

St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, 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 – Closed at present

Books available on loan 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

Contact: **Barbara Corry** Tel. #39 0184 38 450 nichol.jean31@gmail.com
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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

JANUARY 2019

EPIPHANYTIDE

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Services held in the Chapelle St. Roch,
Place Saint Roch, Menton**

(until restoration of St. John's Church is completed)

**EUCCHARIST
EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**

**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST
WEDNESDAY 16th JANUARY - 10.30am**

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am
HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS every Wednesday 12.30pm

READINGS for SERVICES in JANUARY 2019 - YEAR C

JAMES PATRICK GLEADOW

12 August 1982 – 12 October 2018

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 60. 1-6 72. 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1.12
January 13 The Baptism of Christ	First Reading Psalm Second reading Gospel	Isaiah 43. 1-7 29 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22
January 20 Epiphany 2	First Reading Psalm SecondReading Gospel	Isaiah 62. 1-5 36. 5-10 1 Corinthians 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-12
January 27 Epiphany 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 19 1 Corinthians 12. 12-31a Luke 4. 14-21

St. John's church is sad to report the recent death of James Gleadow, who spent many Christmas holidays with his parents Ruth and Tim at Cap Martin in the flat they had inherited from (grandmother) Mona Gleadow, a past librarian of the British Library of Menton.

Growing up in north London, he often came to Menton in school and university holidays and, later, in time off work.

He developed a form of cancer several years ago, but whenever he was well enough he enjoyed socialising and following his beloved England Cricket Team around the globe.

Our sympathy goes to his parents, Ruth and Tim.

(a copy of this report with photographs of James as a young man and at his baptism in St. John's in October/November 1982, which Paddy Holmes kindly sent us, is available in church. Please take one.)

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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.

CASA VALDESE - Boyce Memorial Home

Travelling along the Aurelia in Vallecrosia there is a building with the words 'Casa Valdese – Boyce Memorial Home' on its facade. Being partly in Italian, partly in English, the words provoke the questions 'Why?' and “Who was Boyce?”

Originally the structure was an institute – called the Vallecrosia Home – which supported minors and was founded by Louisa Boyce on her arrival in Italy in 1865. Louisa, of English origin, dedicated 26 years at the end of her life to supporting the work and activities of the Waldensian Church in Liguria.

Between 1865 and 1869 with the help of other ladies and the support of a teacher Giovanni Daniele Billour, originally from Bobbio Pellice, and his wife Maddalena Tron, a small school and then an orphanage – the Evangelical Home - were opened. By the end of 1869 there were 34 children present, some from the Waldensian Valleys, some from Sicily. Mrs Boyce continued to raise funds to enlarge the premises to create dormitories, and workshops for making footwear, for carpentry and dressmaking. In 1873 the students reached 51 and extra financial help for the school and the small evangelical community came from the Tavola Valdese.

On 23 February 1887 a violent earthquake hit Vallecrosia. The Home and Mrs Boyce's villa were made uninhabitable. Louisa wrote that children and teachers were saved by the cook of the institute, who had given the alarm. More funds were raised by churches in France and Switzerland, private citizens and the small evangelical communities in Italy. Also the Ladies Committee in London, raised money. They were formed in 1882 explicitly to help Louisa's activities in Italy. Over the years Louisa kept them regularly informed of activities and the progress of the children.

Following the death of its founder on 20 February 1891, the Home was given the name “Boyce Memorial Home” and the property passed to the Waldensian Church. The Church also inherited the problem of maintaining the thirty-seven children and the school. Support through regular donations by the Ladies Committee, the English community in Bordighera, private citizens and other committees in England, France and Switzerland were fundamental in keeping the Home alive and active.

Between 1867 and 1911 five hundred and thirty two children had passed through the Home. In 1915 the name was changed to Waldensian Female Institute and continued its activities until 1944, when it was bombed and the students were transferred to Torre Pellice. After the war, from 1950, it became the Evangelical Youth Centre and later a holiday home.

So the questions 'why' and 'who was Boyce' are answered.

(With grateful thanks to Elisa Bondente for permission to use part of her article published in 'Il Candelieri' - the newsletter of the Waldensian churches in Bordighera, Sanremo and Imperia)

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Life at St. James-the-Least

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

My dear Nephew Darren,

It was delightful to have a family from your church visiting ours last week, but perhaps, if it happens again, you may suggest a certain dress code to them. That the man arrived without wearing a tie was forgivable, I know they will do things like that in your congregation, although someone from our own parish arriving like that would have been greeted with a silently deafening rebuke. But I do think you should have warned them about the temperature.

I know your building will be heated by the finest machinery money can buy and that temperatures within your walls probably exceed those to be found in nursing homes. Shirt sleeves for the men and light summer dresses for the ladies under those conditions become almost obligatory. The only time hot air is blown over the heads of our congregation is when the archdeacon preaches. But dressed like that in our church at the start of December rather marked them out from the rest of the congregation, equipped with overcoats, scarves, gloves and thermal socks. During the coldest months, our verger's regular disappearance into the side chapel during services isn't on urgent ecclesiastical business, but to warm himself up with copious swigs from his hip flask.

I noticed slight signs of discomfort in our visitors during the first hymn, but by the time of the sermon, were they to have been laid horizontally, they would have been indistinguishable from the marble effigies of the Earls of Stowe lying in state in the north aisle. As they limped out at the end of the service, totally numb with cold, my offer of a sherry at the Rectory was more medicinal than social.

December is always the month when I gratefully concede my defeat regarding the church boiler. Hints begin to be dropped at Harvest at the start of October. Little asides about the autumnal nip in the air, or of the flowers keeping well in church because it is cool there, or even the slightly more pointed remark that it will soon be time for the heating to be turned on, are all studiously ignored. Living in an arctic seventeenth century Rectory rather hardens one.

But when members of the congregation start arriving bearing travelling rugs and flasks of hot tea, I begin to realise that the time approaches to fire the boilers up. Then on the Sunday when Colonel Richards lights up his primus stove next to him on the pew, I know it is appropriate to announce that next Sunday the church will be heated – although 'heated' is rather more an aspiration than a reality.

Should any of our congregation be tempted to pay a visit to your own church, I will tell them to dress for a Mediterranean August – although the men will certainly wear a tie. One does have standards to maintain.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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COURAGE

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.

The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things;
knows not the livid loneliness of fear,
nor mountain heights,
where bitter joy can hear the sound of wings.

How can life grant us boon of living,
compensate for dull grey ugliness and pregnant hate,
unless we dare the soul's dominion?

Each time we make a choice, we pay with courage to behold the relentless day,
and count it fair.

Amelia Earhart

*(On a poster seen some time ago outside Genova Airport near a plane similar to that
flown by Amelia Earhart)*



SOME THOUGHTS TO TAKE INTO THE NEW YEAR

- Returning to earth I realised I was a servant – not a celebrity. I am here as God's servant on planet earth to share what I have experienced that others might know the glory of God. (Col. James Urwin, Astronaut)
- *If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything*
- Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.
- Be the change you want to see in the world (Mahatma Gandhi)
- Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
- *Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.*
- The most outstanding mark of a Christian is his willingness to forgive those who have hurt or injured him. (C.H. Spurgeon)
- *You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.*
- Blossom where you're planted.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum Revd. Mika K. T. Pajunen and his wife Liina remain with us for the month of January.

Please Note – Bordighera Service – change of week The eucharist will be on Wednesday 16 January at 10.30am

Archdeacon of Italy & Malta, Revd. Vickie Sims Revd. Vickie Sims is retiring from her 3-year appointment as Archdeacon of Italy & Malta at the end of this month, but will remain as Chaplain of the Church in Milan. The Venerable Geoffrey S. Johnston, Archdeacon of Gibraltar, will be the interim Archdeacon until a new one is appointed.

Apologies Since the beginning of the new Christian Year, the Lectionary has given us readings for Year C, which will continue until Christ the King. Apologies to all our readers for having printed readings for Year A in the December Advent issue of the Cross Border.

Ecumenical – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity A service of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in the Rumenian Orthodox Church, Corso Cavalotti, Sanremo, (on corner at entrance to the Railway Station) at 20.45 on Friday 25 January. Our locum, Revd. K.T. Pajunen, will represent the Anglican church. The date of the Service in Menton will be announced in church.

WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe” (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January between the Feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

The theme for the week of prayer in 2019 “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue” is inspired by Deuteronomy 16 :18-20. The resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in Indonesia.

World Council of Churches