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

Postal Address: 2 Avenue Pigautier, 06500 Menton, France

Website: www.anglicanchurchmenton.com email: anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com

Sunday Service – Eucharist – 10.30am

Priest-in-charge: Vacant Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 20 25

Locum

Warden: Carolyn Hanbury hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com

Communications: Suzanne Prince princesuzanne06@gmail.com

#33 (0)6 13 71 60 85

Council Members: Valerie Aucouturier Tel. #33 (0)4 93 57 36 53

Robert Edwards bob.edwards@premiertapeconverters.co.uk

Ennis Cardew ennis.cardew@wanadoo.fr George Owen george.owen@omnibus-clapham.org

John Wason 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 to12 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

CROSS BORDER

Newsletter JUNE 2021

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCHARIST SUNDAY - 10.30am

As we come out of covid-19 restrictions

PLEASE CHECK ON WEBSITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION



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 - Tel. #39 010 88 92 68

EUCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

Holy Communion or Shared Prayers - Wednesdays 12.30

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

Life at St. James-the-Least	Life	at	<i>5</i> †.	James-the-Least
-----------------------------	------	----	-------------	-----------------

The Rectory, St. James-the-Least

On why Arts Festivals in church are a bad idea

My dear Nephew Darren,

Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner city streets, was most commendable. Pity how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right insrument. Your stage hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from "Oklahoma", with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies - through years of experience - can now get 34 cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 89 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

June 6 Trinity 1	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Genesis 3.8-15 130 2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1 Mark 3.20-35
June 13 Trinity 2	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 17.22-24 92.1-4, 12-15 2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17 Mark 4.26-34
June 20 Trinity 3	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Job 38.1-11 107.1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-41
June 27 Trinity 4	First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel	Wisdom of Solomon 1.13-15, 2.23-24 30 2 Corinthians 8.7-15 Mark 5.21-43

BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

arrangements may be made by contacting the churchwardens

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.

WORLD ENIVRONMENT DAY - 05 JUNE 2021

Reimgine, Recreate, Restore

For too long, we have been exploiting and destroying our planet's ecosystems. Every three seconds, the world loses enough forest to cover a footall pitch and over the last century we have destroyed half of our wetlands. As much as 50% of our coral reefs have already been lost and up to 90% of coral reefs could be lost by 2050, even if global warming is limited to an increase of 1.5°C.

The emergence of Covid-19 has also shown just how disastrous the consequences of ecosystem loss can be. By shrinking the area of natural habitat for animals, we have created ideal conditions for pathogens – including coronaviruses – to spread with this big and challenging picture. The World Environment Day is focusing the ecosystem restoration and its theme is "Reimagine, Recreate, Restore".

Ecosystem restoration means preventing, halting and reversing the damage – to go from exploring nature to healing it. This World Environment Day will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depths of the sea. Only with healthy ecosystems can we enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

Reimagine, Recreate, Restore

This is our moment. We cannot turn back time. But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make peace with nature.

Let's get active, not anxious
Let's be bold, not timid.
Our mission is to revive the planet in just 10 years.
It's ambitious, but possible. It's going to take everyone.
It's going to take you.

"As we work to end the pandemic and build better, we have a once in a generation opportunity – and responsibility – to correct our relationship with the natural world including the world's seas and oceans"

Antonio Guer Guterres - United Nations Secretary General (From the United Nations website: un.org/en/observances/environment-day)

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Services in St. John's

Sunday 6 June 10.30am - Morning Prayer, Churchwardens Sunday 13 June 10.30am - Morning Prayer, Churchwardens

Sunday 20 June 10.30am - Eucharist, celebrant Fr. David Houghton

Organist - M. Benjamin Prischi

Sunday 27 June 10.30am - Eucharist, celebrant Fr. David Houghton

Organist - M. Benjamin Prischi

Locum We welcome back Fr. David Houghton from mid June to the end of July.

Services on St. John's Website

If you are unable to be in St. John's church on Sundays, follow the online service on the website:- www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

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.

<u>Sunday Collections</u> 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 funds.

English Cemetery Chapel, Bordighera

Revd Canon Tony Dickinson kindly came from the Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova, on 12th May to celebrate the Eucharist with us for the first time since October. We were only a few; some people were still blocked in the UK and visitors were not yet travelling, but it was good to be able to meet up again, worship together, and share our news. It was a beautiful day and we had organised a picnic after the service.

Time flew, and Fr Tony just had time to meet Sig. Ciro Scarnari, the President of the Association which had taken over the care of the cemetery a few years ago. Fr Tony was escorted round the terraces, most covered in graves with other land still to be used. It was the first time that Fr Tony had seen the English Cemetery. On other occasions he had taken part in the Remembrance Services in the British & Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. A few problems that needed attention were pointed out to him, before he was whisked off to the station for the train back to Genova.

From our locum Fr. David

Today, I needed to travel up from my home in a medium-size Kent town to central London. It used to be called the 'rush hour'. My 07.20 would have been full and standing. Today there was just a handful of passengers waiting to board; I had four seats to myself and I almost craved for those days of bustle, excitement, 'rush'. There are pockets of metropolis that are nearly busy, but significant areas remain deserted and convey an eerie atmosphere of absence and melancholy. The pandemic has had a catastrophic effect on many lives, and I noticed this today in the rows of closed shops, bars, sandwich outlets, theatres. Perhaps the next weeks will tell a different tale?

By contrast, my local town seems busier than before. The Pub round the corner looks lively and inviting tables are set outside a coffee shop – even in this arctic May weather. If folk are venturing out it looks as if they prefer the local to the big City. It is claimed there is a surge of interest in the privately managed store or restaurant, and in locally produced food. I suspect readers along the Mediterranean will recognise this aspect of life?

My working life has mostly been spent in the local Church – the parish. I have always been able to walk to work, receive residents (parishioners) in my home, meet some in the neighbouring streets and even, happily, accompany a few on their life journey. The pattern of parishes is a particular gift of the Christian church in many countries. The Parish Church is there both to serve the needs of the people and to be a place of gathering for all, putting aside any distinction of social standing, privilege and creed. In England it remains the legal right of any person to be married in the parish church serving their residence. But this local icon is at risk. Financial pressures and increasing social mobility draw a question mark over the provision of so many, often expensive to maintain, buildings however sacred.

Yet, we do know more and more the power of the local gathering and how much our lives interact with immediate and intimate places and people. This summer we pray that St John's will find itself again in the centre of life in Menton and in the hearts of the people – those who worship and those who recognise the Church as a place of welcome, safety, restoration.

David Houghton

^^^^^

Thought for the month

Whatever you are, Make sure you are a good one!

(Abraham Lincoln)

(3)

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

- 610 years ago in 1411 King Charles VI of France granted a monopoly to the people of Roquefort-sur-Soulzon for the ripening of Roquefort cheese.
- 300 years ago on 26 June 1721 the first smallpox inoculations in America. Following an outbreak in Boston, Dr. Zabdiel Boylston applied pus from a smallpox sore to a small wound on 248 people the technique had already been tried and tested in Africa.
- 245 years ago on 11 June 1776, John Constable, English painter was born.
- 175 years ago on 28 June 1846, Belgian musical instrument maker Adolphe Sax patented the saxophone.
- 150 years ago on 16 June 1871 the University Test Act allows students to enter the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham without religious tests (except for those intending to study theology)
- 150 years ago on 27 June 1871 Japan adopted the yen as its currency.
- 146 years ago on 6 June 1875, Thomas Mann, German writer, Nobel Prize Laureate was born
- 140 years ago on 29 June 1881 Muhammad Ahmad declared himself to be the Mahdi the messianic redeemer of Islam.
- 125 years ago on 4 June 1896, Henry Ford completed work on his petrol-powered automobile and gave it a successful test run around Detroit, Michigan.
- 125 years ago on 7 June 1896, birth of Robert S. Mulliken, American Physicist and chemist noted for his fundamental work on the structure of molecules. Winner of the 1966 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- 110 years ago on 16 June, 1911 the technology company IBM was founded as the 'Computing Tabulating Recording Company' in Endicott, New York.
- 100 years ago on 10 June 1921, the birth of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II
- 100 years ago on 21 June 1921, the birth of Jane Russell, American film actress. One of Holywood's biggest stars and sex symbol of the 1940s and 50s
- 100 years ago on 30 June 1921, Capital Punishment was abolished in Sweden.
- 75 years ago on 1 June 1946, Television licences were introduced in Britain.
- 75 years ago on 2 June 1946 in a referendum the people of Italy voted to abolish the monarchy and become a republic.
- 65 years ago on 6 June 1956, Bjorn Borg, Swedish tennis player was born.

Above all, on behalf of us all, I would like to thank Suzanne, Barbara and Valerie, who hold EVERYTHING together. It is impossible to measure their invaluable contribution to the running of St John's. Valerie and Barbara have worked over so many years, always consistent, practical and wise. Barbara maintaining the garden, producing helpers out of the sky like a magician when needed. She almost never complained but humbly soldiered on in spite of building works and frustrations at many a turn. Valerie has been a steady pillar of strength and an anchor throughout 25 years and so many changes. Her administrative skills have been multiple and she always saw the funny side of everything. The service she has given to St John's is incalculable and we are truly indebted to you Valerie. Suzanne works as secretary and communicator from all corners of the planet rising at weird hours to deliver the service on line, she was such a vital link during lockdown. Her computer skills put us to shame but she was always patient with Valerie and I and willing to help us all. Thank you Suzanne. All these core church members have contributed to the foundations of our worship at St John's, which will hold us in good stead for many years to come.

We thank you Beatrice for your amazing energy, kindness and cheerfulness; you are always willing to help out; you are an example to us all. Lastly but far from least thank you Jose'. I think it makes a difference to have somebody at the door greeting everyone and thank you for stepping into Suzanne's shoes with your printer when she is away, among other jobs you do.

We are still praying for a permanent priest to come to St John's and someone to rent the Locali. I am optimistic trusting God, who works in mysterious ways, to answer our prayers at the right moment and provide these for us. I am confident!

^^^^^^

God in All He inspires all, He gives life to all, He dominates all. He supports all, He lights the light of the sun, He furnishes the light of the night, He has made springs in dry land, He is the God of heaven and earth, of sea and rivers. of sun, moon and stars, of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley, the God above heaven. and in heaven, (St. Patrick) and under heaven.

REPORT of the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting 30 May 2021

Carolyn Hanbury, churchwarden, opened the meeting with a prayer.

<u>Suzanne Prince</u>, Secretary and Communications Officer, gave grateful thanks for the English Library, which had been catalogued and organised by Julia Wigart and Joanna Langhorne and is open on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. It welcomes all – members of St John's and non-church members.

The Church Council had discussed the possibility of improving the chaplaincy flat by changing the layout of the flat to include another bedroom, thereby making two, and a small toilet and shower room. This was put on hold as €40,000 would need to be raised.

<u>Valerie Aucouturier</u>, churchwarden, reported on the year January 2020-May 2021. St. John's is still without a permanent priest and so the Sunday services were officiated by locums, when they could travel, or by priests living in the area, or by the churchwardens. The difficult year passed. It had been a ten year fight to get the church on its feet again and open when along came covid-19, which meant, of course, fewer people to attend. The most important thing was that we got through the year said Valerie. Her hopes for the rest of this year are that big events may take place in the church such as being part of the Menton Music Festival.

A Christening is being arranged this year and a wedding next year – should they be possible in the pandemic situation. A permanent priest continues to be sought. See Valerie's report at the Annual Meeting below.

Carolyn gave her report which also follows on next page.

<u>Suzanne</u> said in her report that nothing had changed – all is well. The website continued to be on-line. There remains the importance of finding a permanent priest. She then turned to the Elections of Churchwardens, Council Members and Synod Representative.

The following were elected for the year 2021-2022:-

Churchwarden - Carolyn Hanbury
Council Members:- Valerie Aucouturier

Ennis Cardew Robert Edwards George Owen Suzanne Prince John Wason

Synod Representative Avril Bateman

<u>Suzanne</u> continued with the Financial Report which had been prepared by <u>Robert Edwards</u>, Treasurer. Suzanne said that the church is coping and, as we come out of the covid-19 situation and more people can return to church, things should improve. Renting out the locali was of paramount importance. (4)

Church Warden's Report - Valerie Aucouturier - 30/05/2021

This report goes from 1 January 2020 to 30 May 2021. In that time we have had no baptisms, no weddings and two funerals. In interregnum since April 2017 we have been very grateful for the help of Locum Chaplains. In December 2019 Revd Mika Pajunen arrived with his wife, Liina, from Finland, and stayed with us until the end of January 2020.

On 25 January Archdeacon Meurig Williams made a two day visit to St. John's, when he presided over Sunday Eucharist and had a meeting with the Chaplaincy Council later sending us his report of comments and recommendations.

In February 2020 Revd David Houghton came from the UK to be our Locum Chaplain. Everything was going very well until we suddenly found ourselves in lockdown from 15 March. During lockdown Suzanne Prince, our Secreytary and Communications Officer, produced an on-line service each week and Fr David prepared a sermon. Fr David decided to return home while a flight was available but returned in July when we held our first Eucharist in St John's on 12 July 2020. He left again at the end of September.

From October 2020 Revd Keith Bretel and Revd Chris Parkman travelled from their homes to take Sunday services and Fr Keith kindly came on Christmas Day for the Eucharist. They continued to come until the end of February 2021 when Revd David Houghton was once again our Locum Chaplain until 2 April 2021. When no Chaplain is present, the Church Wardens take Morning Prayer.

During all this time, and in spite of the lockdowns, restoration work continued on St John's, which had suffered damage from a nearby building site in October 2010 and had been closed by the Mayor as being dangerous. While unable to use the church, arrangements were made between the Bishop of Nice and our then Archdeacon, for us to rent the Chapelle St Roch in Menton for our services. We left St Roch hurriedly, due to the lockdown, on 15 March 2020 and did not go back as we were able to return to St John's in mid-July when all bans had been lifted.

Soon after our return, our member, Frank Wilding, died and his funeral was held in St John's. Frank had regularly read lessons during services.

We endeavoured to raise funds and – in true English style – put a thermometer in front of the church showing progress. We were greatly helped by William Waterfield, stated by the local press to be "le plus Mentonnais des jardiniers anglais" whose gardens 'Le Clos du Peyronnet' were often opened for visits and where fairly recently many of us enjoyed tea in the garden. William died in January and his funeral, taken by Revd. Chris Parkman, who had met William, was held on (5)

5 February 2021. The church was decorated with mimosa, 30 people were present and 80 followed the service on Zoom.

During renovation, when wooden panels were removed from the church walls, it was discovered that originally a frieze had been painted on the walls in shades of beige and underneath the frieze the walls were a du -sky red – a shade well known along the Riviera. An artist came from Italy and reproduced the design, and this was generously paid for by another member.

Generous donations of money have also been made by other members.

A pipe organ was also given and is installed near the Lady Chapel. A young organist was found to come to play during services.

Mr J-P Bellon, the stained-glass window expert, has, over a number of years, repaired and cleaned all the beautiful stained glass windows. Recently exterior protection grilles have been made and are being fitted. Plaques under the windows give details of the person in whose memory the window was given. When Revd Brian Warrillow came as our Chaplain in 2001 he was seen climbing up a ladder to make a note of the wording on the plaques. He then produced a booklet entitled "The English Churcfh in Menton" containing a description of the church and its history. This will soon be revised to include the restoration and re-opening.

All being well, and restrictions allowing, Revd David Houghton will return as our Locum Chaplain in June staying during July, and in September and October Revd Neville Griffiths, who has been our Locum Chaplain over a number of years, will return with his wife Siãn.

Few people are able to attend services at present but we look forward to better times when we can come together again to praise God in his beautiful, restored church.

Church Warden Carolyn Hanbury's Report 30/05/2021

There is so much to be thankful for this year in spite of lockdown. As a team we have many talents between us; these have been much in evidence. Michael, defying any restrictions, battled on to finalize details and smooth out hiccups with the building. Without his tenacity I wonder how different things would have been. A Huge Thank you to you Michael.

We have all enjoyed Ben's wonderful organ music and we really appreciate his talent which has enhanced our services this year. We are also very grateful to Elizabeth who produces the monthly Cross Border always on time and full of useful tips, humour and information. (6)