

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
Wardens: Valerie Aucouturier Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 36 53
email: anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com
Carolyn Hanbury hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com
Communicationas: SuzannePrince prince.suzanne06@gmail.com
Council Members: Robert Edwards bob.edwards@premiertapeconverters.co.uk
Ennis Cardew ennis.cardew@wanadoo.fr
Barbara Corry #39 0184 38 450 nichol.barbara31@gmail.com
George Owen george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org
John Wason johnandjillwason@aol.com

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

Contact: Barbara Corry Tel. #39 0184 38 450 nichol.barbara31@gmail.com
Finance: Barbara Caula Tel. #39 339 66 89 122 bmrobinson1933@gmail.com
Editor: Elizabeth Cordone eacordone@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 July 2020

St. John's will be open for worship
according to rules and restrictions for churches in France
during the covid-19 epidemic

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020 - 10.30am

FIRST EUCHARIST

in the restored church

CELEBRANT: REV. DAVID HOUGHTON
Locum Chaplain, St. John's Anglican Church, Menton

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020

ORGAN RECITAL AND EUCHARIST

Times to be arranged

Please check regularly on website for times
and any changes that may occur
during the covid-19 epidemic period

www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

READINGS for SUNDAY SERVICES in JULY 2020 YEAR A

July 5 Trinity 4	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Zechariah 9.9-12 145.8-15 Romans 7. 15-25a Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30
July 12 Trinity 5	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Isaiah 55.10-13 65. (1-8), 8-13 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
July 19 Trinity 6	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Wisdom of Solomon 12.13, 16-19 86. 11-17 Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
July 26 St. James 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 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.

Just over three weeks ago Paul Wignall, Chaplain in Las Palmas and Director of Reader Training in the Diocese wrote the following.....

Today is traditionally known as 'Corpus Christi' – the feast day of Christ's Body; a day of thanksgiving for the institution of our common Christian meal, the Eucharist. It started as a city feast, a feast of ordinary people, to celebrate their common life. It was marked by processions, by joy, and by plays – it's a starting point for the tradition of public theatre across Europe.

Above all it was an affirmation that the common meal of Christians – sharing in bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ – is a wonderful public event, open to all. The Christian meal may have begun among fearful friends in a locked room as a way of healing the pain of the loss of their teacher and master, Jesus. But the fear turned to wonder, joy, hope and new life. It broke open the locks, smashed down the doors, and became a meal to which the whole world was invited.

Over the past weeks it's been a meal we haven't really been able to share in the ways we were used to. And now that we can come together once more let's not forget: it's not 'our' meal, it is for the world. We gather to eat (and soon, I hope, to drink) but not for ourselves alone. It is well said that the eucharist has four actions: taking, breaking, blessing and sharing. We can take and break and bless as much as we like, but unless we also share with the world – not only the meal but the freedom and hope it stands for – what we do has very little value.

Paul Wignall

Paul also wrote the following prayer with St. Boniface in mind. The life of this 8th century saint who travelled from England to continental Europe to share the Christian gospel, also has wisdom for our current age.

Today I will pray for everyone,
who is living in a country where they were not born.
For migrants by choice and for those escaping destruction, hunger and fear.
For young and old together finding new lives and opportunities.
For those who still endure marginal,excluded and
poverty stricken lives in their lands of promise.
I pray for generosity between all people.
For imagination and curiosity.
But above all I pray that all will be welcomed and feel welcomed. Amen.

Paul Wignall

(from the **Exploring Faith in Europe** blog prepared by **Dr. Clare Amos, Director of Lay Discipleship in the Diocese.**)



THE BAROMETER SIGN outside our Church of St. John. It is advertising the necessary **Fundraising to Complete the Church Renovation.** Please continue to inform family, friends and colleagues. Information for donating is on our website.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE DIOCESE DURING LOCKDOWN

To remember, record and reflect on this period in the history of Europe, and of our Diocese, it has been decided to commission a video production on the life of the Diocese under lockdown resulting from the COVID-19 global pandemic. Contributions (video or photos) required by Wednesday 8 July including name of chaplaincy. See Diocesan website for information: europe.anglican.org (9)

PLEASE NOTE: As St. John's church was unable to hold the service of 'soft reopening' on 28th June, we are very happy to announce that **the first Eucharist will now be held on Sunday 12th July at 10.30am** with locum, Revd. David Houghton, celebrating. David will remain with us for the months of July, August, and September.

It is hoped that the Area Dean, Rev. Giles Williams, Chaplain in Cannes, will celebrate the special **Re-opening Service on Sunday 19th July.** This will include a recital on our new organ. **Please check the time on our website.**

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped prepare the church for the reopening.

A.G.M. For your diaries. **The Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 18 October 2020**

The newly restored Nave - St. John's Church



The pews are waiting for you!

(2)

LET US PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH JUNE 2020

Heavenly Father,

We praise you and give you thanks and pray.....

1. Give thanks for God's creation: long, warm summer days, beaches, and cool sea.
2. for the health of migrants arriving by land or sea and carrying the covid-19 virus
3. pray for the fearful as they enter into daily life among people after the lockdown
4. those who travel to work or on holiday; bring them safely to journey's end
5. *'I will exalt you, O God my king, and bless your name for ever'.* Psalm 145
6. Give thanks and pray for all the clergy who have served and encouraged us during the almost ten years of restoring St. John's
7. for those you know who work as volunteers in charity organisations
8. that after lockdown fishermen may treat the harvest of the sea with respect
9. give thanks for the beauty of parks and gardens at this time
10. those who work in the leisure industry – their problems and needs now
11. those members of our church absent at this time of thanksgiving & celebration
12. The first EUCHARIST service in our restored church – give thanks for all who worked to achieve it, and pray for its future mission in this place
13. Give thanks for all that God's word means to you
14. Give thanks for the gift of music in our lives
15. Give thanks that we have a beautiful church in which to worship God
16. pray that we may be kept faithful to our Lord and God
17. that we may share warmly the amenities of St. John's church, with all who enter
18. Give thanks for weekends – a time to rest and share with family and friends
19. *'You, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion'* Psalm 86
20. pray for your immediate neighbours – their wellbeing
21. those released from their daily tasks may enjoy rest and refreshment on holiday
22. give thanks for the pleasure our animals give us and those who work as vets
23. Lord, may we help draw into closer unity, love and peace all races living in our towns.
24. Give thanks for the gift of friends
25. for all pilgrims that they may tread the path of discovery and service in your name in an environment of peace and beauty
26. St. James Apostle *'Lord, how I love your law'* Psalm 119
27. for a commitment to appreciate and care for this beautiful place where we live
28. reflect and offer your help to those in need with love, patience and cheerfulness
29. pray for all the churches along the Côte d'Azur and Riviera dei Fiori
30. for our churchwardens, council members, congregation as a new life begins in St. John's
31. Give thanks for all God's blessings this month-

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

No, stick to large, hard bound books. They are resistant to teeth and are too substantial to be hidden in pockets. Their only drawback is that they tend to fall victim to the pull of gravity at the quietest moments.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

All in the month of July

460 years ago: on 6th July 1560 the Treaty of Edinburgh was signed by Scotland and England, resulting in the withdrawal of the French from Scotland, and Scotland's religion changing from Catholic to Protestant.

410 years ago: on 18 July 1610 that Caravaggio, the Italian artist, died.

235 years ago: on 6th July that the US Congress adopted the dollar as the official monetary unit of the USA

210 years ago: on 9th July 1810 that Napoleon annexed Holland and made his brother, Louis, its king.

135 years ago: on 20th July 1885 that British football clubs were allowed to employ professional players for the first time, provided they had been born locally or had lived there two years.

110 years ago: on 12th July 1910 that Charles Stewart Rolls, British driver, aviator and car manufacturer, co-founder of Rolls-Royce, first person to fly across the Channel and back non-stop, became also the first British pilot to die in a plane crash.

100 years ago: on 12th July 1920 the Panama Canal was officially opened by US President Woodrow Wilson (although it had been operating since August 1914)

90 years ago: on 13th July 1930 the first FIFA Football World Cup was first held in Uruguay.

85 years ago: on 30th July 1935 the first ten Penguin paperback books went on sale in Britain.

80 years ago: July 1940 was a dramatic month in World War II. Main dates include:

1st July - Guernsey and Jersey were occupied by German forces

10th July - The Battle of Britain began.

10th July - The Vichy Government was established in France

19th July - The British Army's Intelligence Corps was founded.

23rd July - Britain's Local Defence Volunteers were renamed the Home Guard

60 years ago: on 6th July 1960 Aneurin ("Nye") Bevan, the British politician responsible for establishing the National Health Service, died.

35 years ago: on 13th July 1985 Live Aid, two simultaneous concerts in London and Philadelphia, plus other venues including Sydney and Moscow, raised millions of pounds for victims of famine in Africa.

30 years ago: on 21st July 1990 more than 150,000 people attended 'The Wall', a rock concert in East Berlin, to celebrate the dismantling of the Berlin Wall.

25 years ago: on 16th July 1995 Amazon.com opened its website to the public. (8)

Life at St. James-the-Least

The Rectory
St. James-the-Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

As you discovered at your Sunday School Anniversary Service last week, special service sheets can be a mixed blessing. It was unfortunate that the front page welcomed your diocesan “Nishop” (although perhaps a good thing you hadn't been welcoming a neighbouring “Vicar”) and it was a shame that one of the hymns contained one verse fewer on the sheets than the book the organist was playing to, obliging your congregation to sing the last verse twice – although since in your tradition you seem to repeat choruses endlessly, probably no one noticed anyway. But the regrettable misprint which meant that ranks of primary school children sweetly lisped an obscenity really was too much.

Having said that, computer spell-checkers can cause their own problems. I once let our own system check a Christmas carol sheet and on the night found ourselves obliged to sing “away in a manger”, manglers apparently being unknown to our machine.

If you use special sheets regularly, it seems a law of nature – as with metal coat hangers – that they all intermingle while no one is watching. Thus on Easter Day, half the congregation will have been issued with sheets for Harvest, which will only become obvious once the service begins. The first hymn will be entirely lost while sidesmen scuttle about looking for replacements only to find that there won't be enough of them anyway and then the second hymn will be lost while others helpfully wander about church donating their sheets to those looking helpless and then trying to find someone to share with.

Never, ever, print on them "Do not take home" as this will only ensure everyone does so. I have sometimes wondered if the instruction "Take this sheet home for reference" would ensure that they stayed neatly arranged in the pews after the service. And if it is a service where babies are likely to be present, be assured that many of the copies will be returned half chewed and coated with bits of whatever the infant had for breakfast. There must be a market for paper treated with a child-repellent flavour for such occasions.

Anyone who thinks we are an unimaginative nation should visit a church after a special service to see how many places members of congregations can invent to hide the booklets: under kneelers, neatly folded and hidden inside hymn books, among flower arrangements and behind heating pipes so that no one can quite reach them. They then lurk there reproachfully for the next ten years until mice resolve the problem. (7)

(7)

ST. JAMES APOSTLE

St. James, also known as St. James the Great, or James son of Zebedee, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. James with his brother John is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. According to the Synoptic Gospels they were with their father by the seashore when Jesus called them to follow him. Jesus gave the name Boanerges ('sons of thunder') to the two brothers (Mark 3.17). James was also one of only three apostles whom Jesus selected to bear witness to his Transfiguration. The Acts of the Apostles records that Herod the king (traditionally identified with Herod Agrippa 1) had James executed by the sword. This may have been caused by James's fiery temper.

St. James is the patron saint of Spain where, according to Catholic tradition, he spread Christianity. His remains are held in the place where stands Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Galicia, northwestern Spain, after having been transferred there in a stone boat from Jerusalem, where he had been executed in AD44.

The Camino de Santiago – the Way of St. James – is a network of pilgrims' ways or pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the Apostle. The emblem of the Way is a scallop shell, or 'cockle shell', and pilgrims often wear it on their hats or clothes. The emblem can also be seen along the roadways of the pilgrimages. In our area it can be seen on the Via Aurelia in the Province of Imperia and along its continuation in France. Pilgrims who complete the final 100km walk (200km by bicycle) to Santiago qualify for a *Campostela*.

The Feast Day of St. James is celebrated on 25 July on the liturgical calendars of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and certain Protestant churches. He is commemorated on 30 April in the Orthodox Christian liturgical calendar. When 25 July falls on a Sunday, it is a 'Holy Year' and a special east door is opened for entrance into Santiago Cathedral. Jubilee years fall every five, six and eleven years. In the 2004 Holy Year, 179,944 pilgrims received a Campostela. In the 2010 Holy Year the number had risen to 272,412. The next Holy Year will be 2021. In recent years an Anglican centre has been opened to receive pilgrims at the end of the walk.

The feast day of St James this year will be celebrated in St. John's on **Sunday 26th July.**

Thought for the day

*The value of all things, even our lives,
depends on the use we make of them.*

(4)

You may be interested to read these Minutes of the Church Council reporting the day after subsidence in October 2010 had caused damage to the church building:-

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES 14.10.2010

Present	Churchwarden	Ms Jane Lancaster Mrs Valerie Aucouturier
	Secretary	Mrs Margaret Turner Mrs Barbara Corry Mrs Elizabeth Cordone Mrs Carolyn Hanbury
Apologies		Mrs Kay Sauvagnargues Mrs Paddy Holmes
Observer		Canon Guy Smith

The meeting was held in the church garden. A prayer was said.

Minutes of last meeting The Minutes were passed as correct and signed by Mrs. Aucouturier who presided.

At this point it was evident that we could no longer continue the PCC meeting. It was adjourned.

The explanation being that the development next door (flats and the deepest underground parking in Menton) had run into serious difficulties in the morning of the 13th October, a flooding of water and subsidence of the ground, this at only a few metres of our church walls. They had been unable to contact any of us, so that we arrived totally unprepared the next morning for our PCC meeting, to find the church sealed off and shut to the public, and a group of men from the development, their architect, etc, in the garden. The church had been seriously damaged, with enormous crevasses and holes to the kitchen, toilet and library and the wall between the library and the older part of the church.

This is perforce just an initial account. When eventually the insurers, surveyors, geometricians have done their work, a more technical report will be added to these minutes. Suffice it to say that at the very best, it will be four to five months before we can return to our church. All our activities for the immediate future will have to be cancelled. For the next few Sundays, we shall have our services in the developers' offices. The Archdeacon and Diocesan Office in London have been informed. ***End of Minutes***

Thus began the trials, tribulations and challenges of restoring the church of St. John.
It has taken 9 years and 9 months to reach the re-opening date of 12th July 2020.

Only one service during all that time took place inside the building – that of the funeral of Margaret Turner in September 2015.

After a few Sunday services in the developers' offices just round the corner from St. John's, Chapelle San Roch became the venue. It (including the Church of the Penitents Noirs during some of the lemon Festivals) remained so through all the years until the Lockdown of covid-19 in March this year, when all churches in France were closed because of the epidemic. This meant more time lost to restore the building, thus the 'soft' re-opening was postponed from Pentecost to 28 June, and again until 12 July. The main Thanksgiving service will take place later this year.

Imagine, from four to five months that had been envisaged to almost ten years for the re-opening..... but the moment has arrived and we shall Praise and Thank God for the strength he has given to the different people who served on the Church Council over the years and all those, members and non-members of St. John's, who became involved in the restoration of the building in so many ways – those who dealt with:- the numerous bureaucratic difficulties, the translations into French and English, the removal and storage of the furniture and other items, those who planned a new-styled building, those who carried out the work, the fundraisers, the donors, all who cared for the garden, and the preparation of the newly restored church after the building work had finished . A huge thank you to them all. The first service in St. John's will take place:-

EUCCHARIST

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020 - 10.30am

Celebrant: Rev. David Houghton
Locum Chaplain, St. John's Anglican Church, Menton

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The House of God - a prayer for St. John's

O God make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love
and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children
nor to straying feet,
but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.
God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thy eternal Kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.