: Suzanne Prince suzanne.prince@sfr.fr
Finance: Robert Edwards bob.edwards@premiertapeconverters.co.uk

Council Members: Ennis Cardew ennis.cardew@wanadoo.fr
Barbara Corry Tel. #39 0184 38 450 nichol.jean31@gmail.com
George Owen george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org
John Wason johnandjillwason@aol.com

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

Contact: Barbara Corry Tel. #39 0184 38 450 nichol.jean31@gmail.com

Finance: Barbara Caula Tel. #39 339 66 89 122

Editor: Elizabeth Cordone eacordone@gmail.com

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
DECEMBER 2017

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**EUCCHARIST
EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

A D V E N T

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST
WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER - 10.30**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30

YVONNE MOLINARI - RIP

Yvonne Molinari died at the beginning of November. She often joined us at services in St. John's and in the Chapel at the English Cemetery in Bordighera. We are pleased to record here, for those who were unable to be present at Yvonne's funeral, the address given by Birgitt Nordbrink, President of the British Association in Menton,.

Funeral address by Birgitt Nordbrink Church of Sant Agostino, Ventimiglia, Monday 6 November 2017

Yvonne was a lady held in high regard by us all and she remained bright and feisty to the end.

Although Yvonne had been quite unwell these past two years, a predicament she couldn't come to terms with, Yvonne never gave up. She wanted to socialise, to continue meeting people, to know everything that was going on around her, especially with regard to the British Association. Yvonne had been an active committee member for many years and only retired last spring. For some years, Yvonne and I were the only committee members of the BA and Yvonne would doggedly churn out our Minutes on her ancient typewriter, whose ribbon, devoid of much ink, had to be spooled backwards and forwards to make an impression on the paper.

When I first met Yvonne, she was well into her eighties, but she was young at heart, interested in everything, with a great sense of humour. After initially having had to prove myself, we became very good friends and could discuss anything and everything, sharing many a joke.

Yvonne has led an amazingly interesting life, meeting and working with famous artists, writers and celebrities in her time.

She really appreciated her friends, to whom she was very loyal, especially Hugh and Laurent.

Lita, Barbara, and in more recent times, Barrie formed a part of Yvonne's close group of friends over here. Angelo, was always ready to assist Yvonne, each of us willing to help in our own way and sometimes overlapping, because we all admired Yvonne, her personality, character and greatly respected her.

Many of our members from all over the world have written to express, not only their condolences, but also their admiration for such a very unique person.

Our condolences to Yvonne's niece Wanda and nephew John Angelo.

We shall all miss you, Yvonne, but you have a place in our hearts forever.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum The Revd. Paul Payton will be with us for Advent through to Epiphany.

Gardening with Barbara Need some exercise? Come and help tidy up St. John's garden with Barbara Corry during the afternoons of the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Tools supplied. Check with Barbara when she will be there.

St. Raphael Fr. Tom Wilson was licensed as Priest in Charge of St. John's Anglican church, St. Raphael, by Fr. Meurig Williams on 28 October 2017. There will be an Advent Carol Service at St. John's on Sunday 3 December at 4.00pm and it is hoped that all the churches along the coast will be represented.

Diocesan Database Important and major changes are on the way in the coming months affecting Data Protection laws across Europe. The new rules govern who holds data and for how long, how consent to holding data is obtained and demonstrated, and who has access to the data. The effect of the new rules are much wider than our churches and will be applied to local clubs and organisations through to vast international corporations.

Members of our church, who are listed on the diocesan database, are being contacted so that they can agree to the inclusion of their details under the new terms of the Act. There will be more information available by early next year, before the new rules take effect.

E C U M E N I C A L K E R M E S S E

Chapiteau Espace Fontvieille
Monaco

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017

Entry is free and the doors are open from 10.00 to 18.00
Buffet and Bar open all day

There are many stalls including clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, antiques, Christmas decorations, Monegasque and British speciality stands, plus jewelry, household items, shoes, bags, gifts and novelties. There is also a Tombola.

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 30/11 and 1/12 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

READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in DECEMBER 2017 - YEAR B

December 3 ADVENT 1	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 64, 1-9 80. 1-7, 16-18 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 Mark 13. 24-37
December 10 ADVENT 2	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 40. 1-11 85. 1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3. 8-15a Mark 1. 1-8
December 17 ADVENT 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11 126 Luke 1. 46b-55 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24
December 24 ADVENT 4	First Reading Canticle Second Reading Gospel	2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16 Luke 1.46b-5.5 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1. 26-38
December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 52. 7-10 98 Hebrews 1.1-4, (5-12) John 1.1-14
December 31 CHRISTMAS 1	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 148 Galatians 4. 4-7 Luke 2. 15-21

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY

*“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

Let us go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see Him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in Him, and can sing, 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given'. Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. Let us notice at the very first glance His miraculous conception. It was a thing unheard of before, and unparalleled since, that a virgin should conceive and bear a Son. The first promise ran thus, the seed of the woman, not the offspring of the man. Since venturous woman led the way in the sins which brought forth Paradise lost, she, and she alone, ushers in the Regainer of Paradise. Our Saviour, although truly man, was as to His human nature the Holy One of God. Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to manhood its ancient glory; and let us pray that He may be formed in us, the hope of glory. Fail not to note His humble parentage. His mother has been described simply as 'A virgin', not a princess, or prophetess, nor a matron of a large estate. True the blood of kings ran in her veins; nor was her mind a weak and untaught one, for she could sing most sweetly a song of praise; but yet how humble her position, how poor the man to whom she stood affianced, and how miserable the accommodation afforded to the new-born King!

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendour.

*Charles Haddon Spurgeon,
Baptist Preacher (1834-1892)*

MAY YOU HAVE A

BLESSED CHRISTMAS

FULL OF JOY AND PEACE

Glory to God in the High Street

David Winter, former head of Religious Broadcasting for the BBC,
thinks back to a certain Christmas past...

Many years ago in Finchley, north London there was a local Methodist Church which would offer various inspirational messages in illuminated lights to the passers-by on the main road. Their Christmas one, very appropriately, was the song of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest'. Unfortunately some inclement weather or a simple technical failure put out one of the lights. Just as appropriately, however, it now reads, 'Glory to God in the high st'. An electrical fault, perhaps – but how wonderfully true it was. In fact, nothing could better sum up the deep meaning of Christmas than that splendidly distorted message.

Those same angels told the shepherds in the fields that the 'sign' to identify the special baby to be born that night in Bethlehem would be that they would find him 'lying in a manger'. Well, 'manger' is a fancy word for a simple thing. The truth is that they would find the infant Son of God lying in a feeding trough.

At Bethlehem the Creator entered the Creation. 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us' – and the 'Word', John's Gospel tells us, 'was God'. In Jesus the divine became human, 'In him (Jesus) all the fullness of deity dwells bodily', St Paul tells us (Colossians 2:9). 'Hail the incarnate deity', we sing – but it's hard sometimes to recognise his identity in the bonny baby in the traditional crib scene. It's a pity that the Christmas story can so easily be sentimentalised, because in fact this was the most radical and revolutionary action of God since the creation itself. God, in Jesus his Son, actually came among us – not as a super-being, not even as a fully grown adult, but as a baby.

'You will find the baby lying in a feeding trough'. Exactly. Right where we are, in all the mess and muddle of ordinary life, in the fun and tears, in the feasting and the poverty, the glory of God was seen in a tiny scrap of human flesh. In that helpless baby God showed how far he was prepared to go to bring us back to himself. When God took flesh he did it properly. Glory to God in the high street!

The Virgin

Behold the Virgin approaching near,
and the Christ so young upon her breast,
Angels low-bowing before them here,
and the King of life saying, 'Tis best'.

(Old Celtic prayer.)

(3)

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH DECEMBER

Heavenly Father,

We praise You, give you thanks and

- 1 Advent – help us take time to prepare for the coming of Your Son Jesus Christ
- 2 the Ecumenical Kermesse in Monaco today – may the hard work be recompensed
- 3 *'Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.'* (Psalm 80)
- 4 help us Lord, to acknowledge our faults and open our hearts to change.
- 5 every person we meet today think, "God loves him/her too" and act accordingly
- 6 pray to turn from uncertainty and indecision to hope and purposefulness
- 7 all those suffering from some form of slavery – human trafficking, sexual abuse
- 8 give thanks for the joy our decorated towns bring us
- 9 let us never take for granted the freedom we enjoy day by day
- 10 *'Show us your mercy, O Lord and grant us your salvation'* (Psalm 85)
- 11 pray that universal human rights would not be a vain hope but an achievable goal
- 12 Say 'Thank You Lord', and again 'Thank You Lord', and again 'Thank you, Lord'
- 13 bless the service and congregation in the chapel in Bordighera today
- 14 pray for those who need encouragement to face the future
- 15 for those working to better the situations of the homeless
- 16 seek to strengthen relationships with family members, workmates, friends
- 17 *'The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad indeed'* (Psalm 126)
- 18 pray for all travellers, their safety, and that of others
- 19 for those who are seeking You Father and those who lead the way
- 20 the Bishop's Advent Appeal supporting homeless refugees and asylum seekers
- 21 those rebuilding their lives after damage caused by natural disasters
- 22 at this time of family reunions pray for the bereaved and the lonely
- 23 all those working during the Christmas season; on public transport, in the Police Force, Armed Forces, Hospitals, Hotels, Shops, Sports and Entertainment places
- 24 *'Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing'* (Psalm 89)
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY * Reflect and rejoice in the birth of Jesus and remember those who are not joyful at this time
- 26 pray for the Priest that God is making ready to be our Priest in Charge
- 27 pray for those who have no real understanding of the real meaning of Christmas
- 28 pray for children forced to work long hours and miss their education, for those caught up in trafficking or made to fight at a very young age
- 29 Be with Europe, Lord, in the coming year. Illumine its leaders with your Holy Spirit and keep it united in Your ideals, ready to help one another and others to a better life throughout the world
- 30 Give thanks and pray for all the clergy who have served St. John's this year
- 31 give thanks for all that was good within the last year and pray that the New Year will bring hope and joy to all in need of a Saviour's love.

Thank You for listening, Lord,

May we, too, listen and act. Amen

(8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2017

This year's Advent Appeal aims 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. We are doing this through a well-established and well-run project established by our Episcopal sister church of St. Paul's Within the Walls.

The **Joel Nafuma Refugee Center** is the major outreach ministry of St. Paul's Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome. The centre assists approximately 17,000 people per year, and is the only day centre 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.

Many are vulnerable, depressed and traumatised. They are sometimes completely alone. They can be as young as 18 or 19. 70% have come to Italy to flee active conflict, political or religious persecution. Approximately 85% are men, and 15% are women or accompanied by a child.

While they wait for shelter, they are welcomed at 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 lesson, 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. Often, once they have a dorm bed, they return to take classes, write a CV in Italian and begin the search for employment. Some guests attend music and art therapy or see a counsellor for individual sessions. JNRC prides itself on being able to track the progress of many young people who transition from humanitarian assistance, to being able to fend for themselves in Rome.

Under the terms of the Dublin Regulation, refugees who entered Italy first in Europe must receive and renew refugee status documents in Italy. This means that in 2017, JNRC has seen a **rise** in guest numbers due to the increased number of people journeying across the Mediterranean Sea from Libya, the closure of the Calais "Jungle" camp in France, and increased deportations from Scandinavia. (5)

We aim to raise enough money to support the breakfast programme and to provide basic supplies and sleeping bags for JNRC guests for 6 months.

For 6 months supply of:	Amount in Euros
Food	7,500
Cleaning supplies and cost	2,000
Consumable supplies	200
Kitchen equipment	750
Underwear, toiletries, and socks	1,750
100 sleeping bags for January-March	<u>1,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>13,250</u>

As usual, you can give money to this appeal through your church treasurer, who will forward your gift to the diocesan office. Funds will then be transmitted direct to JNRC (<http://jnrc.it/>). Please do consider how you can support my Advent appeal this year.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

Christmas Traditions - which ones do you still keep?

What traditions are becoming the ghosts of Christmas past, and what does the Christmas of the future seem to hold? One survey has found the following:

- 1) Putting a penny in the Christmas pudding? Only 3% still put them in.
- 2) Tangerines in Christmas stockings? 69% have never heard of this old custom
- 3) Toasting the Queen? 18% still do this at Christmas lunch
- 4) Dousing the Christmas pudding in brandy and setting it alight? 29% still like this
- 5) Home-made Christmas cake? Well, 46% still enjoy this.
- 6) Or German stollen instead? 25% prefer this, or Italian panettone (14% of us)
- 7) Roasting some chestnuts? Only about 5 % will be doing this
- 8) Chocolates? 64% will indulge over Christmas
- 9) Champagne for Christmas breakfast? 65% now think this is a great idea.
- 10) Watch the Queen's speech? 26% still do this.
- 11) Play charades? 28% will have a go.
- 12) Watch a DVD/play a computer game instead? 42% will do this.
- 13) Sing carols? Amazingly, only 16% of us will bother.
- 14) Pick mistletoe? A paltry 9% will go out searching for some.
- 15) Make a holly wreath? Only 6% will tackle any holly this year.
- 16) any pre-prepared shop food? 24% of us will be 'cheating' this Christmas..... (6)

A prayer at the end of the day

My thanks, dear Lord, for everything
 You've given me today.
 For all those busy hours spent
 at labour or at play,
 for sticking with me when I moaned
 that work was far from fun,
 for giving me a sense of pride
 when all my tasks were done.
 I thank You for my leisure time,
 for friends who made me smile,
 for wisdom too, that came my way,
 and made me pause awhile.
 Dear Lord, the hours so quickly pass,
 both working and at play,
 please guide me through tomorrow
 as you've helped me through today.
 M. J. Brison

Listen to music - and get well

Make the most of all the musical events around this Christmas, because it will help keep you whole. In recent years music has been found to help people with many illnesses, ranging from cancer to stroke, dementia, depression and alcoholism.

Music can improve aspects of brain function and to reduce stress levels. One study even found that music can help speed up the healing process among women in hospital. Music helps regulate heartbeat and breathing rates – many believe this is because music is closely linked with the rhythms of the body. Calming music really does calm us down.

People who play in an orchestra or sing in a choir often experience a profound feeling of well-being and 'group solidarity' after a session together. So as the carols and concerts get going – make the most of them this year!

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild.
 (Welsh proverb) (7)

Christmas and St. Luke's Gospel

It is to St. Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St. Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity.

Luke tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her, and has thus given the Church the wonderful Magnificat of Mary.

Luke alone tells us the story of Simeon's hymn of praise, thus giving us the wonderful Nunc Dimmittis. Imagine an Anglican evensong without the Nunc Dimmittis.

Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. So – imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus. Imagine school nativity plays without our children dressed as shepherds or sheep. So – thank you, Luke!

What makes it so amazing is that Luke was not a Jew! The man who wrote the fullest nativity story, and indeed more of the New Testament than any other single person, was a Gentile!

☺ **THANK YOU!** ☺

To all of you who helped produce the Cross Border newsletter with articles, information, comments, ideas and encouragement – THANK YOU ! Please continue
Editor

Prompting

The boy forgot his lines in the Christmas Sunday School drama presentation. His mother tried to prompt him, gesturing and forming the words silently with her lips, but it didn't help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the angel Gabriel!" The child beamed with acknowledgement and in a loud, clear voice so that everyone in the congregation could hear said, "My Mommy is the angel Gabriel!"

'GOD WITH US' (4)