

**St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton**  
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Website: [www.anglicanchurchmenton.com](http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com)  
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**Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30am**

Priest-in-charge: Vacant Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 20 25  
Locum Revd. David Houghton  
Warden: Carolyn Hanbury [hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com](mailto:hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com)

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John Wason [johnandjillwason@aol.com](mailto:johnandjillwason@aol.com)

**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  
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

**Services to be organised**

**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](http://www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org)

# THE CROSS BORDER

Newsletter  
JULY 2021

## **ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON**

**EUCCHARIST  
SUNDAY - 10.30am**

**As we come out of covid-19 restrictions**

**PLEASE CHECK ON WEBSITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION**

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**ORDINARY TIME**

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**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL  
BORDIGHERA**

**Date of next Eucharist to be decided**

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## **THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA**

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson - Tel. #39 010 88 92 68

**EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

**Holy Communion or Shared Prayers - Wednesdays 12.30**

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

**READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in JULY 2021 - YEAR B**

July 4 Trinity 5	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 2.1-5 123 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13
July 11 Trinity 6	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Amos 7.7-15 85.8-13 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 5.14-29
July 18 Trinity 7 and Baptism	First Reading Psalm Gospel	Ephesians 2.11-22 23 Mark 6.30-34, 53-56
July 25 Trinity 8 St. James the Apostle	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Acts 11.27 - 12.2 126 2 Corinthians 4. 7-15 Matthew 20.20-28

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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.

**THOUGHTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

*“Prayer is the key that opens the morning and the bolt that safely closes the evening”. - (Mahatma Ghandi)*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence O God, set out hearts on fire with love for you, now and for ever. Amen

*A discipline of prayer changes the way that we think about our lives through creating new habits of heart and mind”. (Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter)*

O Lord you have searched me out and known my sitting down  
and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.  
You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
and are acquainted with all my ways. *(from Psalm 139. 1-2)*

*Life is an echo that all comes back, the good, the false, and the true.  
So give to the world the besyt you possess,  
and the best will come back to you. (Anon)*

Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is doing it,  
and right is right, even if nobody is doing it. (Saint Augustine)

*Keep your heart with all vigilance  
for from it flow the springs of life. (Proverbs 4 :23)*

“Believing is a spectator sport,  
Following is what makes you a player” - (Jan David Hettinga)

*“Prayer isn't just a solitary thing – when we pray with others, we become a community filled with God's spirit.” (Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury)*

Before the ending of the day Creator of the world we pray that you, with steadfast love, would keep your watch around us as we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight, from fears and terrors of the night;  
tread underfoot our deadly foe that we no sinful thought may know.

O Father that we ask be done through Jesus Christ you only Son,  
and Holy Spirit, by whose breath our souls are raised to life from death . Amen

## Olympic Determination

The Olympics, Mexico, 1968: a group of die-hard spectators lingered in the Olympic stadium, watching the last finishers of the marathon. An hour before, Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia had won. It was getting cold and dark and the remaining spectators were beginning to leave when suddenly they heard the sound of sirens and police whistles coming into the stadium. As they watched in amazement, one last runner made his way onto the track for the last lap of the 26 mile race. It was John Stephen Akhwari of Tanzania.

As he ran the 400-metre circuit, people saw that his leg was bandaged and bleeding. He had fallen and injured it during the race, but he refused to let it stop him completely. Suddenly the people remaining in the stadium rose (some in tears) and applauded him until he crossed the finishing line. As he finally hobbled away, he was asked why he had not quit since he had no chance of winning a medal.

He said simply: "My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race, they sent me here to finish it!" What an attitude! He looked beyond the pain of the moment and kept his eye on the purpose for which he was there.

At the Olympics this month, Japan will be full of athletes, all determined to finish their race. As Christians, we are also called to finish the race before us. To fulfil God's particular calling for us.

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### A Prayer

How generous is your goodness, O God,  
how great is your salvation,  
how faithful is your love!  
Help us to trust in you in trial,  
to praise you in deliverance,  
and to rejoice before you with overflowing hearts,  
through Jesus Christ your Lord  
Amen

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

### Services in St. John's

Every Sunday – Eucharist 10.30am - Celebrant Revd. David Houghton  
Organist - M. Benjamin Prischi

**Locum** Fr. David Houghton remains with us for the month of July.

**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. Julia Wigart gives two sites in which to see books available:

<https://stjohnsmenton.libib.com>

**Sunday Collections** Due to COVID restrictions, please place your offerings in the basket on the table at the back of the Church on leaving, or if unable to be in church bring them with you the next time you come, or donate online. Thank you.

**Braderie** Good quality bric-a-brac for sale at the back of the church to help church funds.

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### THE DIOCESAN PLEDGE on EMAIL USE

The Bishop's Senior Staff Team have pledged to follow "**5Cs**" on email use and **encourage all email users across the Diocese to do the same.**

The "**5Cs**" pledge is that emails are to be:-

**CORRECT** – What we write is correct. We put errors right and we do so as soon as possible after sending.

**CONSIDERATE** – We respect other people's time and workload

**CONSTRUCTIVE** - We are polite, we check our drafts, before we click 'send' and we avoid long email chains

**COLLABORATIVE** – we include in emails all those and only those who are needed in the conversation. We are clear about who is expected to respond to a query or request, and who is copied in for information.

**CONCISE** - We keep our emails short. We use other forms of written communications for longer pieces (attachments) ..... and we talk to one another!

## LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH JULY.....

Lord God, Heavenly Father, all we have comes from you - with grateful hearts we praise you and give you thanks and pray for .....

1. our Churchwarden, Council, Archdeacon Synod Representative, and all who have taken on responsibilities in the church for 2021-2022
2. our locum Fr. David Houghton
3. all who are being ordained in our Diocese this month
4. **'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'**
5. all members and visitors of our church – those present and those far away
6. God of peace, may we be still and know that you are God and allow your Spirit to fill our own spirits with serenity and calm
7. today and all days may our hope and confidence in God be the means by which we reach out to others to help them build a positive future
8. young people embarking on gap years – their safety – make the most of their time
9. friends: the fun, the support, the company shared, their individual needs
10. give thanks for the summer season – long days, warmth, fruits, holidays ....
11. ***The Lord is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him***
12. those doing medical research to alleviate suffering – God's wisdom
13. students who will be moving to new areas for their studies
14. Lord, take all that I am and mould me into the person you designed me to be
15. godparents – who are able to be a Christian example to their godchildren
16. all who work in local government – bless the effect of their work for others
17. God is our companion in carrying out our daily tasks faithfully and cheerfully
18. ***He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.***
19. those still separated from their loved ones because of coronavirus
20. your family, those you are close to, those you find much harder to love ....
21. reflect on opportunities you have had – pray through regrets .....
22. .... and thank God for those which were taken and proved worthwhile ..
23. We thank you Lord, the one true constant in an ever-changing world
24. give thanks for water – sea water, washing water, drinking water .....
25. ***All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.***
26. Lord, as we read your Word today make us ready to respond to its challenges
27. for those whose circumstances in life leave little time for relaxation
28. give thanks to God for those who provide respite care for people who need constant attention
29. all who are travelling for work or pleasure, their safety, their good sense
30. loving God, fill us this day with courage to step out of our comfort zone
31. celebrate God's gift of life, joy in nature, loving relationships, a job well done

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

**Amen**

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## ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

- 455 years ago on 2 July 1566 Nostradamus, French physician, astrologer and writer, known for his predictions, died. (b. St Remy, Provence in 1503)
- 415 years ago on 15 July 1606 the birth of Rembrandt, Dutch painter, the greatest northern European artist of his age. (d. 1669)
- 280 years ago since the death of Antonio Vivaldi, Italian composer, on 28 July 1741 (b. 1678)
- 210 years ago on 18 July 1811 William Makepeace Thackeray, English author, was born in Calcutta, India. (died 1863)
- 195 years ago on 4 July 1826 Thomas Jefferson, 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the USA, died. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson had visited Menton in 1787 when he was minister in Paris. (b.1743)
- 185 years ago on 29 July 1836, the inauguration of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.
- 165 years ago on 26 July 1856, the birth in Dublin of George Bernard Shaw, Irish writer, Nobel Prize laureate. (d. 1950)
- 150 years ago on 13 July 1871, Britain's first cat show was held at the Crystal Palace, London.
- 150 years ago on 20 July 1871 British Columbia became a province of Canada.
- 132 years ago on 5 July 1889, the birth of Jean Cocteau, French poet, playwright, artist and film director. A new museum of his work is in Menton.
- 125 years ago on the 19 July 1896 the birth of A. J. Cronin, Scottish writer. (d.1981)
- 110 years ago on 16 July 1911 the birth of Ginger Rogers, American actress and dancer, partner in many films with Fred Astaire. (d. 1995)
- 100 years ago on 18 July 1921 the birth of John Glenn, American astronaut – the first American to orbit the Earth. (d. 2016)
- 90 years ago on 1 July 1931 Leslie Caron, French Actress and dancer was born.
- 75 years ago on 14 July 1946 'The Common Sense Book of Baby-Care' by Benjamin Spock was published. It became one of the best selling books in history.
- 50 years ago on 20 July 1971 the Australian Aboriginal Flag was flown for the first time on National Aborigines Day in Adelaide. It was adopted as one of the official flags of Australia in 1995.
- 40 years ago on 7 July 1981 the first solar powered airplane, Solar Challenge, successfully flew 160 miles (258 km) from Paris to Kent. (8)

## *Life at St. James-the-Least*

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

My dear Nephew Darren,

And so we once again start the annual round of parish treats. While the bell-ringers revolve around public houses and the choirboys on fast food outlets, the Ladies' Guild are centred on lavatories. Their itinerary is unchangeable. Coach drive to coffee stop and lavatory. Coach drive to luncheon stop and lavatory. Coach drive to some arbitrary attraction – provided it has a tea shop and lavatory. Coach trip home with a lavatory stop en route.

A sub-committee will have been hard at work for the previous six months deciding where to visit. The most disastrous course of action is to present the group with a choice; if two options are provided, they will attract almost equal numbers in favour, thus ensuring that half of the group will rejoice in saying throughout the day that the other option would have been preferable when it comes to decision-making. Stalin had a lot going for him.

My predecessor in this parish left me a terrible legacy; he always accompanied the Guild on their day out, thus obliging me to do the same. I do, however, travel equipped with armaments. “The Times” crossword rules out any possibility of conversation for at least the first 2 hours. Three years ago, Mrs Phillips had the audacity to look over my shoulder and give me 12 across; she will not make that mistake again. A brief nap after these intellectual exertions, assuring those around me that I am meditating on the theme for next Sunday's sermon, ensures a morning almost free from having to comment on the weather, other members of the party, or why I so rarely drop in to the Pram Service.

The ideal destination is one where I have a clerical colleague, so while the ladies paddle, shop and analyse why I still wear the same suit I arrived in 30 years ago, we have an agreeable afternoon assassinating the characters of bishops and archdeacons and bemoaning the standards of a new generation of curates. After our different therapies, we all re-assemble at the coach for the return journey.

Naturally, there is the traditional wait for those who have forgotten where the coach park is. As far as I am concerned, a deficit of less than 10% should be entirely acceptable. I can think of several husbands who may be rather thankful that their wives may not be back as soon as they had feared.

Our ladies return, invigorated with the thought of all the bits of information about other members in the party that can be discreetly shared over the telephone, while I am exhausted from 12 hours of attempting to be polite. Meanwhile the sub-committee gets a date in the diary for planning next year's lavatorial sequence.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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## *Devoted Talbot Heath headmistress with a wry sense of humour*

### **Clare Austin-Smith, 91**

As a teenager Clare Austin-Smith was called upon by her journalist father Stephen to test the crossword puzzles he was compiling for the Birmingham Post and she would rapidly fire back the answers. When during the Second World War Stephen found himself short staffed as the editor of the local Cambridgeshire newspaper in Wisbech, Clare would go into the office and rewrite reports.

Her love of English led to teaching positions. Yet it was from 1976, as the head of Talbot Heath School, an independent girls' school in Bournemouth, that she thrived. An understated yet determined figure, she set about updating and expanding the school, encouraging overseas students and raising funds. Shortly after arriving she opened a creative arts block for needlework, cookery and home economics and by the end of her 15-year tenure she had overseen a new sports hall and music block. In homage to her love of Jane Austen she reintroduced “halls” for the girls, naming them after Austen's fictitious places: Donwell, Mansfield, Netherfield and Pemberley. When the houses were reduced from four to three she turned to Dickens's characters.

Clare was born in 1929 in Sherwood near Nottingham, the only child of Stephen and Hilda (nee Chamberlain). Her father moved around the country working for newspapers and his wife and daughter followed him to Torquay, Leicester, Humberside, Wisbech and Birmingham.

Clare had always resisted the idea of going into teaching but changed her mind and went to teacher training college after graduating in English from Birmingham University. Her first post was at Edgbaston High School followed by Wintringham Girls' Grammar in Grimsby, where she taught drama as well as English. Among her pupils was the actress Patricia Hodge, with whom she remained in touch.

Her father died in 1956 when Clare was in her twenties and her mother moved to Grimsby to share a house with her daughter, for the next 20 years overseeing the cooking and housekeeping while Clare worked.

In 1973 Clare had taken her first headship with Gainsborough High School in Lincolnshire but after her mother died in 1975 she moved south to the headship at Talbot Heath.

It was with a degree of hesitation that Clare gave up the job at the age of 62. Although not an extrovert, she had known the names of every pupil and old girl and had devoted herself to the running of the school. She may have been intimidating, to parents and pupils alike, attired as she often was in a black gown, but she could show a wry sense of humour.

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If the thought of a solitary retirement concerned her she overcame it by throwing herself into work as a magistrate, a Soroptimist, a judge at the Bournemouth Music Festival, National Trust guide and church warden of St Ambrose in Westbourne. She attended concerts by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and went to London for its theatres and galleries. For Easter and summer each year she would return to a flat in Menton in the south of France that she rented and from whose balcony she loved to look out over the Mediterranean.

*Thank you to Catherine Walter for sending us this obituary of Clare published in "The Times" 22 May 2021. Clare's death in Bournemouth on 17 March 2021 was reported in the April issue of the Cross Border, so it is good to have details of her life in England to add to our memories.*

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## GOD IN MUSIC

*The Revd. Michael Burgess looking at great works of music.*

**'The trumpet will sound ... and we shall be changed'**

*George Frideric Handel*

'He is the master of us all.' In those words Haydn praised the music of George Frideric Handel. They were echoed by Mozart, who said of him, 'He understands effects better than any of us – when he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt,' and Beethoven in conversation about Handel in 1824 said, 'I would uncover my head and kneel down at his tomb.'

Some thirty years later Leigh Hunt wrote, 'Handel was the Jupiter of music....his hallelujahs open the heavens. He utters the word 'Wonderful' as if all their trumpets spoke together. And then, when he comes to earth, to make love amidst nymphs and shepherds (for the beauties of all religions find room in his breast), his strains drop milk and honey, and his love is the youthfulness of the Golden Age.' ..... many of us would say 'Amen' to those resounding judgements.

Handel was born in 1685 in Luthera Germany, the son of Dorothea and Georg, who was an eminent surgeon in Halle. His first instrument was the organ and he gained a prestigious appointment at the cathedral in that city while still in his teens. That musical training provided the foundation for later life – in performing, where he showed great skill at the keyboard, and in composition, where he excelled in instrumental, vocal and orchestral works. His first stage work, 'Almira' was

produced at Hamburg, but from Germany he moved to Italy for five years, before settling in London.

During his time in Italy he gained the patronage of three cardinals and composed a glorious setting of the psalm 'Dixit Dominus' when just 22 years old. It was an important time for Handel as he worked with Scarlatti, the founder of the Neapolitan school of opera. His own works moved from a heavy Germanic style to the lighter, brighter world of Italian opera. He composed a vast number of them, both in Italy and when he moved to England.

We see the genius of Handel when he is able to transcend poor libretti and muddled plots to create music that has been performed and loved ever since. 'Sposarme' is one of his weakest operas dramatically, but inspired arias and melodies that seemed to have flowed effortlessly from his pen and imagination. He raises the spirits and expresses the whole gamut of human emotions in these works. In 'Giulio Cesare' there is a wonderful moment when Mount Parnassus opens to reveal Cleopatra, who sings a beautiful seductive air. But for many his most famous aria will be his Largetto, 'Ombra mai fu.' As Handel's Largo, it is played regularly at church and social occasions. The aria is far from religious: Serse, a strange character, has fallen in love with a plane tree and gives thanks for the shade it provides on a hot day. Somehow the music has taken on a life of its own, over and beyond that original setting.

It is there that Handel's greatness lies. In the midst of composing this array of operas, he still found time to visit the continent, searching for singers and keeping up to date with musical developments there. At home he also composed orchestral works, including the Water Music, which became as popular as his operas and was played in taverns and grand houses alike. Next month we shall look at how Handel moved from opera to oratorio, but here we rejoice in a composer, who in his lifetime travelled far beyond the boundaries of country and religion to create music that has continued to speak to the heart.

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## *Sing2G7*

25,000 children across 27 nations united to sing to G7 leaders meeting in Cornwall in June urging them to “make bold, decisive steps to care for everyone in the world and look after our planet” said Bishop Robert, who had been invited to offer a video message to the Sing2G7 choristers from Truro Cathedral, who have been leading children worldwide in song. See the Video and hear them sing on our Diocesan website or, if you would like to involve a choir you know, download music and lyrics from [www.sing2G7.org](http://www.sing2G7.org)