

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
MARCH 2021

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCCHARIST
EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

RESTRICTIONS IN FRANCE DUE TO COVID-19

NO SUNDAY SERVICES AT PRESENT IN CHURCH

PLEASE CHECK ON WEBSITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION

LENT

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 MARCH 2021 - YEAR B

March 7 Lent 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31 104. 25-37 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1. 1-14
March 14 Lent 4	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	2 Kings 2. 1-12 50. 1-6 2 Corinthians 4. 3-6 Mark 9. 2-9
March 21 Lent 5 Mothering Sunday	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 9. 8-17 25. 1-10 1 Peter 3. 18-22 Mark 1. 9-15
March 28 PALM SUNDAY	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 22. 22-30 Romans 4. 13-25 Mark 8. 31-38

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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 deal with your church's correspondence

My dear Nephew Darren

You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but theological courses never seem to cover the most important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a tight jumble sale and, in your case at the moment, deal with correspondence.

The accepted practice is to read all the letters you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second one, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system. After letters will have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

The second file receives all other correspondence chronologically. The earliest letters will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In my experience, this file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower 6 inches and allow it to continue its steady growth until the process is repeated. If the stack is kept in the church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile in their own omnivorous way.

Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and retrieving correspondence and with your parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

May I also remind you that not even St. Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

A Prayer for Vanuatu 2021

Holy God,
Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them
we join with the Christian women of Vanuatu in praise to you
for fertile land and fresh air
for the sweet melody of the birds,
for land animals and the mysterious creatures of the deep
and for the sounds of children playing.

We thank you for the example of the Christian women of Vanuatu
for their trust in you and
for their fortitude as they struggle to provide food for their families
and education for their children;
things that we in this country so often take for granted.

We ask for forgiveness for our thoughtlessness,
our carelessness and our lack of foresight
which has led to pollution of the environment
and the current climate emergency,
and is causing irrevocable damage to Vanuatu and
to other low-lying Pacific islands.

We pray that you will help us
to listen more carefully to you and to your Word,
to build our homes and communities on its strong foundations,
and to work together towards a world where resources
are used more sustainably;
where justice and peace reign;
and where all your creatures can live
in safety and harmony.

We pray in the name of Jesus
Amen

(Elizabeth Burroughs)

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Locum We welcome back Revd. David Houghton.

Services At present the church may not open for services on Sundays due to Covid-19 restrictions in France. However, the possibility of weekday services are being contemplated so keep in touch with Fr David or the churchwardens.

Please check on our website for any changes.

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. Check for any changes due to Covid-19.

Lent Plastic Challenge ARocha/Anglican and other denominations in Portugal, organised a zoom meeting about saving plastic. Our Diocesan Representative Elizabeth Bussmann sent a document to use day by day through Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday. The challenge is to give up single-use plastics to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation. There are some very useful ideas to help us.

If you have any ideas of your own which are not shown on the document, please inform Elizabeth Bussman so that she may pass them on.

Prayer for Christian Unity €80 received at the Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity in January has been sent to the Bible Society in Italy.

Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal for the English Church of Liège (Belgium)

You may have received a copy of the Appeal or seen it on the Diocesan Website. The request is to support the Chaplaincy in Liège and its new Chaplain. Information of the Chaplaincy can be found:

Diocesan website: www.europe.anglican.org

Liège Website: www.englishchurch-Liège.be

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/englishchurchLiègeanglican>

You Tube Channel: <https://youtube.com/channelUCQ.EqT5G14fpGqXaqzxVHUA>

Email: secretary@englishchurch-Liège.be

Economy of Vanuatu

The government is the largest employer.

Vanuatu's economic growth is based on tourism, construction and offshore financial services, but the proceeds from foreign-owned big hotels and resorts primarily leave the country. The current system has led to a huge gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Young people are migrating to the towns of Luganville and Port Vila, hoping for jobs that are non-existent, so therefore may find themselves without enough food, water or proper housing.

Women represent 40% of the labour force but are rarely in leadership positions. Opportunities for women to set up businesses are limited as they lack access to capital, financial services and markets. The Constitution supports gender equality but there is no political will to implement it.

Religion

Originally, each island had its own gods, customs and culture. The Vanuatu people did not worship animals or plants but believed there was a creator somewhere in the heavens.

Christianity and colonisation had a significant impact on island society. Formerly, throughout the archipelago, chiefs were the custodians of the land, language and heritage, and determined the norms of the societies under their jurisdictions. In the Farea (village meeting house) issues were debated and although men were generally the decision makers, women had ways to bring their concerns.

Christianity changed a decentralised system of life in the villages to a centralised form of governance, and the role of women in decision-making was much reduced. Missionaries opposed cannibalism and regarded local religion as witchcraft. Currently 83% of the population is Christian.

*O Holy Spirit and giver of life,
who from the beginning wrought beauty and peace in all creation;
renew the face of the earth
that we may glorify the Author and Maker of all
and rejoice in the promise of redemption
in Christ our Lord*

Amen

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 5th March 2021

Prepared by Women of the Republic of Vanuatu

Theme: 'Build on a Strong Foundation'

On the other side of the world in the South Pacific, 2000 miles east of Australia, lies an archipelago of 80 islands called Vanuatu.

With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades, these are lovely islands.

There are no large mammals, poisonous snakes or poisonous spiders. The climate is temperate, and the soil fruitful, but this region is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and many destructive cyclones and tsunamis in the hot and humid season from November to March.

The World Day of Prayer is an inter-church, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. This year it is organised by women of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Day begins in Samoa. Prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later.

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Build on a Strong Foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu.

However, Covid-19 continues to restrict activities throughout the world and we may be unable to celebrate together the World Day of Prayer in our area on 5th March. Explanatory notes about their country and people have been published by women of the Republic of Vanuatu and are given throughout this issue of the Cross Border. As we read them, let us pray to God for understanding and vision now, and in the future, for Vanuatu and its people through his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

We begin overleaf with the History of Vanuatu.

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History of Vanuatu

In 1606 Spanish explorers named the largest island Espiritu Santo. In 1774 Captain James Cook renamed the islands New Hebrides. In the 1800s came the traders, followed by 'blackbirders' who kidnapped, tricked or coerced South Pacific islanders into working on the cotton and sugar plantations in Queensland, Fiji and Hawaii.

In 1906 France and the UK, having both claimed parts of the archipelago, agreed to jointly manage it as the Anglo-French condominium of New Hebrides. The natives found themselves stateless – neither French nor British nor New Hebrideans and with no land rights. They remained stateless until 1980, when the Republic of Vanuatu was founded as a parliamentary democracy. Vanuatu means 'country that stands up', and the motto adopted was 'In God we stand'.

On 4th December 2020, from its status as a least developed country, Vanuatu became officially named a Developing Country.

Traditional staple foods include yam, taro (of the Arum family), banana, coconut, sugar cane, tropical nuts and greens, figs, fowl and seafood.

The nation's ceremonial dish is lap-lap – a pudding made of grated root crops or plantain. The preparation and drinking of kava is an integral part of ceremonial occasions, when pigs are exchanged and eaten.

The coconut tree is viewed as the tree of life because all its parts are useful. The demand for cash crops has now limited the amount of land available for traditional food.

The Flag of Vanuatu

Adopted in 1980, the lower portion is green to represent the richness of the islands, whilst the upper part is red symbolising the blood of wild boars and men. The black triangle is for the Ni-Vanuatu people. The Y-shape is yellow and represents the light of the gospel shining through the Y-shaped archipelago which makes up the country. The emblem is a boar's tusk representing prosperity; inside the curve are crossed leaves of the namele tree signifying peace.

Vanuatu Today

The People of Vanuatu are mostly Melanesian with a Polynesian minority. The population is around 300,000 of whom nearly a fifth live in Port Vila, the largest city.

113 languages and numerous dialects were spoken until recently – more languages than anywhere else in the world. Bislama, which is widely spoken, French and English are the official languages.

Education is not compulsory or free. Most families can only afford to educate their firstborn child, and boys get priority. However, in the past 20 years there have been changes and the gender gap in literacy and education has narrowed.

Health of women and children are key national priorities of the government.

Malnutrition is a growing problem, accounting for most of the deaths in under fives. Malnutrition has been aggravated by the introduction of processed western foods.

Violence physical and/or sexual, affect approximately 60% of women and girls.

Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities are major concerns. In rural areas people may have to walk up to an hour to find water.

Covid-19 at the time of writing, so far the total of Covid-19 cases in Vanuatu remains at just one, but the indirect effects have been devastating to Vanuatu's economy. Tourism, a major source of income, has disappeared. The possibility of Ni-Vanuatu working in Australia and New Zealand to bring in the harvest has also diminished since short haul flights out of Vanuatu have been cancelled. The World Health Organisation and South Pacific Islands Organisation have pledged support for vaccination programmes in Vanuatu and other islands.

We pray for all the services happening around the world:

for the weather; for the venue;

for all those attending this special day;

for friendship and fellowship;

pray for the people of Vanuatu to feel the wave of prayer washing over them.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.