

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

First Eucharist Service in St. John's - 12 July 10.30am

Priest-in-charge: Vacant
Locum: Revd. David Houghton Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 20 25
Please find the Sunday Service on our Website
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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

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 SEPTEMBER 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

EUCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY 10.30am

Celebrant: Revd. David Houghton
Locum Chaplain

CREATIONTIDE

1 SEPTEMBER to 4 OCTOBER

THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL, BORDIGHERA

EUCHARIST - 09 SEPTEMBER 2020 - 10.30am

Please check regularly on St. John's website
for any changes that may occur
during the covid-19 epidemic period
www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in SEPTEMBER 2020 YEAR A

September 6 Trinity 13	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 33. 7-11 119. 33-40 Romans 13. 8-14 Matthew 18. 15-20
September 13 Trinity 14	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 50. 15-21 103. (1-7), 8-13 Romans 14. 1-12 Matthew 18. 21-35
September 20 Trinity 15	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Jonah 3. 10-4.11 145. 1-8 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16
September 27 St. Michael & All Angels	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 28. 10-17 103. 19-22 Revelation 12. 7-12 John 1. 47-51
October 4 Trinity 17 World Animal Day	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 5. 1-7 80. 7-14 Philippians 3. 4b-14 Matthew 21. 33-46

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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*

My dear Nephew Darren,

It is good to be back from my holidays – even if I discovered on arriving home that, as I motored back with my car full of my exchange colleague's plums in the boot, he was doing the same with my apples; I had expected better of him.

I was equally disappointed that he insisted on inviting parishioners back to the Rectory after Mattins for a sherry, as it creates a dangerous precedent. That he entertained them on my sherry was a step too far. I think a letter of reproach will be called for – or at least as soon as I feel he will have got over the discovery that I liberated the plums from his own orchard.

One of the main reasons I allowed him to come here was that I remembered his sermons being long and memorably dull. Sadly, he has had a conversion experience and they are now short and interesting, which was definitely not what I wanted. I am already making tentative plans to exchange with a colleague next year who has a heavy Welsh accent and speaks with a stutter.

You smugly commented that at least on the Norfolk coast I didn't have to worry about marauding pythons, as you did in your somewhat more exotic holiday. But had you had to deal with an irate dowager marchioness whose flower arrangement had been moved from the pulpit to the font without her permission, you would understand where real danger lurks. You can be inoculated before your holiday against typhoid; there is no known medical protection against a lady of substance in full charge.

So the Autumn round approaches. Afternoons are occupied in sweeping up leaves from the lawns and evenings, after dark, of tipping them over the wall into Colonel Adamson's garden. That will be an activity quite foreign to you, I know. Imagine your morning collection of discarded take-away containers dumped in your garden and you have a close parallel.

And then there is harvest to prepare for. The plums that I brought back from my colleague's trees that remain uneaten would find a good home on the church window sills – which may almost compensate for the absence of the Rectory apples. They will sit, totally upstaged, alongside Miss Fanshawe's Harrod's hamper – which she always makes sure everyone knows she donated anonymously. Some, as they say, have their reward already..

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH SEPTEMBER

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Heavenly Father,

We praise You and give you thanks and make our supplications

1. May we live the Season of Creation meditating on your will for us and your planet
2. give thanks for all those who prepare St. John's to welcome us on Sundays
3. ... and those who keep the garden in order
4. forgive us for destroying our shared earth – help us to be selfless stewards
5. pray for those who will 'drop in' for coffee/tea at St. John's this morning
6. *Lord, my delight is in your law - psalm 1*
7. Start each new day with a clean heart. No doubt, no tears, no fear, no worry
8. pray for those in education – teachers, students – new systems for learning
9. give thanks for the new library at St. John's – may it be a source of learning
10. Lord, keep me learning and discovering, never feeling too old to learn
11. give thanks for those who illuminate the Scriptures and bring the Bible to life
12. reflect on the words of a hymn to bring you into worship and praise
13. *Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you - psalm 51*
14. help us to be open to those who need a listening ear or a helping hand
15. pray for refugees and displaced persons seeking safety and a welcoming place
16. pray for our sister churches along the Rivas, the work they do for others
17. reflect on our own journey of faith and remember those who helped us forward
18. pray for those taking part in the Quiet Day at Les Courmettes today
19. pray for those working to protect the animals and plants of God's creation
20. *Give praise to the Lord, who lifts up the poor - psalm 113*
21. Give thanks for the beauty of the autumn colours
22. Lord, Jesus, Living Water
23. create in each one of us a pool of peace
24. a deep well of healing
25. that can transform bitterness to love
26. impatience to patience
27. *Praise the Lord, O my soul! - Psalm 146*
28. irritation to tolerance
29. rejection to acceptance
30. and inadequacy to confidence in our own ability
31. Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this month

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

LOCUM Fr. David Houghton remains with us throughout September. He is always happy to respond to any personal pastoral needs while he is here, including home prayers. Please contact him on houghton308@btinternet.com

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH At present the church is open on Sundays for the 10.30am Eucharist and on Saturday mornings 9.30-11.30am. for fellowship time; a chat and tea or coffee, or a cold drink. The newly installed English Library will also be open. The church is not accessible during the week as work continues on the nearby building site.

ST. HUGH'S, VENCE are having a Quiet Day on Friday 18th September at Les Courmettes. Chris Parkman, an ordained Anglican minister, will be leading the day with some reflections on how we process the experience of emerging from lockdown. There will be time for personal prayer and reflection and enjoying the natural beauty. The day will run from 10am to 4.30pm. Tea/coffee will be provided but please bring your own picnic lunch. Please email rev.chris.parkman@gmail.com

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SEASON OF CREATION

Creator God,
You brought order out of chaos
transforming and separating the raging ocean into
earth, sky and seas filling them with living creatures;
then you created human beings and put us in charge of your creation.
Show us how to use your creativity today
when the delicate balance of nature is under threat. Amen.

GLOBAL FACT: There are 11046 species of plants and animals that we know of that are endangered. These include 1130 mammals and 1183 species of birds.

The whole month of September is dedicated to God's Creation and our stewardship.

We praise you, our Lord and God, for the variety of your creation.
May we know the sanctity of life and foster the conservation
and preservation of the variety of God-given life.
May we never - knowingly or otherwise - be responsible
for the extinction of a plant or animal.
God, may new life fill us all, through the gift of the Holy Spirit
to know your wonder, your love and the abundant life you give. Amen (2)

OLDIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GREENIES

**We walked to school and recycled, thanks to pigs and rag-and-bone men,
says Mary Kenny, a member of the post-war eco-generation**

Green parties are described as the dominant force in the new European Parliament and we are being tutored by children on how to save the planet – or we face extinction.

Oldies are sometimes blamed for having brought the poor planet to the edge of environmental disaster, but may I point out that some of us grew up practising emphatically green lifestyles?

We didn't drink from plastic containers – we took lemonade bottles back to the shop and retrieved the thruppence deposit. Bullseye sweets were decanted from a jar and wrapped in a cone of rough paper. Sugar was sold loose – this was the Ireland of the Fifties (*and England Ed.*) – and butter and cheese were cut from the slab, and wrapped in greaseproof paper .

Milk came in bottles, also recycled. Animal manure was delivered, by horse-drawn cart, for garden fertilisation. Rag-and-bone men, à la Steptoe and Son, collected items for recycling.

At my aunt and uncle's in Limerick, the slops of food and drink – vegetable peelings, Guinness overspill – were fed to pigs, who produced the most delicious bacon. My mother was known to wring a chicken's neck, pluck and eviscerate it before cooking it – very organic!

We walked to school, or took a bus. People didn't have fresh clothes daily – men changed their shirt collars, not the whole garment. You didn't shower daily either; you had a bath once a week. Your aunts would say, 'Waste not, want not,' and clothes were repaired, recut and recycled.

Heating came with winter fires; it was thought decadent to have one in summer. At my convent school, enduring the cold was considered good for your character.

Americans were 'soft' for their addiction to comfort. Still, when we got the chance to embrace the American way of central heating, daily showers, convenience foods and everything pre-wrapped, we jumped at it.

Now, it seems we will have to go back to that simpler lifestyle, as directed by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, possibly the single greatest influence on green European politics.

(And this was before the coronavirus covid-19 pandemic! Ed.)

From: The Oldie August 2019 written by Mary Kenny – www.mary-kenny.com (3)

The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah. (2 Chronicles 36:21)

This was predicted in Leviticus 26. The consequence of disobedience would be that:

*.....I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. **All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.** (Leviticus 26:33-35)*

The lesson is clear: Sabbath and Jubilee were as much for the land (read non-hum an creation) as for the people themselves. Let me put it this way: God intended that his creation would provide sustenance for people, but he also intended that people would allow creation to rest. If that rest were not provided for, God would take matters into his own hands, which he did, by removing the people for seventy years.

It is not too hard to apply this lesson to 2020. We – humanity as a whole – have stressed God's creation to the breaking point. With our 24/7/365 mindset, rest is the last thing we offer creation. But this is the least of our crimes. We have used more than our share of fresh water and poisoned the rest. We have decimated virtually every population of wild creatures. It is a truism that it would take 3 or 4 planets to provide the resources we use to sustain ourselves.

It is dangerous to claim to know what God is thinking in any given situation.... Even so, what if we were to think of the economic shutdowns caused by the pandemic like Israel's exile? An act of God to give his creation a break? If that were the case, what should our response be?

I don't have an immediate answer. We ought to consider repentance and prayer as Daniel did. We might want to take the opportunity to formulate strategy and collective action to speak to the powers ruling our world, as Renew our World and others are suggesting. Mostly, though, I hope we will use this year's Season of Creation as an opportunity to ask ourselves this question:

What would, what should, what could a genuine Jubilee for the Earth look like?

And then, in the power of God, let's go out and do it.
With prayers for wisdom and courage,

Ed Brown.

(8)

This letter from Elizabeth Bussman, Diocesan Environmental Officer, helps us prepare the Ecumenical Events we may be able to attend (covid-19 permitting) in relation to:

SEASON OF CREATION

Creationtide or the Season of Creation – the annual Christian celebration of prayer and action for our common home, is almost upon us. The period from 1st September to 4th October, is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life and it is celebrated worldwide ecumenically.

Theological background:

The Road to New Creation

<http://ntwrightpage.com/2016/03/30/the-road-to-new-creation/>

or google: *Shiao Chong – Why am I here?* (Mr. SHIAO CHONG is the Christian Reformed Chaplain serving at York University. He directs a student club at York called Leadership, Culture & Christianity, under the auspices of LOGOS Campus Ministry).

The 2020 theme is particularly appropriate for a world caught in a pandemic: **“Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope”**. Here an introduction from Ed Brown. (LWCCN)

The Year of Jubilee proposed in Leviticus 25 is one of the most interesting social innovations that was never tried. Every 50 years would mark a complete social and economic restart, with debts cancelled, slaves freed, land (the basis of wealth) restored to its original family-owners. And the land itself, God's non-human creation, having already enjoyed a sabbath year in every seven, would be given two years in a row of rest. Talk about sustainability! This would have been a built-in circuit breaker for society – economically, socially, even environmentally. Think of how many of today's social ills might be corrected if we allowed for a complete reset twice every century.

Alas, we have no record that Jubilee was ever tried, at least voluntarily. But it did happen, though. When Israel's sins had finally brought their relationship with God to a breaking point, and he sent the nation into exile for 70 years, this is what we are told :

(7)

The Impact of Coronavirus Covid-19 Global Epidemic

The falling leaves of Autumn declare the arrival of the ninth month of the year, and the coronavirus epidemic is still with us! No sign of it ending. Many people at home, without work; the academic year uncertain; quarantine awaiting those on holiday. The Spring and Summer for many passed on their balconies or in their gardens, sowing and cultivating plants, watching their growth, enjoying their beauty or taste. But those without a balcony or garden, without even a home, what could our planet offer them? The Lockdown gave time to meditate on life.

The Anglican Church in South Africa prepared much of the following material for the Season of Creation Services with 'meditation', 'facts', and 'things we can do' starting with humankind

'There is no way that the urgent and critical need for poverty alleviation and demand for a better standard of living by our escalating human population can be met by the limited resources of our planet. What can we do?

- ^^^^ Buy things for their usefulness, not their status
- ^^^^ Bless God for what you have
- ^^^^ Think about the lifecycle of what you buy, where it comes from and where it will end up, the transport 'miles' – from manufacture to market place
- ^^^^ Refuse unnecessary packaging. Make it clear – no polystyrene, no extra plastic or clingfilm. These are made from non-renewable oil.
- ^^^^ Recycle ! The energy saved by recycling an aluminium can is enough to run a TV set for 3 hours.
- ^^^^ Buy local goods to reduce transport costs, help sustain jobs in your area and keep money circulating in your community.
- ^^^^ Think twice before buying new clothes or appliances – do you really need them or do you just want them?
- ^^^^ Have regular second-hand sales of unused goods at church, to raise funds
- ^^^^ where possible, borrow and lend items you do not use often
- ^^^^ when you go to the beach, bring home your own litter and somebody else's too!

Holy Spirit, powerful wind moving across the waters
enable us to recognise in ourselves,
our preoccupation with our own needs and desires;
our apathy and ignorance in acknowledging and understanding
the needs and desires of others,
empower us to transform this recognition into motivation
to seek equality, justice and peace
for all people throughout our world.

Amen

(4)

A meditation by Olaf Skarsholt entitled: EARTH BALL

If the earth
were only a few feet
in diameter, floating a few feet
above a field somewhere, people would
come from everywhere to marvel at it. People
would walk around it marvelling at its big
pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing
between the pools. People would marvel at the
bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel
at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water
suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the
creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and in
the water. The people would declare it precious because
it was the only one, and they would protect it, so that
it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest
wonder known, and people would come to behold it,
to be healed, to gain knowledge, and to know beauty
and to wonder how it could be. People would love
it, and defend it with their lives, because they
would somehow know that their lives, their
own roundness, could be nothing without
it. If the earth were only a few
feet in diameter.

AS POPULATIONS GROW - THE LAND IS UNDER PRESSURE

CLIMATE CHANGE

'I brought you into a fertile land to enjoy its fruits and every good thing in it.
But when you entered my land you defiled it
and made loathsome the home I gave you'
(*Jeremiah 2:7*)

MODERN LIFE - HOME APPLIANCES - TRAVEL

What we can do:

- ... Switch off lights, heaters & air conditioners – only use when necessary
- reduce petrol consumption, keep tyres properly inflated, drive under speed limit
- avoid plane trips – if you must go by plane, plant a tree to replace carbon emission visit www.trees.co.za for information
- to avoid waste and litter polluting the soil: recycle and re-use as much as possible

(5)

- Prevent soil erosion: place rocks and poles across steep paths. Try to leave as much plant cover as possible when building. Design paths to public areas to discourage people from destroying plant cover
- Don't start fires you can't stop – BBQ outdoors? check wind in hot dry weather
- Use water-wise and drought resistant plants and grasses for gardens and lawns. Plant indigenous trees in church grounds and other open spaces for special celebrations e.g. baptisms, anniversaries. Celebrate Arbor Week in early September.
- Grow your own vegetables? Use natural fertilisers, compost and mulch. Avoid pesticides, herbicides and poisons
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning materials at church and at home.

**"When the last tree has been felled,
and when the last river has been siezed,
only then will we finally realise that we cannot eat money"**
Chief Seattle

WATER - THE SOURCE OF LIFE

Simple water conservation measures can reduce consumption by 30 to 40% without discomfort

What we can do:

- Repair leaking taps. Report water leaks and vandalism to the municipality.
-SAVE water – bathing uses 150 litres, showering 30 and washing in a basin only 10 !!
- Reduce toilet flush volume: put a brick in the cistern; install a 'dual-flush' system
- Boil only as much water as you need
- Don't rinse anything under running water – turn tap off when brushing teeth and washing dishes
- collect cold water while waiting for the hot to arrive from the geyser
- make sure washing machines and dishwashers are full before running a load
- install rainwater tanks – collect water from roof run-off
- plant water-wise plants and mulch them to reduce evaporation. Avoid watering in wind or during the heat of the day; water plants deeply but less often and use 'grey water' from bathing.
- cover swimming pools to reduce evaporation
- brush outside areas clean with a broom and wash cars from a bucket rather than using a hose
- don't throw oil, paint, medicines, chemicals and poisons into sewers and storm-water systems
- Involve your church in a river/sea clean-up scheme and wetland conservation
- If you see water being wasted – do something!

(6)