

St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton
Postal address: 2 Avenue Pigautier, 06500 Menton, France
Website: www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

Eucharist Service Sundays 10.30am

Priest-in-charge: Vacant
Locum: Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 20 25
Wardens: Valerie Aucouturier Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 36 53
email: anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com
Carolyn Hanbury hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com
Communications: Suzanne Prince prince.suzanne06@gmail.com
#33 (0)6 13 71 60 85
Council Members:- Robert Edwards bob.edwards@premiertapeconverters.co.uk
Ennis Cardew ennis.cardew@wanadoo.fr
Barbara Corry #39 0184 38 450 nichol.barbara31@gmail.com
George Owen george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org
John Wason

The English Library, St. John's Church, Menton
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 church, 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.barbara31@gmail.com
Finance: Barbara Caula Tel. #39 339 66 89 122 bmrobinson1933@gmail.com
Editor: Elizabeth Cordone eacordone@gmail.com

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 NOVEMBER 2020

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

St. John's is open for worship
during the covid-19 epidemic
according to rules and restrictions for churches in France

No services until further notice

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THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL, BORDIGHERA

No services until further notice

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Please visit St. John's website
for any changes that may occur
during the covid-19 epidemic period

www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in NOVEMBER 2020 YEAR B/C

November 1 All Saints Day	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 56. 3-8 33. 1-5 Hebrews 12. 18-24 Matthew 5. 1-12
November 8 Remembrance Sunday	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Remembrance Service Sheet
November 15 2 Before Advent	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Daniel 12.1-3 16 Hebrews 10.11-14, 19-25, Mark 13.1-8
November 22 Christ the King	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 93 Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33b-37
November 29 Advent 1 Year C	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Jeremiah 33.14-16 25. 1-10 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Luke 21. 25-36

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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 baptised 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.

Life at St. James-the-Least

*The Rectory
St. James-the-Least*

On what to do about swine 'flu in church

My dear Nephew Darren,

The concern you show for the welfare of your parishioners during the current 'flu epidemic does you credit – although I am unsure of the continued effectiveness of your 'ministry of welcome', when those beaming smiles of your 'welcomers' will be hidden behind surgical masks. And surely, disinfecting the hymn books after each service is a little too enthusiastic? Won't the pages simply dissolve in the end?

Also, must you condemn those with even slight sniffles to sit encased in large plastic bags behind glass screens? That is unlikely to make newcomers feel that they are being warmly greeted. And I have never before heard of passing the peace with gardening gloves on. Won't people think it odd?

Finally, I must observe that obliging your entire congregation to paddle through a disinfectant pool as they leave the church is unusual practise. It will make people feel they are in the public baths – although I concede that the architecture of the two buildings has much in common.

We take a rather more robust attitude to viral attack here at St. James the Least. The use of the chalice was only reluctantly suspended during the Black Death and – apart from the one Sunday when Mrs Clapton lost her teeth in it, has been used at every service since. Colonel Addleshaw is safe from the virus, since it could never survive the alcohol levels in his blood stream and a glare from Lady Millcheam would freeze any unwelcome visitor at a hundred yards.

Dear, romantic Miss Mompesson suggested we hold future services in the open air, but the thought of Mr Charnley losing his wig yet again in anything greater than a light breeze and the choir looking like galleons in full sail, made the idea unworkable – especially as it would oblige Lord Melchett to sit with everyone else and not in the family pew, where he can read the Sunday papers unobserved by the rest of the congregation.

There have, however, been some unintended benefits to the health scare. It has enabled me to cancel the coming visit of the bishop, explaining that we are far too concerned for his health. Also, as a way of containing the spread of the contagion, I have stopped visiting parishioners and do not allow anyone to call at the rectory. All evening meetings are suspended, I refuse to visit the village and risk contaminating the children and I have made it clear that not stopping to talk to villagers in the street saves them from being ravaged by the disease.

Should the 'flu epidemic continue for some time, it would be a sadness I could learn to bear.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent. We may not be able to attend our service in church, but we can light a candle in our homes for each of the four Sundays of Advent:-

ADVENT SONG

(Luke 21:28, Revelation 1.7,8 & 22.7)

Lift up your heads, prepare for the Promised One, the Promised One of Patriarchs, Hope-light of Israel, shining through the dark years to Bethlehem and beyond.

Light the candle of Hope

Lift up your heads, prepare for the Promised One, the Promised One of Prophets who foretell the Prince of the peace of hearts, heart-peace which transcends understanding and shines through circumstances and generations.

Light the candle of Peace

Lift up your heads, prepare for the Promised One, the Promised One of John, Baptizer, who taught the need for turning, for forgiveness and receiving, who made ready the way for Love to live.

Light the candle of Love

Lift up your heads, prepare for the Promised One, the Promised One, magnified through Mary, God-Man, gift, joy-bringer Jesus, to Jew and to Gentile, joy to the world without end.

Light the candle of Joy

Lift up your heads, prepare for the Promised One, the Promised One, who is Hope and Peace and Love and Joy, who lived and died and rose.
Stand, lift up your heads, worship the was, and is, and is to come King.

By Daphne Kitching

Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it.

Andrew Murray

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To the Clergy and Peoples of the Diocese in Europe To the Nigerian communities of the Diocese

Dear Sisters and Brothers

We are witnessing an unprecedented rise in police brutality in Nigeria. Across our diocese people of Nigerian background are affected by this growing crisis. Some are fearful for their own family and friends at home. Others are feeling helpless and hopeless as they watch the violence on TV. Peaceful protesters have been killed, and violence against innocent civilians is on the increase. Many of our Nigerian sisters and brothers in the diocese may have lost a loved one, a friend, or a member of their family to this brutality, and many more are sure to know of someone who is now grieving such a loss.

The tragedy before our eyes is great; Nigeria is a country blessed with much wealth, but clearly that richness is not evenly distributed. So widespread impoverishment is moving people peacefully to protest against corruption and failings in governance and to seek the basic dignities of life. It is shocking that the response from the authorities has been such a severe violation of the human rights of those who simply seek to make their voice heard and bring about peaceful change.

We wish at this time particularly to address the Nigerian communities in our diocese. We join our prayers to yours at this time of crisis in your homeland. We ask all the faithful across the diocese to unite in prayer, asking our gracious God to bring an end to the violence, and to bring justice and healing to the people of Nigeria. May those who have perpetrated this violence be brought to account, and may the country's leaders seek to bring reform and reconciliation.

Loving Father, hear the cries of your people in Nigeria who turn to you in faith. Grant them strength in adversity, comfort in their sorrow, and to those who have died, grant rest eternal. Save the people from further violence and oppression, and bring your justice, love and peace to the nation.

Yours in Christ

Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe: **The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes**
The Suffragan Bishop in Europe: **The Right Reverend Dr. David Hamid**

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**"You can't go back and change the beginning,
but you can start where you are and change the ending"**

(C.S. Lewis)

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All in the month of: NOVEMBER

360 years ago:- on 12th November 1660 that English writer and preacher John Bunyan was arrested for preaching without a licence. He remained in prison almost 12 years refusing to abstain from preaching. There, he wrote Pilgrim's Progress.

Also 360 years ago:- on 28th November 1660 The Royal Society was founded in London. It is the world's oldest national scientific society.

160 years ago:- On 6th November 1860 that Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th President of the United States.

135 years ago:- on 10th November 1885 Paul Daimler, eldest son of German engineer Gottlieb Daimler became the world's first motorcyclist when he rode his father's new invention to the next town and back.

110 years ago:- On 7th November 1910 the first air shipment took place when a Wright Brother's plane flew a shipment of silk from Dayton, Ohio to Columbus, Ohio, for a department store owner.

100 years ago:- on 15th November 1920 The League of Nations held its first assembly, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Also 100 years ago:- on 21 November 1920 the Irish War of Independence's 'Bloody Sunday' took place. 31 people were killed when the IRA shot dead 14 British soldiers in Dublin. The British then opened fire on a Gaelic football crowd, killing 14 people. Three Irish prisoners held in Dublin Castle were also killed.

80 years ago:- World War II 1940

:- on 11th November the Battle of Taranto, Italy, took place – the British Royal Navy launched the first all-aircraft naval attack in history from an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean.

:- on 14th November German Luftwaffe bombers virtually destroyed the city of Coventry, including the medieval cathedral

:- on 15th November the British RAF bombed Hamburg two consecutive nights.

:- on 16th November the Nazis sealed off the Warsaw Ghetto from the outside world. About 400,000 Jews lived within its four square kilometres.

60 years ago:- on 8th November 1960 John F Kennedy was elected 35th President of the United States

50 years ago:- on 10th November 1970 The Great Wall of China was opened to tourists

Also 50 years ago:- on 12th November 1970 the Bhola cyclone struck E. Pakistan (Bangladesh). 500,000 people died in the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

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LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH NOVEMBER

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that all we have comes from you, so with a grateful heart we give you thanks and pray for

1. all with whom we are unable to be during this long period of covid-19 lockdown, restrictions and travel difficulties
2. All souls - pray for all who mourn those they have loved and see no more
3. the Nigerian communities in our Diocese, and their Nation
4. our clergy and chaplaincies along the two Rivas – their ministry
5. all who visit our church that they may come again and find God's peace there
6. Give thanks for your children, grandchildren and God children
7. populations suffering hardship, loss and instability through natural disasters
8. *"I will remember the deeds of the Lord, yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago."* (Psalm 77.11)
9. look back with gratitude at those whose lives have been an inspiration to you
10. Lord, fill us with thanksgiving for the past and faith in your plans for the future
11. for lasting peace in God's world
12. give thanks for those who provide care for others needing constant attention
13. those involved in national and local government – may they govern with your wisdom and values, Lord, working for justice and fairness
14. greater understanding and tolerance of those of other faiths
15. *"We shall be glad all the days of our life"* (Psalm 90.14)
16. all who profess no faith at all
17. members of our local emergency services - covid-19 medics, police, ambulance, fire, coastguard – give thanks and pray for their safety
18. reflect on what you want – and what you need – the difference between the two
19. for greater ecological responsibility
20. give thanks for the joy of reading
21. all who are in pain
22. *"The Lord has girded himself with strength"* (Psalm 93)
23. From a prayer of St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)
"We bring before you, O Lord, the troubles and perils of peoples and nations
24. the sighing of prisoners and captives
25. the sorrows of the bereaved
26. the needs of strangers
27. the helplessness of the weak
28. the failing powers of the aged ... O Lord, be near to each we have prayed for
29. *"Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths"* (Psalm 25)
30. Advent is a time of waiting – fill our waiting with hope and spiritual preparation

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

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REMEMBRANCE

November, a time of looking back, remembering and giving thanks for the life of all those who brought us into the Christian Faith and who have helped us on our Christian journey. We remember those we have loved and see no more, our families, friends, colleagues, neighbours. As we reflect on our life, we thank God for the gift of memory and the wisdom of years.

Remembrance Sunday brings to mind different memories of people we perhaps have not known, but who gave their lives in the search of peace and freedom, and reconciliation between the nations. We have a War Graves Cemetery close by, where military from World War One are buried, having died in Bordighera of the Spanish Influenza on their way home at the end of that war. This year the Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation will not take place in the Cemetery – covid-19 has intervened with its restrictions to crowd assembly, travel difficulties, border problems. The new Order of Service approved by the Archbishop of Canterbury gives many prayers including the Act of Commitment given here:-

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:

may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,

and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;

through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer,

Amen.

And in this time of covid-19, and a troubled world where violence and fear are part of everyday life,

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women; that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations. Amen

“Don't just wear a poppy for the memory of the fallen, wear it for the future of the living.” (Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal) (7)

REPORT of ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING held Sunday 18 October 2020

What a year it has been since the last Annual Meeting - the launch of the Appeal for Donations in September 2019 to complete the renovation of St. John's Church, the Covid-19 Lockdown in March 2020, the lack of a resident locum and online services on our website to get used to, and finally the return to St. John's Church in July with all the restrictions and difficulties that Covid-19 brought and which continue.

There was much to be thankful for: - the perseverance and hard work of all involved in the rebuilding and renovation of our now beautiful church and its 'soft' reopening; the arrival of an organ placed in the space behind the Lady Chapel and played for the first time at Morning Prayer on 11th October; the ongoing Donations Appeal which has reached 90% of that requested to complete the restoration of the interior; the services online when we could not enter the church. So, 2019/2020 has had its hardships and its pleasures.

At the Meeting, the Churchwardens, Valerie Aucouturier and Carolyn Hanbury, and the Chaplaincy Council of Ennis Cardew, Barbara Corry, Bob Edwards, George Owen, Suzanne Prince, and John Wason, have been re-elected and confirmed. Michael Lickierman continues as Treasurer, until such time as Mr Edwards, who resigned because of work commitments, can resume or until the AGM in April 2021.

A Financial Report was given.

It was also reported that the keys to St Roch Chapelle were returned in mid-August with our grateful thanks for 10 years of worship therein.

Boxes, books and bric-a-brac were removed from the Louvre – clothing was given to charity and the bric-a-brac items kept.

Other work had also been done – air conditioning was fitted in the bedroom of the chaplain's flat. The flower beds along the south side of the church have been made waterproof to prevent seepage and protect the interior of the walls.

Documents have been prepared for the recruitment of a Permanent Part-time Priest, who is hoped will come in the not too distant future.

A Carol Service is planned for 21 November 2020 in the afternoon. (Sadly, later cancelled due to Lockdown.)

The official Reopening and Rededication of St. John's is planned for January 2021, some time after Epiphany.

So, we can all look forward to the rebirth of St. John's church community and its mission in this place. Watch the website for information.

Bishop's Advent Appeal 2020 Covid-19 Support to the Anglican Communion

Last week, we witnessed a deeply sobering point in our global struggle against Covid-19: over 1 million people worldwide have now died from the virus. We know and see the impacts of Covid-19 in our own communities here in Europe, and the stresses and strains it brings for us all in our daily lives. We see too, numbers of infections and deaths increasing once more among us, across the Diocese in Europe.

In Morocco (within our own Diocese) there have now been over 140,000 confirmed cases, and nearly 2,500 deaths. In South Africa, despite introducing one of the severest lockdowns in the world, over 685,000 cases have been recorded. In some areas of Africa, Covid-19 is exacerbating both ongoing violence, conflict and bloodshed and existing health crises, like tuberculosis. Lack of testing and data issues mean the real numbers in Africa may actually be far higher than those recorded. John Nkengasong from the Africa Centres for Disease Control told the BBC yesterday: "I don't think we are over the first wave yet, we have not yet hit the bottom at all."

In response to emergency needs right across the Communion, you may have seen that the Archbishop of Canterbury launched a Covid-19 "Together in Unity" Appeal. I am delighted that his Appeal has already raised over £100,000. My Advent Appeal this year is to urge your support for the work the Anglican Communion Fund is doing to alleviate the ravaging impact of Covid-19 in the poorest parts of the world. The Anglican Communion Fund (ACF) is making a difference on the ground to people who are suffering every day, the human cost of this pandemic.

Behind the statistics are human life stories of deprivation from lack of food, access to basic hygiene and sanitation facilities, and worsening economic hardship in the poorest communities for those unable to work. Examples are ACF-supported projects in Sudan and Mexico. Where you have relationships with churches across the Communion, you will know of their situations, with first-hand reasons to support an Appeal to help those who have already lost so much and have least.

I am delighted that, with your help, the diocese raised nearly £15,500 for my Advent Appeal 2019 to promote the empowerment of women in the Anglican Communion. I should add that ACF also provides key support to our own work representing the Anglican Communion in the European Institutions, on issues such as migration and refugees, human rights, freedom of expression and belief, and domestic violence against women.

Bishop Moses Zungo from Maridi Diocese in South Sudan expresses his gratitude for ACF's support, saying "You held our hand during our most trying moments." I hope we in our diocese can help with an outstretched hand to brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion who are suffering so deeply right now from the impact of Covid-19, by supporting the work on the ground by the ACF.

Please give as generously as you can to this Advent Appeal.

With every blessing,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

10 October, 2020

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NEWS from ST. JOHN'S

LOCUMS Due to Lockdown the Church will not be open for services during November, when we would have welcomed the following locums:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1 November | Fr. Keith Bretel |
| 8 November | Fr. Grant Wenlock Holmes |
| 15 November | Fr. Grant Wenlock Holmes |
| 22 November | Fr. Keith Bretel |
| 29 November | Fr. Chris Packman |
| 6 December | Fr. Chris Packman |

FELLOWSHIP TIME Sadly, church closed during Lockdown

LIBRARY Due to Lockdown, the Library will not now be open Wednesday or Saturday mornings.

ROOF Work on the roof of the church should soon begin

PHOTOS See church website for photos of the organ while being restored.

CAROL SERVICE The carol service planned for Saturday 21 November in the afternoon has been cancelled due to Lockdown.

Contagion of Covid-19 is increasing again all over Europe, so please check when the church will be allowed to open again.