

St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton
Postal Address: 2 Avenue Pigautier, 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 available on loan - Saturday mornings from 9.30-12.30
Wednesday afternoons – 2.30-5.30
Refreshments also available

The British Association Chair: Birgitt Nordbrink Tel #33(0)4 93 28 10 02
CHANGE OF TIME:- The Association continues to meet Saturday mornings in
the Louvre from 10 to 12 midday.

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

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
APRIL 2021

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCCHARIST
SUNDAY - 10.30am

RESTRICTIONS IN FRANCE DUE TO COVID-19

PLEASE CHECK ON WEBSITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION

E A S T E R

THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA

No Service at present
please check St. John's website for any changes

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

A QUIET EUCCHARIST EVERY WEDNESDAY 12.30pm

The Food Bank is open every Sunday and Wednesday after the Eucharist

READINGS for SERVICES in APRIL 2021 - YEAR B

April 4 EASTER DAY	First Reading	Isaiah 25.6-9 Easter Anthems
	Second Reading	Acts 10. 34-43
	Gospel	John 20.1-18
April 11 Easter 2	First Reading	Acts 4.32-35
	Psalm	133
	Second Reading	1 John 1.1-2 .2
	Gospel	John 29. 19-31
April 18 Easter 3	First Reading	Acts 3.1 2-19
	Psalm	4
	Second Reading	1 John 3. 1-7
	Gospel	Luke 24.3 6-48
April 25 Easter 4	First Reading	Acts 4. 5-12
	Psalm	23
	Second Reading	1 John 3. 16-24
	Gospel	John 10. 11-18

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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.

Life at St. James-the-Least

*The Rectory,
St. James-the-Least*

On how to run your notice board

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your decision to place a notice board outside your church seems a good one – and its design in blue plastic with luminous red detachable letters seems entirely in keeping with the aesthetics of your building. Make sure that it is lockable, however, as an innocent notice saying “All are welcome” may be modified by a devotee of anagrams to say something far less polite by the following day.

We recently replaced ours, which had disappeared shortly before last bonfire night. That the Scouts' bonfire had a board which closely resembled our old one in its centre was, I am sure, a complete coincidence. The Venture Scouts' collective smirk during the following week's Parade Service did give one pause for thought, and the Cubs' collapse into helpless laughter at the chorus “So light up the fire and let the flames burn” only increased suspicion.

On reflection, you may not have been wise to use your notice board to tell everyone your holiday dates. Certainly various local burglars were tripping over each other inside the vicarage while you were away. However, the note the last one left, saying that next time he broke in, he would bring *you* something, since you had so little left, was quite touching.

Inevitably, now that your church has a notice board, there will be open warfare over who is allowed to display notices on it. Will the Slimmers Club be seen as biblical? Why is the Ladies Guild notice twice as large as all the others? And do remember that while everyone will want space to display their notices, no one will ever remove them once the event is over. Plaintive announcements of Christmas parties in April or of Summer Fetes in November only serve to take people down memory lane.

Here's the best way to manage a notice board: create that panacea for all problems: a sub-committee. These poor people only ever exist in order to get the clergy out of tight corners and to make sure that matters are discussed at such inordinate length that every issue eventually dies a natural death. And if even that fails, you could have a quiet word with our Scouts before next year's bonfire night.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

No matter what our state of physical, mental or emotional health, be it good or bad, we all need Christ's healing touch, as this prayer from David Adam, one time Vicar of Holy Island, indicates..

Christ, You are behind me to protect me from evil, defending me from all that would creep up on me. You stand between me and all that seeks to defile me.

Christ, You enter through the door of the past with Your love and forgiveness. You can come where doors are closed and bring light and peace.

Christ, I put my hand in Yours, for I am afraid; I bring memories that hurt and a past that pains, for Your healing and renewal.

Christ, come enter through the door of the past;
into the remembered and the forgotten,
into the joys and sorrows,
into the recording room of memories,
into the secret room of sin,
into the hidden room of shame,
into the mourning room of sorrow,
into the bright light of love,
into the joyful room of achievement,

Come, Christ.



A BLESSING

May God the Father bless you,
who first sowed in your hearts the seed of eternal life;
may God the Son bless you,
who nurtures you with rain and sunshine of love;
may God the Holy Spirit bless you,
who brings to us all the fullness of life;
and may the blessing of the Triune God be with you always,
that you might be a blessing to others.

Amen

Locum We are pleased to announce that Revd. David Houghton remains with us until Easter.

Services in St. John's

Celebrant Fr. David Houghton:

IN HOLY WEEK prayers will be said each day (except Wednesday) at 11h00 in St. John's

GOOD FRIDAY (Friday 02 April at 11h00)

Service of prayer, readings and music for the day

EASTER SUNDAY (04 April) -Eucharist service at 10h30

Organist - M Benjamin Prischi

Churchwardens:

Sunday 11 April - EASTER 2 Morning Prayer at 10h30

Sunday 18 April - EASTER 3 Morning Prayer at 10h30

Sunday 25 April - EASTER 4 Morning Prayer at 10.30

please check on our website for any changes due to covid-19 restrictions.

Services on St. John's Website <http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com>

If you are unable to be in St. John's church on Sundays, clic the website above to follow the online service

Bishop's Chaplain

Bishop Robert has announced that The Revd. Canon Alan Strange is to become the next Bishop's Chaplain.

Alan has over 35 years' experience of ordained ministry in the Church of England gained in three dioceses. In the 1990s he was Associate Chaplain of Holy Trinity Brussels where he assisted in the development of (largely) West African ministry and in planting a new congregation. He was Rector of Holy Trinity Norwich for 20 years, and Area Dean of Norwich South for 6 years before returning to the Diocese of Europe as Chaplain of Christ Church Amsterdam in 2016. Alan is currently a clergy representative on the Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council. He is married to Natalie, who has a ministry of spiritual direction.

It is planned that Alan will begin his new role on 1 April.

Library The English Library of fiction and non-fiction books is open Saturday mornings from 09.30 to 12.30 and Wednesday afternoons from 14.30 to 17.30. Please check for any changes due to Covid-19.

CLARE AUSTIN-SMITH RIP

We are sad to announce the death of Clare Austin-Smith on Wednesday 17 March at the age of 91.

Clare was a keen member of St. John's for several years .when she visited Menton. She was often seen greeting and welcoming all as she handed out the necessary service books. Valerie remembers her going to William Waterfield's garden and loading up her car with flowers for the church at Easter. I remember taking her home up the hill at Garavan when she could no longer drive.

Later and living in Bournemouth, Clare was always pleased to receive the Cross Border and follow what was happening at St. John's. She eventually moved into a Home and although she caught the coronavirus there, she improved sufficiently to take part in the community life again. Her two cousins were with her when she died.

IT DEPENDS WHOSE HANDS IT'S IN

A tennis racket is useless in my hands

A tennis racket in Serena Williams' hands is a championship

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal

A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.

A sling shot in my hands is a child's toy.

A sling shot in David's hands is a mighty weapon.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and five loaves in God's hands will feed thousands.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.

Nails in Jesus' hands will produce salvation for the entire world.

As you can now see, it depends whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands, because

IT DEPENDS WHOSE HANDS IT'S IN

A Thought for 23rd

No one knows who designated St. George as the patron saint of England in Edward III's reign, nor indeed exactly who he was.

Nothing factual is known about him, but those who wish to pass him off as a myth are confounded by references to him in 6th century literature. There are theories that he was a Roman soldier martyred for his faith somewhere in Asia Minor, probably Lydda in Palestine, at the direction of the Roman emperor Diocletian, in 303 AD.

It is thought that the legend of St. George is derived from the story in which Perseus rescues Andromeda by slaying a dragon. The cult was introduced to England by the Crusaders, with whom he was a popular figure-head.

His name was used to give patronage to The Order of the Garter, founded in 1348, and his feast day was officially designated in 1415 and, of course, he is to be seen upon the George Medal, that conferred upon civilians and the island of Malta.

What would he make of his country today, I wonder.

In this frantic world, where all priorities seem so questionable, what does St. George's Day really mean anymore? How many people remember and mark it? We may wonder that as April 23 approaches this year.

Now, with crime and vandalism affecting all facets of everyone's daily life, trying may seem hopeless, but like St. George shouldn't we all have the courage to take up the Christian challenge, using whatever strengths or talents we have, in order to counter the growth of the evils which surround us? Nourishing the tiny grain of goodness which God planted in our hearts from the very first moments of our lives.

Can anyone place hand on heart and say that they do not cherish traditional family values which are part and parcel of the heritage and culture of Christian England in this, the 2000th * anniversary of the birth of Christ? Yet those values are so unapparent in today's life.

No matter how worn out or tired you may feel sometimes, determine that you will play some part in the never-ending battle between good and evil, even with just a smile as you pass someone in the street. You'll be surprised how quickly the spirit spreads to others.

Because kindness and compassion, old-world gentleness and good manners are the simple weapons to use when trying to improve this world. They are also, I think, the basic ingredients of true Englishness.

Anita L. White

(*The above was first printed in 2000. 20 years later, in this covid-19 pandemic, we are seeing many people helping one another everywhere in a changing world..)

See the statue of St. George in the Lady Chapel of St. John's church . (8)

TIME LAPSE

Altering the clocks for that summertime hour always annoys me. The timers for washing machine and oven, central heating and television, all need changing. As for those fiddly little buttons on the family's various wrist watches and alarm clocks – just plain drudgery.

Even when all those are seen to and I go for a drive in the car, there is another one on the dashboard to poke my ball-pen into. Why can't they leave things alone?

They tell me that up in the North of Scotland, even more difficulties are created, because the hours of daylight are so much different the nearer we get to the Arctic Circle. Farmers, too, create a fuss. Their trouble seems to be that chickens can't lay eggs an hour earlier, nor can cows alter their milking time.

By contrast, government departments tell us we're overlooking the benefits – complaining about the insignificant details, whilst missing the manifold advantages. All this has been going on ever since the daylight hours were first changed. I don't suppose we'll live to see the end of it either.

Going to church might be thought of in a similar way. Why dress up – just for one hour? Why talk the kiddies out of their homework, or leisure-time, and expect them to keep quiet whilst we worship?

Yet all this is selfishness – thinking of how it adversely affects ourselves.

Belonging to Christ isn't an unwholesome chore. He, like daylight saving time, can shed more light on our lives. Spread more joy; brighten our days.

Every day with Him is different, exciting, and opening the door to external life itself.

John was told to put this into the Bible for us. In Revelation 21 verse 5, we can read, Behold, I make all things new write; for these words are true.

Have a good time!

ERIC GREEN

Thought for the day ... Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.

(Former President South Africa – Nelson Mandela 1915-2013) (7)

Signs and Symbols: FAIR LINEN to CELEBRATE EASTER

When you go out to dinner at a restaurant or to friends, how do you feel when you see the eating area? If everything is clean, shiny, bright and arranged neatly do you get a good feeling of expectation?

Well it's just the same at church on a Sunday morning when you come to a Holy Communion service – especially the one on Easter Day! When you enter and look toward the altar area it should be ready, attractive and give you that eager feeling. God is here. Today you will receive him in bread and wine – whether that is by reality or in remembrance – or by a blessing. What an amazing thought!

The altar will have been carefully prepared for this very special occasion. Some churches will cover the front with a coloured frontal to reflect the church's season. But on the top of the altar will be laid a white 'Fair Linen' cloth.

The fair linen symbolises the burial cloth of Jesus and normally extends the whole width of the altar and down on both sides – often it is only these sides that can be seen from the nave area. The fair linen should be plain with only five flat crosses embroidered on it to remind the worshipper of the five wounds that Christ received from us. These, when they exist, are usually sewn in white, so they do not contrast, and are placed where the Bishop when consecrating the altar itself would have signed with a cross: the four corners and the centre.

The fair linen cloth is meant to be kept 'spotless' and great care is normally taken to make sure this is so. Hence the care needed when lighting and extinguishing candles. Some churches remove and store it after each service, while others leave it on the altar but cover it with a slightly different coloured cloth to protect it.

In order to keep it spotless and creaseless the fair linen cloth is always rolled after laundering rather than folded.

Revd. Dr. Jo White

The bishop's visit ...

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now", beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

(4)

From our locum, Fr. David Houghton

Perhaps I have too much a starry eyed, romantic view, but I still imagine that for all who lie along the shores of the Mediterranean, the meal is still a focus of the day. And I do mean a 'proper' meal, as it were; with table set, food shopped for and cooked, and liquid refreshment also well chosen. Even if this is not an 'every' day fixture, I guess it features at least for weekends and high days. But I fear that this aspect of ordinary life is fast disappearing in much of England. Many homes don't waste space on a dining table. Admittedly, I don't set my table every day, but it is there and even when I am alone I feel the need to mark this time of the day – farewell to the day of activity and work, and welcome to an evening of rest, music, conversation, TV, thoughts for the morrow.

Mealtimes are not just about food and drink, however special that might well be. If I recall a lunch or dinner, it is also place, friend, family, visitor, occasion, anniversary, things said, regrets, stories told, laughter that I treasure.

At the heart of Christian practice is the meal. It was at the Supper for the Passover that Jesus took bread and wine and shared his life with his friends. 'Do this in remembrance of me'. There are many other times when the scriptures tell of meals shared, and Jesus tells of banquets and wedding feasts. He was well known to be seen at the tables of friend and stranger that some denounced him as a 'glutton and drunken man'.

As I write this we come to Maundy Thursday when this historic meal is particularly celebrated in churches throughout the world. Of course, not only on this Thursday, but every Sunday and even every day. In recent times there have been empty places around this table of 'the Lord'. We miss so many of our companions in faith. We long for the time when we can return to worship as one Body, break bread together, share our stories and our hopes, give voice to our prayer to be a people of Light, Glory, Love.

Our own congregation, usually united across the Frontier, has been severely affected by the health crisis that has made ordinary communication and travel frustrating and painful. Soon, we pray that Cross Border will again be the phrase that tells of our hope and trust, that we are ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH and, dare I add, that also miss those lunches in Vallebona!

Easter Blessings to you all

David Houghton

Night's last moment - Hymn by Nigel Beeton

This may be sung to the tune: Helmsley (Lo He Comes)

Darkness clings to night's last moment,
Ere the dawning lights the sky,
Men who guard our Lord's entombment,
Suddenly in terror cry -
Angels of wonder,
Angels of wonder,
Angels of wonder
Roll the stone before their eyes!

There he stands, our Saviour glorious,
Stands in triumph, bathed in light,
Once the victim, now victorious,
Heav'n rejoices at the sight.
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen!
There He stands in Glory bright!

See them flee – the devils vanquished
Howling in frustrated rage;
For their power is relinquished,
Death is now their only wage.
Christ the victor
Christ the victor
Christ the victor
Brings the resurrection age!

Now He sits, the King of Glory,
Reigning at His Father's side,
Saints and angels tell His story,
Tell how He, the Lamb who died,
Reigns in Glory,
Reigns in Glory,
Reigns in Glory,
Christ our Saviour Glorified!

Soon He'll come, with trumpets sounding,
Each eye shall His triumph see!
All our faithless doubt confounding,
All mankind shall bow the knee.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ shall reign eternally!