

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

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

Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30

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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 – 10.30

Telephone for confirmation

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The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova

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Eucharist Service - Sundays 10.30

Holy Communion or Shared Prayers – Wednesdays 12.30

Website: www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2016

MAKE
LENT
COUNT

PRAY - ACT - GIVE

**ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
is closed at the moment awaiting restoration**

EUCCHARIST SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

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

ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL, BORDIGHERA

EUCCHARIST and IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 10.30am

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

3rd February - Anskar, 801 – 865

In our Diocesan Prayer Cycle we are asked to remember Anskar, Abp of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865.

Anskar should be the patron saint of any Christian who loves doing mission, and who discovers that evangelists meet the most amazing people, and that their lives are full of surprises.....

It was the 9th century, and Anskar had grown up in a noble family in Amiens. He decided to forsake it all in order to become a monk. It may have sounded dull to his non-Christian acquaintances, but it opened a life of international adventure and a lasting achievement that has affected millions down the centuries.

Anskar began by going to Picardie and becoming a monk. Soon he felt called to Corvey (Westphalia) where he began apostolic work – or, in modern parlance, evangelism and church planting. But that was just the start. For here Anskar met the king of Denmark (as one does). King Harold was in temporary exile, and during his stay in Westphalia, had become a Christian. When the time came, he persuaded Anskar to return to Denmark with him, and under his royal patronage to evangelise Denmark. The trip was a success, and then in 832 Anskar was made Bishop of Hamburg.

When the Vikings sacked Hamburg in 845, another unexpected opportunity came Anskar's way. The Pope made him archbishop of both Hamburg and Bremen, with some responsibility over Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It was an enormous job, but Anskar was up to it. He seems to have worked around the clock – establishing schools, giving great sums to the poor, and preaching the Gospel at every opportunity. Somehow he even found time to tackle the Viking slave-trade, and somewhat diminish this cruel practice.

But Anskar's most lasting success was as a Christian missionary to Denmark, whose patron he became. It is said that he dressed austerely, ate only simple food, and added short personal prayers to each psalm in his psalter, thus contributing to a form of devotion that soon became widespread. He died and was buried at Bremen.

He is known as the Apostle of the North and his Feast Day is 3rd February.

*Lord our God, you have given us the light of Christ to banish darkness
and to lead us in the way of your commandments,
make it ever our delight to fulfil your will, and truly to love one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

(The above prayer follows Psalm 112 in 'A Version of the Daily Office SSF') 3.

NEWS from ETHIOPIA

News has arrived from the Christian Welfare Centre in Ethiopia where 8year-old Fraol Abera is studying. He is the little boy whose mother had died and who is adopted (from a distance) by a small group here in Sanremo. The centre has sent us a photograph and his school report which shows he is doing well.

The centre has also sent information of activities they have planned for this year. You may remember they have several centres where they receive young people in need because of poverty, health difficulties, lack of work or training, or they are orphans. The centre does its best to provide a response and has grown enormously in the few years it has been operating.

Last year the Government of Ethiopia donated two large areas of land to the centre. A Reception Centre for disabled or abandoned HIV positive minors is being built on one of the sites – Gimbi - similar to that which was inaugurated in 2011 at Areka. In four years the centre in Areka has given a home to children suffering from serious handicaps and there are now some 110 children between the ages of a few months to 14. Because of the care that is taken of them, the improved diet, and the activities that they are offered, all the children show a vast improvement. Sadly, children affected with paralysis will have to remain in the centre, but they are assured of growing up in serene surroundings. The Ethiopian government has judged the Areka centre the best in Ethiopia.

As in Areka the cultivation of land at Gimbi will provide vegetables, bananas, mangoes, papaya, maize and coffee, which will be used to feed the children. The excess of produce will be distributed to the poor in the nearby town.

The second site which was given by the government is to be used to raise 150/200 cows, 250/300 sheep, 250/300 goats and 1,000 chickens. All the produce of milk and cheese will be used to feed the children in the centre and anything remaining will be given to poor families in Gimbi. When calves are born they will be donated to the poorest and largest families with the pledge on the part of the receivers to also donate any calf that is born to their calf to another family, and so on and so on. The same method will be used with the other animals so providing food for the families.

The local cows produce 1 litre of milk a day while the cows that the centre will buy (a Dutch breed which can be found in Kenya) produces 22 litres a day. In the next five years it is thought about 10,000 families will be helped. With the 'adoption from a distance' 5,000 children have been helped, but they are the extreme cases; the hungry are hundreds of thousands.

For more information or to make a contribution please contact Barbara Caula either in church or by phone.

It's Leap Year !

This is a Leap Year – February has 29 days in it, bringing the total days for 2016 to 366. The technical term for a Leap Year is an ***INTERCALARY YEAR***. Leap years happen every four years.

SO – WHICH YEARS ARE LEAP YEARS? In the Gregorian calendar, used by most modern countries, the following rules decide which years are leap years:

- Every year divisible by 4 is a leap year
- but every year divisible by 100 is NOT a leap year
- but if the millennium year is divisible by 400 then it is still a leap year. This means that the years 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT leap years, while 2000 and 2400 ARE leap years. (Not that any of us will be around in 2400 to care.)

WHY DO WE HAVE LEAP YEARS? Leap years keep the calendar in alignment with the earth's motion around the sun. If we used a calendar with only ever 365 days, we'd end up 0.2422 days wrong a year – that's about six hours. Not much to begin with – but in 50 years we'd be 12 days ahead of the seasons. By adding a leap year, the calendar follows the seasons much more closely.

LEAP YEAR LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS The best-known tradition associated with Leap Years is that on 29th February the women are permitted to propose marriage to their man. This tradition is said to go back to St. Patrick and Brigid of Kildare in 5th century Ireland. Originally, it seems the woman could make her proposal at any time during a Leap Year. However, a law said to have been made in 1288 by Queen Margaret of Scotland decreed that a fine should be paid by the man if he refused the woman's proposal. The fine could be anything from a kiss to a silk gown. Because men felt threatened by this idea, the rules of the 'game' were tightened so that women could only propose on 29th February itself. However, there is no historic foundation for any of this, and many believe the Leap Year tradition of female marriage proposals only came into being in the 19th century! In Greece, it is widely believed that getting married in a Leap Year will bring bad luck for the couple. Consequently there tend to be less wedding in Greece in a Leap Year than in other years.

WHAT IF YOUR BIRTHDAY FALLS ON 29 FEBRUARY? If you were born on 29 February you are officially called a 'leapling'. Most people born on that day usually celebrate their birthday either on 28 February or 1 March. For legal purposes, their legal birthdays depend on how the laws of different countries count time intervals. There are many instances in children's literature where a person's claim to be only a quarter of their actual age turns out to be based on counting their leap-year birthdays. A similar device is used in the plot of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *The Pirates of Penzance*.

LENT and HOLY WEEK 2016

Lent begins early this year, on Wednesday 10 February, and runs through for 46 days (40 weekdays plus 6 Sundays) until Holy (Maundy) Thursday on 24 March.

While Lent is usually associated with sacrifice, with “giving things up”, it is a season in the liturgical year when we are invited to become empty in order that we might become full, to let go in order that we might receive, to die in order that we might live.

The question that might guide our lenten sacrifice is “What Grace do I seek, what Mercy do I seek from God, and what is required of me that I might receive it?” To guide and support us in asking such a question, and becoming open to receive grace and mercy, St. John's invites you to join us on:-

Wednesday 10 February at 10.30

Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

The English Cemetery Chapel in Bordighera

Please contact Barbara Corry for travel details, if required (+39 0184 38450)

Mothering Sunday 6 March at 10.30

Holy Communion and distribution of flowers

Chapelle St Roch, Place St Roch, Menton

Palm Sunday 20 March at 10.30

Holy Communion and distribution of palm crosses

Holy Tuesday 22 March at 12.00

Chrism Eucharist with Bishop David Hamid

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 11 Rue de la Buffa, Nice

Good Friday 25 March between 11.00-12.00

Meditations on the Passion of Christ

Chapelle St Roch, Place St Roch, Menton

Easter Sunday 27 March at 10.30

Holy Communion

Chapelle St Roch, Place St Roch, Menton

In addition to our regular Sunday Eucharist in Chapelle St Roch, and our weekday Eucharist in Bordighera on the second Sunday of each month, we are in the process of discussing a couple of events during Lent which will gather us around a table, with light refreshments, to share in conversation that supports our Lenten journey.

Details will be provided on the website and in the weekly Sunday flyer.

For those who are unable to have access to the church website, below is the Churchwardens' Update January 2016

What's new? CHANTIER INTERDIT AU PUBLIC

Renovation work on the stained glass windows begins in mid-January. Scaffolding will be put up and the windows will be removed, replaced with transparent sheeting which will be bonded to the stone framework so that no rain, etc. will get in.

What has happened?

In May 2015, mandated by the Chaplaincy Council, Valerie and Ennis Cardew (the former Churchwarden, and recently elected Treasurer) met representatives from Sarl Magia Immobiliere. This is the construction company that has developed Westbay, the apartment block adjacent to St John's Church. At this meeting, a decision was taken as to the agreement for the sale/exchange of part of the church garden. In return, we have accepted a two-roomed apartment on the third floor of Westbay, a commercial property on the ground floor, and two parking spaces in the same building. We have also agreed to take a smaller commercial property on the ground floor of the planned new construction, and extension to Westbay. Our intention is to use some of this property as regular income to offset ministry and mission expenses. We currently operate a deficit budget, and recognise that this is unsustainable in the long-term.

A Deed of Gift from US (United Society, formerly The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel), was granted on 23 December 2015, transferring ownership of St John's Church from US to St John's Chaplaincy. Our acceptance, with joyful thanksgiving for this gift, has enabled our Churchwarden Valerie, on behalf of the Chaplaincy Council to sign the *Compromise de Vente*, authorising the above mentioned sale/exchange.

What will happen?

Within the next few months following the signing of the *Compromise de Vente*, the final contract should be agreed and signed, providing St. John's with access to the properties in Westbay.

The Chaplaincy Council has agreed a contract for the restoration and renovation of St. John's Church, and the architect is currently applying for permission to begin this work. While we have no indication of when, and how long, it is our sincere hope and prayer that this year will finally see our return to our beloved historic church building.

The small stained glass windows on the north side of the church, which were removed when the damage occurred, and have been safely stored in the atelier (5.

of an expert stained glass glazier, will be put back in place when the restoration is carried out. One of these windows needed repair, and this has been completed.

Following the repair and cleaning - beginning in 1999 - of the five large stained glass windows on the south side (street side) of the church, the three large windows behind the altar were examined, and a decision made to repair and clean them, and to replace the grilles on all of the windows to protect them from damage. The quotation for this urgent, and important, piece of work was reasonable but nonetheless, considerable, given our current finances.

We are extremely blessed in that our benefactor, Mr William Dewhurst, has agreed to meet the cost of all this work on the windows with funds from the Dewhurst Foundation. The Council and community of St. John's are most thankful to Mr Dewhurst and the Dewhurst Foundation for their generous support in memory of Audrey Dewhurst (Mr Dewhurst's mother) who was a faithful worshipper and supporter of St. John's until her death at just over 100.

We are overjoyed that the work on these windows began in January.

Give thanks

To God: for the faithful support of the members of this small, but growing, community, and for the larger community of friends "out there" who continue to visit us, pray for us and support us as they are able. Thank you to all of you for all you are, and all you do.

Churchwardens, Valerie Aucouturier and Carolyn Hanbury.
From St. John's website www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

A date for your diaries - WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service this year is prepared by the women of Cuba and has as its theme:

'Receive children. Receive me.'

Loving God,

Your son told his disciples to become like little children.

Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.

May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The service will take place in the Lutheran Church, Corso Garibaldi, Sanremo on Friday 4th March at 3.00pm.

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