

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

Books & DVDs available in The Louvre on Saturday mornings from 9.30-11.30
Refreshments also available

The British Association, Menton Chair: Birgitt Nordbrink Tel #33(0)4 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

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Priest-in-charge: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson Tel. #39 010 88 92 68

Eucharist - Sundays 10.30am

Holy Communion or Shared Prayers – Wednesdays 12.30

Website: www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter

MAY 2019

Eastertide

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 8 May 2019 - 10.30am**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30pm

READINGS for SERVICES in MAY 2019 YEAR C

May 5 Easter 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 9. 1-6, (7-20) 30 Revelation 5. 11-14 John 21. 1-19
May 12 Easter 4 Vocations Sunday	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 9. 36-43 23 Revelation 7. 9-17 John 10. 22-30
May 19 Easter 5	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 11. 1-18 148 Revelation 21. 1-6 John 13. 31-35
May 26 Easter 6 Rogation Sunday	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 16. 9-15 67 Revelation 21.10, 22-22.5 John 14. 23-29 or John 5. 1-9

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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.

* * * * *

**'... he showed himself to these men
and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive'**

(Acts 1.3)

(1)

Most graciously, he said that using a broom had been a novel experience. I refrained from suggesting that using a comb may be another skill he could usefully acquire.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

~~~~~

**SOME MORE - Have you ever wondered ...**

- when dog food has a new and improved taste, who tests it?
- why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- why they sterilise the needle for lethal injections?
- why don't they make the whole plane out of the stuff they use to make the indestructable black box?
- why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- if con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- if flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

**AND - When all else fails, read the instructions ...**

- On packaging for a Rowenta iron: "Do not iron clothes on body." (*but wouldn't this save me more time?*)
- On Boots Children's Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication." (*We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head colds off those forklifts.*)
- On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness." (*And I'm taking this because?*)
- On a child's Superman costume: "Wearing this garment does not enable you to fly." (*What more can be said?*)

(10)



## Bishop Robert's Easter Message

In the Church's liturgy there is the greatest dramatic distance between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Good Friday recalls the arrest of Jesus. Peter's betrayal, the trials before Pilate and Herod, the braying crowd, the scourging and crucifixion. These are all events which depict the darkest aspects of human nature and which are expressed in sombre reflection and meditative music. Easter Sunday is a complete contrast centring on a garden tomb, a stone rolled away and the presence of angels impelling us to declare with organ and trumpets: 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son: endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won'.

But Easter doesn't simply cancel out Good Friday. It's not as if God somehow switches on a light that turns night into day, so that fortunate Christians can now live in a peaceable world where love and grace simply dissolve human sin and failure. Instead, what we see in the pages of the New Testament, are the implications of Easter Sunday being progressively and challengingly worked out in the lives of individuals and communities. The church is born as people work out an answer to the question: 'What does it mean that the crucified Jesus is now alive with God and also present with those who follow him?'

Holy Week this year has for many of us been dominated by images of Notre-Dame de Paris being consumed by flames – a church which is a literary, cultural and religious symbol for the whole of France. But not just for France; for Notre-Dame is a treasure of European Christianity. In those flames we saw and felt a piece of European civilisation being destroyed.

Of all the many images we have seen of the fire, there was one which particularly grabbed public attention. It depicted the interior of the building, strewn with rubble and ashes with the huge empty cross suspended above the altar. Strangely – was it a trick of the light? - the cross shone out through the dust and smoke with apparent luminescence. It was an image which conveyed the hope of Easter resurrection amidst the ruins of Good Friday.

Mercifully, no-one was killed in the great fire of Notre-Dame. But that fire put me in mind of another fire: the Grenfell Tower disaster of June 2017. A far cry from the architectural beauty of Paris, Grenfell was built in the unlovely 1960s brutalist style. Home to less well-off families from all over the world, the Grenfell fire killed 72 people, and was one of the UK's worst modern disasters.

One less well-known response to Grenfell is the 'Cornwall hugs Grenfell' initiative. Inspired by a verse from the psalms and the urge to do something to help, its founder, Esmé Page, had the idea of putting a Cornish holiday on the horizon of (5)

every Grenfell resident and fire-fighter family: 'a time to rest, a time to let the beautiful Cornish countryside bless these people and work its gentle magic'. Beyond the natural beauty, traumatised Grenfell residents have had the opportunity to experience the kindness and care of individuals and families from very different circumstances and varied backgrounds to their own. Of those who survived the fire, 29% have now been to Cornwall through the project. None of this undoes the terrible deaths in the recent past. But it gives comfort in the present and hope for the future.

None of us is entirely exempt from the pain and anguish that characterise the human condition, and some people experience huge suffering. The empty cross testifies to God's action in overcoming the sinfulness and failure of humanity. It points the way to new life and new hope. And these are given form in initiatives like 'Cornwall hugs Grenfell'.

Whatever your own circumstances, I hope you and those whom you love will find love, joy and hope at this Easter season.

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### Daily Prayer

Lord our God,  
we thank you for the help you have given us  
so that we can stand before you,  
rejoicing in the certainty of faith.  
We thank you for guiding and leading our lives  
and for letting us see a goal ahead.  
Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone.  
Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life.  
Help us to remain unshaken,  
for you walk with us holding us by the hand.  
Amen

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“It is central to Christian living that we should celebrate the goodness of creation, ponder its present brokenness and, insofar as we can, celebrate in advance the healing of the world, the new creation itself. Art, music, literature, dance, theatre, and many other experiences of human delight and wisdom, can all be explored in new ways.”

*N T Wright, former Bishop of Durham*  
**Simply Christian : Why Christianity makes Sense**

## Let us pray together through May.....

Heavenly Father, We pray / give thanks for:-

1. continual prayer for guidance and wisdom from the Holy Spirit for the politicians and leaders in the UK and EU during Brexit negotiations
2. give thanks for the recent gentle rain, the smell, the sound, the sight of it
3. for victims of terrorists – especially those in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday
4. for terrorists – turn their hearts, Lord, to seek your peace
5. *'I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up'* (Psalm 30 : 1)
6. for the safety of all who work at sea
7. give thanks for time to pursue your hobbies
8. for those who work long hours away from home and family
9. for the restoration of St. John's – the work - its financing – its completion
10. Lord, may we find joy in our Christian journey whatever trials we face
11. may we realise how great is Your faithfulness
12. *'He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake'* (Psalm 23 : 3)
13. for Bishops Robert and David in their constant travelling for the Diocese
14. pray for all who are working to support and improve community living
15. those whose sight is impaired, who cannot see loved ones, or all Your creation
16. may the justice of God inform our thinking
17. may we bring joy to others by sharing in the hope of Christ
18. give thanks for Christ, the living Word of God – our strength and redeemer
19. *'Praise, O praise the name of the Lord Alleluia!'* (Psalm 148)
20. give thanks for family and friends – naming them one by one
21. for the poor - bless all who work for the relief of poverty and need
22. Lord, heighten our sense of responsibility for, and accountability to, one another
23. give thanks for neighbours – their kindnesses
24. for all who work to enrich the lives of children, protecting them from evil
25. that there may be an end to greed, arrogance and distrust that lead to enmity
26. *'May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.'* (Psalm 67:7)
27. for deep fellowship in the communities we belong to – pray for those who do not feel part of them – help us to reach out to them
28. for young and old people – may we be open to learn from another
29. reflect on aspects of your life for which you are most grateful .....
30. .... may we fully utilise your resources and enable others to do the same
31. Lord teach us to pray: we want to praise you for all that you are .....

Lord, thank you for talking to us in our prayers  
may we listen and act  
amen

## What is God calling you to do?

What is your vocation? You may think that you don't have one, that vocations are the sort of thing that only clergy have. But if you think that, you're wrong. God calls each one of us. The question, though, is to what? *writes Stephen Ferns.*

First and foremost, God calls us to change: to become more Christ-like. We are called to live out our lives in response to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That process began in our baptism, but it continues through prayer, through the reading of the scriptures and through the receiving of Holy Communion. One of the constant themes in the New Testament is that lives touched by Christ were changed. What is true for the characters of the New Testament is true for us. As we encounter and respond to Christ we cannot help but be changed.

But while we are called to change, we are also called to be more deeply ourselves. God never calls us to be something or someone we're not. God always calls us to what we are capable of becoming. It may be that there are parts of us which are underdeveloped or which rarely see the light of day, which need to be allowed to flourish so we can be our true selves.

It may be that we have hidden gifts which need to be discovered or it may be that there is something that we have secretly always wanted to do but have not had the courage or the time to try. Whatever it may be we need to find an outlet which will allow us to feel more excited about life or indeed to feel more alive.

St. Irenaeus wrote that *'the glory of God is a human being fully alive'*. Through the dual process of becoming more fully ourselves and of becoming more fully Christ-like the will of God is fulfilled and the glory of God seen. That is what Vocations Sunday is about. You have one life. For God's sake and for your own, live it.

Vocations Sunday is 12<sup>th</sup> May

### **light-hearted observations on politics and government ....**

- “just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you! - *Pericles (430 BC)*

- *“I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”* Winston Churchill

- “I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” *Will Rogers*

THE CROSSWORD - Bible version used NIV

**Across**

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (*Isaiah 24:2*) (6)  
 4 'A good measure, pressed down, \_\_\_\_\_ together and running over' (*Luke 6:38*) (6)  
 7 Continuous dull pain (*Proverbs 14:13*) (4)  
 8 This bread contains yeast (*Amos 4:5*) (8)  
 9 'But take heart! I have \_\_\_\_\_ the world' (*John 16:33*) (8)  
 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)  
 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (*Acts 24:5*) (13)  
 17 Rap (anag.) (3)  
 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)  
 24 'For where your \_\_\_\_\_ is, there your heart will be also' (*Luke 12:34*) (8)  
 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (*Daniel 5:25*) (4)  
 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone \_\_\_\_\_' (*Isaiah 53:6*) (6)  
 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (*John 12:2*) (6)

**Down**

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the \_\_\_\_\_ hear, the dead are raised' (*Luke 7:22*) (4)  
 2 Conduct (*Colossians 1:21*) (9)  
 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)  
 4 'Like a \_\_\_\_\_ of locusts men pounce on it' (*Isaiah 33:4*) (5)  
 5 Very old (*Genesis 44:20*) (4)  
 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)  
 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (*John 3:2*) (5)  
 11 Sea (*Psalms 148:7*) (5)  
 12 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (*Psalms 145:1*) (5)  
 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (*Acts 17:18*) (9)  
 14 Barred enclosure (*Ezekiel 19:9*) (4)  
 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit' (*Galatians 5:25*) (4)  
 18 Cares (anag.) (5)  
 20 Garish (*Ezekiel 16:16*) (5)  
 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put \_\_\_\_\_ to all people"' (*Genesis 6:13*) (2,3)  
 22 Just (*2 Corinthians 6:13*) (4)  
 23 'The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (*Proverbs 1:7*) (4)

R.I.P.

FREDA VAN STRIEN

We bring the sad news that Freda van Strien, a former member of St. John's, died on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Her ashes will be placed in the family grave in Pinerolo, Italy. We remember Hank, her husband, whose ashes are buried in St. John's garden. His name will be put on a marble plaque at the new grave.

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NEWS from THE DIOCESE IN EUROPE

The Diocese is delighted to announce that on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Palazzo Chigi the Treaty (Intesa) between the Republic of Italy and the Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra "ACDI" (which represents the Church of England in Italy) was signed.

The Revd. Vickie Sims, as President of the Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra, signed on behalf of the Church of England in Italy with the Undersecretary of State On. Giancarlo Giorgetti, representing the Italian Government and the Prime Minister On. Giuseppe Conte.

This is an immensely important milestone towards the full legal recognition of the Chaplaincies and congregations in Italy.

All the members of ACDI, i.e. chaplaincies and congregations in Italy of the Archdeaconry of Italy and Malta, Diocese in Europe, Church of England, will benefit from what is agreed in the Treaty (Intesa). Such benefits are numerous and include the full legal recognition by the Republic of Italy of the Confessione Anglicana of the Church of England; the Treaty will also allow chaplains to access the Italian clergy pension scheme, permit foreign clergy to apply for a "religious visa" to live in Italy, recognise legally weddings celebrated according to the Anglican Rite, consent clergy to visit officially in prisons and hospitals, and other rights for Anglican workers, students, soldiers, charities and cemeteries.

Furthermore, donations made from Italian resident tax payers to the Associazione Chiesa d'Inghilterra (or to its member churches) may be deducted from the tax payers' taxes. The Treaty also admits ACDI to become part of the 8 per mille scheme which sees "tax rebates" from Italian resident tax payers apportioned out to the various recognised churches in Italy now including the Church of England.

The signing ceremony on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March was a 'pre ceremony' which will culminate in the signing of the final Treaty by the Italian Prime Minister and the President of ACDI.

(for the complete report on this exciting news see the Diocesan Website)