

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

Website: 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
OCTOBER 2018

**ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY
7 OCTOBER**

Chapelle St Roch – 10.30am

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**

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST
WEDNESDAY 10th OCTOBER - 10.30am**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30pm

Life at St. James-the-Least

The Rectory St. James-the-Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute expositions on the theology of St. Paul concerning women wearing hats in church are, I am sure, of particular interest to you. I suspect to most of your congregation, their primary concern will be, since you are preaching, that they should have put the oven timer to come on a little later.

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological moment may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation, that you normally only see in the faces of golden Labradors as they try to work out what you are trying to communicate.

There are certain sure signs that should tell you when you have preached for long enough. One is when you see members of the congregation reaching for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say "and finally" is another.

Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon, but when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies, that is absolute proof that you have overstayed your welcome.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard 8 minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time, marking his return, ready to play the last hymn. Unfortunately one Sunday, his dog ran away.

While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, giving lengthy reports of the previous six church council meetings, and was even reduced to giving out the batting averages from the choirboys' crickety team, before I heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck. At the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace.*

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum We welcome back Revd. Neville Griffiths and his wife Siân. They remain until 26 November.

Animal Welfare Sunday – 7 October At the end of the service a Retiring Collection will be made by Barbara Corry. She will buy food and or medical supplies for a Dog and Cats' Home as has been done for several years. We hope those present will be as generous as last year to help look after these poor unwanted and abandoned creatures of God. They have little hope of being adopted and some of them are very old.

Clocks go Back Remember to put your clocks back one hour during the night of 27/28 October.

Revd. Jonathan Boardman former Chaplain in Rome has been appointed as Chaplain at St. Paul's, Clapham, London. Contact: vicar@stpaulsclapham.org

Dates for your Diary Remembrance Sunday falls on the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice at the end of World War One - 11th November 1918-2018. There will be a Remembrance Service in Chapelle St. Roch at 10.30am. The following day, Monday 12th November, there will be a Remembrance Service in the British War Graves Cemetery, Bordighera, starting at 10.45am. This Cemetery holds military who died returning from the WWI campaign in the NE of Italy on the border with Austria.

Photographs Some articles in this issue of the Cross Border are accompanied by photographs. These can be seen on our website: www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
..... then you are probably the family dog.

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READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in OCTOBER 2018 - YEAR B

October 7 Trinity 19 ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 2.18-24 8 Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12 Mark 10.2-16
October 14 Trinity 20	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Amos 5.6-7, 10-15 90.13-17 Hebrews 4.12-16 Mark 10.17-31
October 21 Trinity 21	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 53.4-12 91.9-16 Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45
October 28 Trinity 22	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Jeremiah 31.7-9 126 Hebrews 7.23-28 Mark 10.46b-52

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BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

arrangements may be made by contacting
the churchwardens

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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.

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TALK TO ME

I want to hear you
I am always listening
but my ears are different from yours
You hear all the noise of life
You are deafened by words
Loud
quiet
kind
true
cruel
false
shouts
whispers
all tangled up in
dreams
distractions
delights
disappointments
desires
I hear your heart
the beating rhythm that is yours alone
the cadence of your unspoken prayers
the pulse of your daily needs
the confessions you don't know how to confess
the strengths you don't know you have
the gifts you have yet to use
your song that only I can hear
step outside the chaos of your world
and into the peace of Mine
and discover they are the same
one reality
in everything that lives
one God
connect
bring Me your deepest longing
say nothing - talk to me

'One Church, One Faith, One Lord'

In Assisi we came a step closer to this ideal! I was privileged to be in Assisi, Italy for the 1st Ecumenical Prayer Meeting for Creation marking the start of the Season of Creation. Privileged, too, to be there as the only ordained woman in what, to the eye, looked still very much like a man's world!

St Francis of Assisi – a man for our times? Eight hundred years ago St Francis renounced all wealth and earthly goods in response to Jesus' call to radical discipleship. (Mark 8:34-37). He lived a life of simplicity and in relationship, not only with God but also with his fellow human beings and all of nature. Using the Shrine dedicated to Francis' renunciation as the starting point, leaders and representatives of churches worldwide came together in Assisi at the start of the Season of Creation, to pray for our common home, Planet Earth. When the Shrine was dedicated in 2017, Pope Francis talked of the need to renounce our egoism, which prevents us seeing and caring for the world around us. He said: 'In a world of so much 'individualistic sadness' the Sanctuary of the Renunciation will hopefully nourish in the Church and in society – evangelical joy, simplicity and solidarity.'

On 31st August 2018 this solidarity became visible as the leaders met together. We met in a mood of contemplation and penitence as we reflected in various ways on the 'tears of the earth and peoples.' Repentance of our individual and collective mistakes, feeling for the pain of that sin and grieving for its consequences.

Rev. Christian Krieger said, 'Care for Creation is an unequivocal task for all Christians and all churches. It is the task which goes hand in hand with another principal task of churches, efforts for unity. Care for Creation is the task on which all churches can work together without raising any other issues needed to be resolved before.' And so we prayed together, reflected together, talked together and on the Saturday presented a united face as the representatives of the churches jointly read the Ecumenical Declaration on Creation from a dais in front of the Basilica of St Francis. No amount of wind was going to stop us, even though the floral decorations succumbed repeatedly to its force! It was a public declaration of our unity and invitation to all Christians and people of good faith to not just celebrate the Season of Creation but also call for international action on climate justice, a new global solidarity with the affected people and communities, to take bold action for the climate, not forgetting a personal evaluation of our own lifestyle and its effect on the world we live in. For as Pope Francis says, like peace, protecting creation is something "handcrafted" that begins with ourselves. As the declaration says, 'With the hope born of the gift of grace, we look forward to the day when humanity will rediscover its love for Creator, its reverence for creation, and its love for all the creatures who share this, our common home.'

*(Rev Elizabeth Bussmann, Environment Officer for the Anglican Diocese in Europe)
President of the Conference of European Churches*

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From our Bishop in Europe – The Rt. Revd. Dr. Robert Innes

'Walking together in Faith' is our diocesan strapline. A synod is literally a walking together. Over the last week I have attended two archdeaconry synods: Italy and Malta archdeaconry and Eastern archdeaconry. Both synods gather people from a wide area for a few days of community building, fellowship, teaching and learning. People leave encouraged and built up in faith.

The Italy and Malta Synod convened in the large former monastery, Villa Sacro Cuore, one hour's drive from Milan.

Visiting Italy I am always struck by the quantity of artwork. They say 60% of the world's art treasures are located in Italy - if you can estimate that! Villa Sacro Cuore certainly has more than its fair share of icons, sculptures and mosaics liberally decorating the walls of its chapels.

The theme of our synod was: 'powered by prayer'. The imaginative Bible studies were given by The Revd. April Almass, Assistant Chaplain in Trondheim - shown in a photograph on the diocesan website with Archdeacon Vickie Sims and me. There was further input from Vickie and from Archdeacon Meurig Williams.

The social highlight of the Synod was a lively bar quiz, covering a wide range of subjects. There was some considerable debate over which Israelite king had a sundial The clear winners, led by The Revd. Tony Dickinson, Chaplain of Genova, can also be seen in a photograph on the diocesan website.

See Bishops Blog: www.https://europe.anglican.org

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Be persistent in prayer
and keep alert as you pray,
giving thanks to God.
(Colossians 4:2)

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ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY - ASWA

What is 'Animal Welfare Sunday'

Animal Welfare Sunday is a day in the Church's calendar on which we take time to think more deeply about our fellow creatures, to address issues of the well-being of non-human animals. Animal Welfare Sunday provides an opportunity to think and pray about the suffering that human activity causes to our fellow creatures, and our responsibility as Christians to alleviate suffering and promote the welfare of all of God's creatures.

Animal Welfare - the facts

Human beings impact the welfare of other animal species in myriad, often negative, ways: we hunt, fish and farm animals to provide food and clothing; we keep animals as pets and companions; animals work for us, some doing dangerous work (animals used by the police and military, in particular); we use animals for sport, often violent or dangerous sport; we use animals for experimentation and research; we degrade the environment and damage or destroy vital habitats needed by our fellow creatures for their survival.

There is a long Christian tradition of concern for animal welfare – many saints are credited with caring for animals, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (later the RSPCA), the first of what could be many SPCAs in countries all over the world, was founded by Arthur Broome, an Anglican priest, and other concerned Christians (William Wilberforce being a founding member).

Despite the Christian tradition of involvement with animal welfare, today's Christians rarely, if ever, hear the subject preached or prayed about in church, and few include it regularly in their own private prayers or regularly support animal welfare charities.

What does the Bible say?

'And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them' (Genesis 6. 19-21).

and St. Basil the Great?

O God, enlarge with us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou hast given the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realise that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for thee and that they have the sweetness of life. (5)

100 Years - Les Courmettes

After church on Sunday 2nd September, five of us set off in Carolyn's car to celebrate 100 years of Les Courmettes. We travelled along the motorway, turning off to go through Vence, Tourettes-sur-Loup and climb up into the hills where Les Courmettes is situated at 850m above sea level at the foot of the Pic des Courmettes.

We were in beautiful country, fields and trees and the rocky summit of 1248m above us. We parked the car and got out to breathe in the fresh perfumed air. Wonderful. Looking around we saw groups of people sitting on the grass under the trees. As a communal picnic had been proposed we quickly took our prepared lunches and set off to find a suitable spot and joined a group of French people, who had come up from nearby Tourettes-sur-Loup. We were soon sharing our food and experiences. They told us of the various exhibitions to see so, with full tummies, off we went.

The oldest building, dating from the 18th century, housed information and photographs of the history of Les Courmettes. From 1919-1929 it was a Sanatorium using exposure to the sun to treat bone tuberculosis, with a good percentage of success. Between 1929-1934, it became a Residential Home for children in delicate health. They were brought, often on mules and donkeys, to benefit from the pure air and sunshine of Les Courmettes. Then the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Federation of France took on the management of the site. Girls came from all over the world: Togo, Algeria, Great Britain, Egypt, Belgium, USA and many more. Lady Baden-Powell was present in 1954 for 'Expedition 54' which brought together 1500 girls from all over the world. When the Girl Guide and Boy Scout movements of France formed into one Association in 1964, the Federation relinquished its management.

Other groups took over for short periods, until in 2008 A Rocha France became the managers of the 600 hectares. A Rocha is a Christian organisation present in 20 countries and is active in nature protection through scientific studies, practical environmental conservation work and education activities. It welcomes churches and individuals for seminars and activities raising awareness of environmental questions. As you know, A Rocha and our Diocese in Europe now work together in our Christian mission.

Continuing through the second and third exhibitions, information panels on the geology and natural history were shown, together with posters of the animals, plants, insects and butterflies found in the area.

It was now time for the Celebration in the large Marqueé. It was packed with people. The first hymn was sung accompanied by the Salvation Army Brass Band, who provided the music for all the hymns. There were prayers and readings. François Clavairoly, President of the Protestant Federation of France gave the address. It was an uplifting service to celebrate the 100 years of Les Courmettes. The hope is it may continue for many years to come. (See photos on St. John's website) (6)