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Eucharist every Sunday at 10.30am

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St. John's English Library President: Joanna Langhorne
Opening Hours: Wednesday 14.30-17.30 Saturday 09.30-12.30
sjelmenton@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/menton>
<https://www.libib.com/u/stjohnsmenton>

The Anglican Chapel, Bordighera

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 Saturday mornings in the Louvre from 10.00 to 12.00
website <https://www.britishassociationmenton.com>

The Church of the Holy Ghost, Genova

Piazza Marsala 3, 16122 Genova, Italy

Chaplain: Revd. Canon Tony Dickinson tel. #39 010 88 92 68

website : www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org

CROSS BORDER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

Celebrant: The Rev. Chris Parkman

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THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL

BORDIGHERA

NO SERVICE IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER

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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

Chaplain: Revd.Canon Tony Dickinson – Tel:#39 010 88 92 68

mobile: #39 324 559 4023

email: chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org

EUCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS – WEDNESDAYS 12.30

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

From: The Rectory
St. John-the-Faster,
Waterhouses-on-Sea

Council meeting The Council will be meeting on Friday 4th August.

My dear nephew Darren,

You will see that I write to you this month from the Norfolk coast, where I am spending August, on an annual exchange of parishes with a clerical colleague. You may have had two weeks in July sunning yourself on an exotic beach on a Pacific island, but I am content with a bracing east wind, punctuated by heavy showers.

Come the happy day when you are an incumbent and have to arrange parish exchanges as a way of getting a holiday. Let me give you some advice. First, always exchange with someone who is a worse preacher than you are and whose sermons are at least twice as long; you are then sure to be welcomed back with open arms.

Secondly, since it is normally assumed that you will take care of one another's gardens during the month, make sure that the incumbent you exchange with has an insignificant plot. My colleague should now be largely occupied for most of the monthj mowing several acres of lawn. The only gardening I intend to do will be in the last week so I can return with a car full of plums from his trees.

An exchange also gives one an opportunity to undertake helpful improvements in another's home. I have discovered that my colleague's library is carefully organised with books according to subject and then author. On his return he will find a new system in operation: they will be ordered according to size and colour. The poor man also naively thought I would never discover his stock of claret in the cellars; it will be much depleted on his return – although I shall naturally leave a note thanking him profusely for laying in such a splendid present for my visit.

Ministering to someone else's congregation can create another opportunity. For one month in the year, you are able to say exactly what you want. If a dear lady should be foolish enough to ask you after Mattins what you think of her hat, you can tell her with total honesty, knowing that someone else will have to pour oil the following month. Upsetting organists, choristers, vergers, flower arrangers and anyone else who happens to cross your path can be bracingly therapeutic when you do not have to face the consequences.

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READINGS FOR SUNDAYS in SEPTEMBER 2023 - YEAR A

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|---------------------------|---|--|
| September 3 Proper 17 | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Jeremiah 15.15-21 26.1-8 Romans 12.9-21 Matthew 16.21-28 |
| September 10 Proper 18 | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Ezekiel 33.7-11 119.33-40 Romans 13.8-14 Matthew 18.15-20 |
| September 17 Proper19 | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Genesis 50.15-21 103.(1-7), 8-13 Romans 14.1-12 Matthew 18.21-35 |
| September 24 Proper 20 | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Jonah 3.10 – 4.11 145.1-8 Philippians 1.21-30 Matthew 20.1-16 |
| October 1 Proper 21 | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Ezekiel 18. 1-4, 25-32 25. 1-9 Philippians 2. 1-13 Matthew 21.23-32 |



Come, let us bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker
(Psalm 95 : 6)

a day to remember ...

Jean-Baptiste Vianney (1786-1859)

Jean-Baptiste Vianny was born at Dardilly near Lyon in 1786, the son of a peasant farmer. With little education as a child, he worked as a shepherd before training for the priesthood. His training lasted nine years due, it is said, to his inability to learn Latin and because he spent over a year in hiding to avoid being conscripted into Napoleon's army. He was eventually ordained in 1815, the Bishop of Grenoble having decided that Vianney's zeal and devotion compensated for his lack of academic qualifications. After a curacy at Ecully, he was sent in 1818 as *curé* (parish priest) to the small village of Ars-en-Dombes near Lyon, where he remained for 40 years, becoming known simply as the 'Curé d'Ars'.

Vianney soon proved that the best parish priests are not always those who are the best academic theologians. He came to be regarded as both an excellent preacher and an outstanding confessor and counsellor. Indeed, spiritual direction was his particular gift to the extent that at one stage of his ministry he was spending up to 16 hours a day hearing confessions. Whether he displayed charismatic gifts or just psychological insights, he nevertheless had the ability to discern the real issues that were on people's minds and the real causes of their problems. Consequently his fame spread and thousands (20,000 in 1855) beat a path to Ars-en-Dombes, some travelling hundreds of miles. Both the rich and the poor, the famous and the unknown came to hear him preach and to receive his spiritual direction and ministry of healing. Vianney's daily routine was to preach at 11.00am and then spend the remainder of the day hearing confessions, sometimes from up to three hundred people a day.

Such a schedule could not be other than exhausting. Three times he attempted to resign and retire to a monastery, but each time he felt bound to return to deal with the needs of his people. He died, still at work in his parish, on 4 August 1859 at the age of 73. Famous far beyond his parish, Vianney was also respected by those who did not share his Roman Catholicism. The story is told that, when in vigorous debate with a Protestant peasant woman in his village, he asked her, "Where was your Church before the Reformation?" She promptly replied, in the hearts of people like you."

the day we remember Jean-Baptiste Vianney is 4th August

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Here are some fascinating facts about the 1500s....

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to cover the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a bath tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the sons, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to stay warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying 'It's raining cats and dogs'.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor", but worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't afford to buy a pot... hence "wouldn't have a pot to piss in".

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way to stop this. Hence a threshold.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon". They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or the 'upper crust'.

When burying places ran out, they dug up graves to reuse. They sometimes discovered scratch marks on coffins and realised they buried some people alive, so they would tie a string on the wrist of the dead person, lead it up through the ground and tie it to a bell to hear. Hence 'saved by the bell'.

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Are you a newcomer to St. John's ?
and to the Diocese in Europe?

We are seeing a large increase in our congregation and are so pleased to meet you all and welcome you to services in our newly restored church. Would you like to know more about us?

As you probably know, St. John's was built in record time between 1867 – 1868, in a typically English Neo-Gothic style. Its Architect was John Charles Traylen from England and the Foundation Stone was laid on 13 April 1867 by Mary Jane Forbes. The church opened on 18th February 1868 in the presence of the Bishop of Gibraltar.

English churches and congregations have been established on the European continent since before the Reformation in the 16th century. The Diocese in Europe was created in 1980, when the Diocese of Gibraltar in the south was combined with chaplaincies in the north. These had been under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Fulham on behalf of the Bishop of London. The cathedral remains in Gibraltar, with pro-cathedrals in Malta and Brussels. The diocesan office is in London, but the Bishop in Europe, the Rt. Revd. Robert Innes, lives and works in Brussels.

The Diocese in Europe is the largest of the 42 dioceses in the Church of England. There are over 250 congregations in more than 30 countries across continental Europe, Turkey, Morocco and Russia. Being the Church of England outside England we minister to those in Europe who have English as either a first or second language. Being both 'Catholic' and 'Reformed' we bridge the Reformation divide. We sustain a huge range of Ecumenical friendships.

Being on the border with Italy, St. John's church contains some Italian influence; the mosaics, the granite font, and the pews from northern Italy which replaced chairs not long before subsidence of the church on 13th October 2010 caused its closure for restoration. It reopened on Sunday 12th July 2020 and had its rededication service on 21 November 2021 in the presence of the Bishop in Europe, the Rt. Revd. Robert Innes.

Sadly the church no longer has its West Porch - we enter straight into the nave - but it has gained a separate library building and other amenities inside the

church. After many difficulties it has been beautifully restored, as you see.

We are also pleased to say we now have a chaplain once again, the Revd. Chris Parkman who was installed on 7th November 2022 by The Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, Archdeacon for France, Monaco & Switzerland. Chris and his wife Sarah work with Arocha, the Christian environmental conservation organisation at their French community at Les Courmettes - near Nice.

We look forward to seeing you again. If you would like to receive the online newsletters from the church and the library, please let me know.

See: Diocese in Europe website: europe.anglican.org
St. John's website: www.anglicanchurchmenton.com

Elizabeth Cordone - eacordone@gmail.com



Early Morning

In the quiet of early morning
As a new day is unfurled,
It's a privilege to sit and gaze
At the beauty of God's world.

The golden rays of sunshine
The grandeur of the trees,
The nodding of the flowers
In the gentle morning breeze.

A carefully woven tapestry
With joy in every strand,
A vision of sheer loveliness
Created by a master hand.

Colin Hammacott

