St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton

Eucharist Every Sunday at 10.30am

Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Chris Parkman tel: #33 (0)6 51 52 50 49

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St. John's English Library President: Joanna Langhorne

Opening hours: Wednesday 14.30-17.30 Saturday 09.30-12.30

https://facebook.com/menton https://www.libib.com/u/stjohnsmenton

The Anglican Chapel, Bordighera

Treasurer

The English Cemetery, Via del Camposanto, Bordighera

The British Association, Menton

Chair: Birgitt Nordbrink Tel #33 (0)4 93 28 10 02

The Association meets Wednesday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 in the Louvre

website https://www.britishassociationmenton.org

The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova

Piazza Marsala 3, 16122 Genova, Italy

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson

tel. #39 010 88 92 mobile: #39 324 559 4023 website: www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

CROSS BORDER NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

Celebrant: The Revd. Chris Parkman Organist: Monsieur Benjamin Prischi

THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL, BORDIGHERA

EUCHARIST - WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY, 10.30 Celebrant: The Revd. Chris Parkman

EPIPHANY

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30 HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS - WEDNESDAYS 12.30

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson

email: chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org

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

READINGS for SERVICES in JANUARY 2024 - YEAR B

January 7 EPIPHANY White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 60. 1-6 72. 1-15 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
January 14 2 nd of Epiphany White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	1 Samuel 3. 1-10 139. 1-5, 12-18 Revelation 5. 1-10 John 1. 43-51
January 21 3 rd of Epiphany White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Genesis 14. 17-20 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11
January 28 4 th of Epiphany White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Deuteronomy 18. 15-20 111 Revelation 12. 1-5a Mark 1. 21-28
February 4 2 nd before Lent Green	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31 104. 25-37 Colossians 1. 15-20 John 1. 1-14

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS arrangements may be made by contacting the chaplain

The Church of England invites to Holy Communion all baptised persons who communicant members of other Churches which subscribe to the doctine 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.

of the world but God's way of engaging with that reality. Jesus is the Emmnuel, the God who is with us, Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiaha's hopes and he remains our hope as individuals and nations. In 2023 we have much of about which to be worried, much to be concerned, much to lament, but let that lament be the doorway to a new hope. Let's be bold enough to imagine a new future in which the devastated cities are rebuilt, the broken hearts mended, the tears wiped away.

May God give us hearts open to the needs of the world, minds prayerful and compassionate, souls nourished by faith, and inspired by hope.

In the name of Jesus Christ the child born for us,

I wish all of you across our vast diocese a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

To start the New Year off. . . .

run your grey cells around this – a good example of a Brain Study. If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind.

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PROV3 HOW OUR M1NDS CAN D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5! 1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5!

B3G1NN1NG 17 WAS H4RD BUT NOW 0N7H3 1S 7H15 L1N3 Y0UR M1ND R34D1NG 17 W17H0U7 4U70M471C4LLY 3V3N 7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17

B3 PROUD! 0NLY C3R741N P30PL3 C4N R3AD 7H151 Azanmig huh?

Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

BISHOP ROBERT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

This morning, Helen and I bought and decorated our Christmas Tree. The farm where we always buy our trees didn't have many left. The farmer said that post-Covid people have been buying their trees earlier, even at the end of November!

Certainly, this year I reckon we need more than ever a sense of Christmas cheer. During Advent the Church has been reading through the book of Isaiah. It's a book which contains powerful themes of longing and pleading and lament, "Oh that thou wouldest Rend the heavens and come down. Wake up, put on strength, oh arm of the Lord." But out of that lament arises a sense of hope. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations, they shall repair the ruined cities and with this prophecy that a child will be born who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.

One of the nice things about being Bishop in Europe is being able to collect Christmas decorations from different countries in the diocese. Many of our tree decorations are from Moscow. The star at the top of the tree is from Kyiv, Ukraine, and then this year, when we visited Leipzig the Chaplain's wife gave us a handmade Medallion of Peace. These decorations reflect the bringing together in my own heart of Russia, Ukraine and the longing for peace.

December 2023 witnesses a time of global anguish with terrible conflict in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and so many other places less in the headlines. Lives are devastated, cities destroyed, the land ruined. As we pause this year to celebrate the birth of Christ, we do so in the midst of turmoil and complexity. Actually we do that every year, but this year the Christmas cards I've received indicate an especial awareness of the danger and disorder that currently beset us. And amongst the wider global distress and uncertainty, I'm also keenly aware of personal and of family life, of those battling with serious illness, of folks spending their first Christmas without a close family member, and I'm aware that for some, Christmas is the loneliest time of the year,

The Ukrainian star on our Christmas tree has on its reverse side a crib, and this cribsignifies God's real and tangible commitment to the world through becoming a vulnerable human baby. The Christmas story isn't an escape from the harsh reality

Reflections from our Chaplain Chris

'Please take a moment to read the safety instructions'

Happy New Year! I pray and hope that each and everyone connected with St. John's finds and experiences deep blessing this year.

We are blessed that over the holiday period, we can visit Sarah's family in Vancouver. It's a long way but it's always a joy to reconnect with family and friends, and to see (hopefully if it's not raining too much) the beautiful winter mountain backdrop on this coastal city. Such wonderful natural beauty.

As we prepare for take-off, we will hear the standard announcement that those of us who fly are familiar with: 'Please take a moment to read the safety instructions!'. They will tell us about things we must or mustn't do now, and what to do if we get into trouble.

I have never been someone who likes to follow rules! I like to live life to the full and follow life-giving principles and model examples, but not rules! One of the attractions for me of the Christian faith is that this is what Jesus offered – he condemned excessive legalism where it contravened the life-giving principles by which he lived. And he brought a rule of life through simple focused principles; love God and love your neighbours as yourself. There is something for me here about living 'in the presence' of God and others, and letting the rest follow from that.

As we got on the plane, the safety instructions will only be part of the point; the thrill will be the jouney; and seeing loved ones and those oceanside mountains again!

Here is a poem I recently read and liked:

Coast Road

by Julie Fuggle (published in 'Reaching for Mercy', 2018, Provost, UK)

On the edge of the world we cling to the wet road slipping between our wheels, spitting spray over our feet. Savage winds rip through our clothes, our bones, muscles taut with tension and chill.

Engine roars with sudden surge but we do not escape the sullen sea, following as we fly the curves, suspended in the elements, sea to right, hills to left, under weight of whistling wind.

Man and machine respond together, power in harness.
But in this scene we sense, in wordless worship
One who bridles with a word, wind and wave.

May you know you are not alone as we journey into 2024. God Bless. Chris

WHAT NEW YEAR?

New Year's Day is January 1, isn't it? Well, until 1582 the whole of Europe celebrated it on March 25, but then most countries adopted January 1 like the Romans had. But England didn't adopt it till 1752.

Various religious groups keep different dates: the Jewish new year falls on the first day of the month Tishri, which varies between September 6 and October 5; the Chinese new year varies between January 20 and February 20; Muslims reckon time by a year of 354 or 355 days so their new year is always changing.

FOLLOW THE STAR

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany when we remember the Wise Men who followed a star to the stable at Bethlehem. At Christmas we sang about "The Three Kings" but we don't really know much about them – you can check the details in St. Matthew's Gospel chapter 2. It doesn't say that they were kings, or how many there were, or where they came from – all we know is that some wise men came to visit the baby Jesus. We probably imagine that there were three of them because they brought three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh. (3)

ST. JOHN'S ENGLISH LIBRARY NEWS

After the Christmas and New Year break,

- the Library re-opens on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 with an exhibition of Menton inspired paintings by Linda McCluskey. Please come to the vernissage which will include music by the vocal duet "Chic Chanteuses' who are based in Nice.
- **Calling all Scrabblers** Come on Saturday 13th January 2024 for a friendly game of Scrabble in the Library from 10.00.
- **'Poetry Please'** will return in the Library on Saturday 3^{rd} February 2024 from 18.00-19.00, followed by refreshments.

Library open hours are: Wednesdays 14.30-17.30 Saturdays 9.30-12.30

"May it please Your Honour..."

A collection of court-room howlers reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal. The following are questions actually asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials.

"Were you present when your picture was taken?"

"Were you alone or by yourself?"

"How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?"

"You were there until the time you left, is that true?"

"How many times have you committed suicide?"

Q. "So the date of conception of the baby was August 8th?"

A. "Yes"

Q. "And what were you doing at the time?"

** (4)
