

St. John's Anglican Church, 2 Avenue Pigautier, 06500 Menton, France

Website: www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30am

Priest-in-charge: Vacant
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John Wason johnandjillwason@aol.com

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

Piazza Marsala 3, 16122 Genova, Italy

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

JANUARY 2020

EPIPHANY

OF

THE LORD

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)

**EUCHARIST
EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCHARIST
WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2020 - 10.30am**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30pm

READINGS for SERVICES in JANUARY 2020 YEAR A

January 5 Epiphany of the Lord	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 60. 1-6 72. 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
January 12 The Baptism of Christ	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 42. 1-9 29 Acts 10. 34-43 Matthew 3. 13-17
January 19 Epiphany 2	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 49. 1-7 40. 1-11 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1. 29-42
January 26 Epiphany 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 9. 1-4 27. 1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1. 10-18 Matthew 4. 12-23
February 2 Epiphany 4	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	1 Kings 17. 8-16 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 1. 18-31 John 2. 1-11

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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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

H ear the bells ring out for Twenty-Twenty
A nouncing January, bidding farewell to December
P ut aside regrets about what might have been,
P repare instead for a year to remember.
Y esterday's past, and now we stand

N eedful of guidance as we face the unknown,
E nquiring prayerfully into what God has planned -
W ill he lead us beyond our comfort zone?

Y et God has not given us a spirit of fear;
E ach Christmas He cheers us with Bethlehem's birth,
A nd Jesus asks from each of us a New Year
R esolution - "to find fresh ways of being salt of the earth".

An Acrostic (*slightly altered Ed.*) by Harry Hunter



DEFINITIONS

CHICKENS: An animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage

TOOTHACHE: the pain that drives you to extraction

YAWN: an honest opinion openly expressed

SECRET: A story you tell to one person at a time

RAISIN: A grape with sunburn

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out

EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 2020!

A Pretty Good Miracle

Many of us have wonderful childhood memories of Christmas. For some of us, it was the wonderful Midnight Communion of Christmas Eve, when we visited our candle-lit country church nestled among snowy fields, under a starlit sky.

Special memories of Christmas can move us to tears. Perhaps it is when certain carols are sung, or tables are laden for meals. Faces, glowing by candlelight during 'Silent Night' is hard to beat. Christmas is indeed full of wonderful emotions, yet there is so much more to this special day. For the warm emotions are built on rock-solid truths that will stand for ever. For the events were historic, and the miracles really happened.

To the normal, logical, rational, 21st century mind it is all bizarre. An angel came to a girl, who was not even married, telling her she was going to have a baby. To cap it all - the "father" was not her boy-friend but the Holy Spirit. The girl – Mary - not only bought the story but then told her cousin Elizabeth who was promptly filled with the Holy Spirit. She then told Mary she was unbelievably blessed. Mary then sang an amazing song that people have been singing ever since.

It gets still more crazy and complicated because Elizabeth's husband had had an extraordinary meeting with an angel and been struck dumb ever since. It was only when the baby was born and he wrote down: "His name is John", that he got his voice back. He started praising God.

The miracles heap up with the birth of Mary's child. Shepherds in a field saw the sky full of angels who told them to go and see a baby in nearby Bethlehem. They believed it was God telling them to go. They came back, praising God. Others went too, some of them poor, others very rich – but they all came away praising God and wanting to tell others.

These were supernatural stories of people meeting Jesus and believing in him. Their lives were radically changed. Amazingly, Jesus continues to do the same today. In John 1:12 we read that for those who did receive him and believe in him "he gave them the right to become God's Children."

It is still the Christmas Season in the Anglican Church. Let us take the opportunity to receive Jesus and believe in him. That in itself is a pretty good miracle.

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**Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God
like a little child will not enter it.
(Luke 18.17)**

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum Fr. Mika Pajunen and his wife Liina remain with us for the month of January.

Eucharist, Bordighera Chapel Please note this month's service will take place on **Wednesday, 8 January at 10.30am**

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity Fr. Mika will represent the Anglican Church at the Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held in the Waldensian Church, Via Roma, Sanremo on Friday 24th January at 8.45pm. The service has been prepared by Christians on the Islands of Malta and Gozo and is based on the reading in Acts 27, 18-28, 10, which tells of the shipwreck of Paul and many others on the island of Malta. Do come to this service in which we pray for the reconciliation of all christians throughout the world.

Visit by the Archdeacon of France The Venerable Meurig Williams, Archdeacon of France is visiting us on 25 and 26 January.

THE BAROMETER SIGN outside our Church of St. John. It is advertising the need for **Funds to Complete the Church Renovation.** At the time of writing the barometer showed that 20% of the appeal has been received. Please continue to tell your friends, colleagues and acquaintances and encourage them to donate and make the **barometer soar**, so that we may once more open the doors of our church and worship God with all who come inside.

The Louvre, Saturday mornings, 9.30-11.30
On sale: books, DVDs, bric-a-brac in aid of church funds for the restoration of St. John's. Refreshments are also served while you chat with your friends and meet new ones. We look forward to seeing you. Do come.

New Dean of Gibraltar Our bishops, Robert Innes and David Hamid, have announced that The Revd. Canon Ian Tarrant is to be installed as Dean of Gibraltar in April this year. We pray for Canon Ian and his wife as they prepare for his new ministry in the Diocese

Please note Barbara Corry's correct email address is shown on the back cover of this edition of the Cross Border. Apologies to those who had tried to reach her with the previous address shown.

Carol Service in the Chapel, Bordighera, Thursday 19/12/19 Fr. Mika, guitar, and Des, drum, played the well-known carols to which we sang. Nine readings from the Old and New Testaments foretold the birth of Christ and the visits of the shepherds and the wise men. Sausage rolls, a fruity bread pudding and Daniel's Whisky Honey warmed us all and sent us home happily expecting Christmas Day.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH JANUARY 2020

We continue to pray for the complete restoration of the Church of St. John's, the safety of those working on it, their good workmanship, the reopening

Heavenly Father,

We praise you and give you thanks and pray for

1. God's guidance at the start of a New Calendar Year
2. Give thanks for all the good things the holiday season has brought you
3. pray for all travellers
4. for all the churches along the Rivieras – give thanks for their fellowship
5. *"Kings bow down before him; all nations do him service"*
6. give thanks for your children and grandchildren and all children everywhere
7. pray for those seeking employment
8. and for all those who find their work situation difficult
9. pray for the members of our Church Council – for God to keep them strong
10. for immigrants that they may live in peace
11. give thanks for the pleasure of reading
12. *'The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace'*.
13. give thanks for the signs of Spring – narcissus, daffodils,
14. all clergy who are in distress and the charities who support them
15. for all who serve their country in local, regional or state government
16. for any couple you know who are preparing for marriage
17. and for those who are single
18. for those who work for justice in world trade
19. *'I love to do your will, O God, your law is in my heart'*
20. pray to do your bit in caring for God's creation
21. give thanks for those who make hearing aids for the deaf
22. audio books for the blind and apparatus for the physically disabled
23. give thanks for family and friends
24. The 'Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity' service this evening in Sanremo
25. the visit of the Venerable Meurig Williams, Archdeacon of France today & 26th
26. *'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear'*.
27. for all who work in the emergency services
28. give thanks for the kind things others say or do
29. pray for your neighbours
30. give thanks for the simple pleasures of life
31. pray for yourself that you might be 'God's person' in your particular situation

**Lord, thank you for talking to us in our prayers,
may we listen and put what we hear into practice**

Amen

(3)

Life at St. James-the-Least

*The Rectory
St. James-the Least*

On the perils of brides in churches

My dear Nephew Darren,

Our final wedding of the year was perhaps a little more memorable than any of us had anticipated. It was a charming scene, with everywhere covered in snow – although a good job the bride had a bouquet of red roses, otherwise no one would have been able to find her.

As the photographer, bridesmaids and I stood at the lych gate, the bridal car arrived, braked – and carried on, sliding down the lane sideways and into the neighbouring farmyard. Fortunately, Mr Jones was there to use his tractor to pull it out of the mud.

Our verger, having attended the diocesan verger's guild Christmas party the night before, arrived late and did not have time to clear the church path. The path, being on an incline and bridal pumps not being equal to the task, the bride made a dramatic entrance into church backwards and on her bottom, abolishing the flower pedestal by the door in the process. Fortunately the petals stuck to the large patch of mud on her behind, making the congregation speculate throughout the service why she had a large floral cushion attached to her dress.

Our organist did not please the bride's mother by changing the wedding march to the skater's waltz as her daughter reeled up the aisle. He is still under a cloud from last week's funeral for our local butcher, when he played at the end of the service Bach's: "Sheep may safely graze".

At St. James the Least, the best man stands over a large heating grid. The poor soul, unaccustomed to our ecclesiastical arctic climate, was shivering so violently, he dropped the rings down the grid. There had to be a half-hour pause while the grating was removed and the groom, holding the best man's legs, lowered him into the hole to fish for them, lost among choirmen's peppermints and the organ tuner's cigarette ends.

In future, I have decided that wedding rehearsals should be full dress rehearsals. The bride, in a hooped dress, was 4 feet wide; the vestry door is 3 feet wide. Getting in to sign the registers was fairly easy, as the bride, a game girl, took a run up along the chancel and so built up enough momentum. Her exit was more difficult, but with the combined pushing of groom and bridesmaids, she re-emerged into church like a cork out of a bottle – and demolishing the second pedestal of flowers in the chancel.

Married life, they say, is not always a bed of roses, but hers has certainly begun that way.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

(8)

Although we are a congregation of the Church of England, the fact that we are in Italy rules us out from applying to high-profile grant-givers such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and EIG. And, as may be imagined, an Anglican congregation in a 19th century building, however renowned its architect may be in the UK, comes a very long way down the queue for funding from Italian sources (which are coping with difficulty in the face of their responsibility for 55 UNESCO World Heritage sites – by far the highest of any European country and equalled globally only by China).

*The main part of this article on the **Mission to Migrants of the Church of the Holy Ghost in Genova** was written by Canon Tony Dickinson, their Chaplain, in October 2019. What good work they are doing, despite the problems of the building similar but different to ours.* (Editor)



A List of Books which Bishop David is trying to read:

“The Way of a Pilgrim”: Candid tales of a Wanderer to his Spiritual Father (Penguin Classics) by Andrew Louth

“A Savage Dreamland”: Journeys in Burma by David Elmer

“The 21”: A journey into the Land of Coptic Martyrs by Martin Mosebach

“Night Flight to Paris” by David Gilman

“The Anarchy”: The East India Company, Corporate violence, and the Pillage of an Empire by William Dalrymple



There are many names and titles for Jesus in the Bible:

Messiah, Saviour, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

Do the anagrams or

look up the references to find out what others are:

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| -- M - | John 1:29 | --- G | Revelation 17:14 |
| - O O - | John 10:9 | - I - - - | John 8:12 |
| - A - | John 14:6 | S - - P - - - - | John 10:11 |
| V - - - | John 15:1 | W - - - | John 1:1 |

Prayer for St. John's

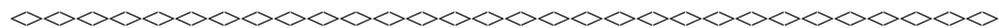
Lord behold us with Thy blessing
As in prayer we gather here,
Hear our prayer and hear our pleading,
“Restore St. John's, our church most dear”

May this hardship we are bearing
Help us clearly all to see
The pilgrimage we now are sharing
Brings us closer Lord to Thee.

Bless all concerned with rebuilding,
Keep us faithful, make us strong,
Reunite us stronger, better,
In our beloved church, St. John's.

Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing
As after prayer we leave this place,
Refreshed in spirit, ever hopeful,
In whatsoever we must face

(Hymn/prayer by Valerie Aucouturier)



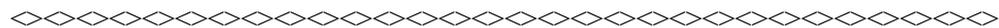
WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

Ecumenical Service

at the Waldensian Church,
Via Roma,
Sanremo

Friday, 24 January – 20.45

**The service has been prepared by
Christians from the Islands of Malta and Gozo**



Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova - Mission to Migrants

There have been places of Anglican worship for British people in Bordighera, Ospedaletti, San Remo, Diano Marina, Alassio, Spotorno, Genova, Rapallo e Levanto. They came in great numbers to Liguria during the winter months of the 1860s until the end of the Second World War. By the end of the 20th century, mainly for financial and numerical reasons, all but the Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova and the Anglican Chapel in Bordighera had closed.

Genova, being a very important port on the Mediterranean coast, welcomes people from many nations and continents to work and study. “The Church of the Holy Ghost has survived, despite some very difficult times”, writes Canon Tony Dickinson, their Chaplain “because of its ministry to a much wider community. It is not just a church for “ex-pat” Brits. The church greets those who prefer to worship in English or for whom English is their first European language and the resident congregation at present includes people from Canada, Germany, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. In recent years the church has established a distinctive ministry to refugees and other migrants, particularly those who have made the dangerous journey from West Africa across the Sahara to Libya, and then risked their lives in overcrowded inflatables crossing to Lampedusa. Some were persuaded to embark on the journey by the narrative of “El Dorado” peddled by the traffickers and their agents, or were sent by their families to “make their fortune”. Many in the initial wave of migrants came because they were trapped in Libya by the overthrow of the Ghaddafi regime and the attendant chaos. Others came to escape gang violence. Some of the young women travelled to Italy in order to escape abuse at home.

Ministry to the migrants demands a lot of energy and commitment from the core members of the congregation, who have been unstintingly generous with their time, money and pastoral care, this has been shown in the following ways:

- supporting those who are going through Italy's immigration process
- bailing out (*in extremis* prison visiting) the few who get into trouble with the law or with the institutions which offer accommodation for migrants
- providing rent deposits for those who are moving on into private accommodation and are awaiting their first pay packet
- guiding them round the intricacies of Italian bureaucracy
- sorting out health-care
- helping with CVs
- writing references for prospective employers or for immigration commissions (and appeals against negative commission decisions)
- preparing people for job interviews
- running a small-scale food-and-clothing-bank, including bedding for

(5)

those who need it, and children's clothes (the food bank serves about a dozen people each Sunday)

- keeping their eyes and ears open for any job opportunities that may be going and might be suitable for one or other of the people on our books
- encouraging them along the way of Jesus Christ

In July 2019 the church presented seven adult candidates from the Nigerian community for baptism and/or confirmation. A similar number had been presented in 2017. Many of the migrants first came to the church because they had heard from friends about the food-bank but stayed because of the warmth of fellowship which they encountered and have made the commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

Most of the work I have described is down to the personal generosity of established church members and their openness to newcomers. As one of our churchwardens has said, '*We don't have a congregation at Holy Ghost. We have a family.*' The church's electoral roll currently stands at just under 30. Our average Sunday congregation is in the region of 30-40, about two-thirds of whom are “migrants” in the popular sense of the word. We are aware of 50-60 “on our books”. All but two or three of us (the native Italian members of the congregation) are in fact migrants of one kind or another, here to work, or to study, or because they fell in love. Our weekly income in recent months has normally been between €100 and €150, but if earners in the congregation are away on holiday and cruise ships aren't sending any passengers in our direction, it can be as low as half that. That income is supposed to cover our utilities' bills, the rent on the chaplain's flat, the chaplain's expenses, the maintenance of our worship and our contribution to the running costs of the Diocese in Europe. There is a “Neighbours in Need” fund from which grants and loans are given to people in need of immediate cash help. This has been made possible largely through the generosity of the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rock Creek, Washington DC.

A favourite saying among the congregation is “God sees and provides”, and what is being done here by way of pastoral care and nurturing people in Christian faith is little short of miraculous. However, the work that was done to bring the building back into use 70 years ago is showing its age, and we are very much aware that another major storm of the ferocity of last October's could lead to the church being closed as unsafe – and we couldn't afford the cost of repairs. We have only just paid off the very patient contractor who carried out the most recent refurbishment of the building seven years ago and to do that required us to run our scanty reserves down to a worryingly low level. We are also very much aware that we could do a great deal more if the building were brought up to scratch in terms of its facilities – but that also requires money that we do not have. We are also facing the likelihood of new demands in the New Year as the “camps” where many of the African migrants have been settled are due to be closed. Members of the congregation are already involved in a process of giving advice on saving and guidance on flat-sharing.

(6)