

**St. John's Anglican Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton**  
Postal Address: 2 Avenue Pigautier, 06500 Menton, France  
website: [www.anglicanchurchmenton.com](http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com)  
email: [anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanchurch.menton@gmail.com)

**Eucharist every Sunday at 10.30am**

**Priest-in-charge: The Revd. Chris Parkman** tel: #33 (0)6 51 52 50 49  
email:- [rev.chris.parkman@gmail.com](mailto:rev.chris.parkman@gmail.com)

Churchwarden: Carolyn Hanbury [hanbury,carolyn@gmail.com](mailto:hanbury,carolyn@gmail.com)

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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](mailto: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>

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**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](http://www.anglicanchurchgenoa.org)

**CROSS BORDER NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 2023**

**ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON**

**EUCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**  
**Celebrant: The Rev. Chris Parkman**

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**ADVENT to CHRISTMAS**

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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](mailto: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**

**READINGS for SERVICES in DECEMBER 2023 – YEAR B**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| December 3<br>ADVENT SUNDAY<br>Purple                                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel    | Isaiah 64. 1-9<br>80. 1-7, 18-19<br>1 Corinthians 1. 3-9<br>Mark 13. 24-37               |
| December 10<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> of Advent<br>Purple                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel    | Isaiah 40. 1-11<br>85. 1-2, 8-13<br>2 Peter 3. 8-15a<br>Mark 1. 1-8                      |
| December 17<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent<br>Purple<br>ALL-AGE Christingle | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Canticle<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel | Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11<br>Luke 1. 46b-55<br>1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24<br>John 1. 6-8, 19-28 |
| December 24<br>Purple<br>4 <sup>th</sup> of Advent                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel    | 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16<br>89. 1-8<br>Romans 16. 25-end<br>Luke 1. 26-38                    |
| December 25<br>CHRISTMAS DAY<br>White/Gold                                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel    | Isaiah 52. 7-10<br>98<br>Hebrews 1. 1-4<br>John 1. 1-14                                  |
| December 31<br>CHRISTMAS 1<br>White/Gold                                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Psalm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>Gospel    | Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3<br>148<br>Galatians 4. 4-7<br>Luke 2. 15-21                          |

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**BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS  
arrangements may be made by contacting the chaplain**

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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.

*Reflections from our chaplain Chris .....*

**'Living in hope'**

Advent is a season of hope. We remember the hope 2,000 years ago as Mary, Joseph and others started to realise what might be about to happen through the birth of a child, Jesus. We celebrate that time in history, and also look o live it today, in hopeful expectation that God is bringing in a new kingdom.

What does it mean live a hopeful life? Richard Bauckham, a thologian who has written much on the theme of hope, writes, 'if we live in hope, a hope shaped decisively by the imaginative resources of scripture , invested in the God who raised Jesus from death and loves life, and open to the boundless possibilities of the Holy Spirit is the domain of the future, then we shall truly **be** the church in a way that the church has often not been.

What does that mean for us, here at St. John's Menton? It has already been a year since we arrived at St. John's. How the time has flown! As I look back over the year, moments and reflections that have inspired me with hopefulness spring to mind.

There is the faithful commitment of the council and other core members of the church who 'gritted it out' and saw the church through the time of building closure, renovations, and brought us to where we are today. There are the positive comments from visitors after our Sunday services who comment on the warmth and inspiration they have experienced. There are the diverse and fascinating conversations and interactions I have had in the Library, at ervents and during opening hours, with the various people who pass by. There are the more personal moments when people share how they are feeling encouraged in their journey of faith, even if life is not always easy. There are times when we have specifically welcomed the children and young families to our services, which have reminded me what a gift it is to experience all age community.And the good news of a community compost initiative launched near the church where we can take our compost!

They are not the only examples. Some of these might seem trivial, too small to mention But added up, they give me a sense of hope. And the world needs hope. May we all find hope in this Advent season!

Chris.

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**Poppy Appeal** Elaine Dempster Baverstock, Vice-Chairman, has given thanks for 195€ donated to the Royal British Legion, Monaco Nice Branch, at the Remembrance Service in the British & Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery Bordighera on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**

on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 17h00

with The Revd. Chris Parkman  
and Monsieur Benjamin Prischi - organist.

Christmas Refreshments following the service

TELL THE WORLD! - BRING YOUR FRIENDS!  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

**EVENTS IN CHURCH**

In association with Les Amis du Festival de Musique de Menton  
and the St. John's Library

**a Jazz Concert - Soul Station**

**Friday 01 December at 18h30**

**20€ Tickets at door**

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**a Classical Concert - Noël Enchante**

**Tenor and Accordion**

**Friday 15 December at 18h30**

**20€ Tickets at door or online**

**IF**  
**FOR CHRISTMAS**

With apologies to Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you are rushing helter-skelter  
Christmas shopping,

If you get through the Festive Yuletide season of eggnog party-going without  
dropping,

If you can wait, and not be tired of waiting – and choose a tree that's not too  
large or small,

And, having put it up, can make the lights light, and never break a single  
Christmas ball.

If you can think of favourite colours, sizes, what you sent last year, and what  
you got,

If you can get your presents wrapped, delivered, your cards addressed, and in  
the proper slot,

If you can get all this accomplished and still be bright and full of Christmas  
cheer,

Then you deserve to have a Merry Christmas, and  
lots of time to rest up all next year.

Anon.

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CHRISTMAS  
IS  
LOVE

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*Our Financial situation at St. John's should be well known by now. It was on the Agenda at the AGM; our treasurer Bob Edwards spoke about it in church as did Chris in two of his sermons on Generosity. The following article is on our website and now in the Cross Border for all to read and think on and do :*

## Season of Generosity

### HELP SUPPORT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

#### **Where we are**

After years of building works and a sense of being 'on the road' for St. John's, we are now where we feel called to be: back in our own building and with a growing church community and presence!

In 2022, we,

- Completed the building works
- Appointed our new priest
- Completed renovations on the church flat
- Provided regular Sunday worship in the church, beautifully enhanced by the use of the new organ
- Hosted various events in the church and enabled the St. John's English Library to flourish in our own buildings with its own events and meetings
- Enabled various groups to use the church buildings
- Paid the bills!

Thanks to the generosity of our church members and the wider community, we have come a long way!

Now, for the first time in years, for 2023 we have a budget which reflects our 'post building context'.

#### **Our Budget for 2023**

Based on past experience, our 2023 budget is 39K€ however we anticipate our expenses to be around 66K€.

The reality of our budget shows that we are operating an annual **deficit of around 27K€**. Our reserves are around 110K€.

If we change nothing, we will have run out of money in around four years. We want to change this in the coming years for the church to continue to survive and strive. We trust and pray that with everyone's help, we can! (5)

For example, (and ignoring any additional tax advantages, noted below):

- If 10 people each gave 20€ per week more, that would raise an additional 20,000€.
- If 50 people each gave 10€ more each week, that would wipe out the deficit!

#### **Where we are going**

As an English-speaking Anglican church in the heart of Menton, we are a friendly community of different nationalities, seeking to know, live and proclaim God's love in Menton and the surrounding areas. We aspire to welcome everyone as they are, and seek to be a place where everyone – no matter where they are on the journey of faith – can find friendship and support. We are blessed with our wonderful committed church community, and want to grow both in depth and numbers. We want to reach out and become ever more welcoming, faithful, inspiring, hopeful and joyful. But to do this we need over time to be able to balance our budgets!

We are asking you to consider and review your giving as we work towards making our finances more sustainable for the long-term

#### **How you can help**

'We love because God first loved us'. 1 John 4.19

Generosity and giving is a fundamental marker of Christian spirituality. We are called to give from a sense of abundance, knowing that we already have received the gift of life ourselves.

**A famous prayer of St. Francis says**

**'It is in giving that we receive'**

We all have different circumstances and we all different gifts. Giving is not just a matter of giving our money; it is about giving of ourselves, our time and our energy. Each of us is called to discern what the right balance is in each of our lives. But we are all called to give!

Historically, the church has often taught the biblical principle of tithing, suggesting people give 10% of their income. Of course, we might want to give to many charities and initiatives. We are also so different, with such different circumstances, so it is not appropriate to be too legalistic in our thinking. Fundamentally, we are called to give! **Details on how to give are below.**

(6)

Here are some principles that might help:

- Generosity is part of our faith and our giving should come from a sense of abundance.
- Our giving needs to be realistic about the needs of our church community life.
- Our giving needs to be planned so that we balance appropriately the needs of our families and loved ones, our communities, and ourselves.
- We are not all called to give the same amount. Within the church community there should be a sense of equally shared sacrifice: those with more can afford to give more; those with less can give less!

### How to respond.

Please prayerfully consider your giving over this month, and let us know what you are able to give now and over the next year. We understand we each have different calls on our finances, and we want to be sensitive to everyone's circumstances.

Once you are ready to respond, please contact our treasurer Bob Edwards either in church or by email, to tell him of any gift you will be making and Bob can provide more details as needed. The information will be completely confidential to Bob.

bob.edwards@live.co.uk,

### Tax efficient giving

If your donation (one-off, or regular payment) is by bank transfer (rather than anonymously into the basket), it is traceable and tax benefits are available.

If you are a **French tax payer**, your gift will lead to a significant reduction on your tax bill, so you could consider giving more!

If you want to set up a regular payment or a one-off donation in Euros

| IBAN                               | BIC         |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| FR76 14060 7003 0360 2388 6823 343 | CCBPFRBPMAR |

| Code Banque                                   | Code guichet | No. de compte | Clé RIB | Domiciliation                      |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 14607   | 00303        | 60238868233   | 43      | 31 Ave.Felix Faure<br>06500 Menton |
| Titulaire du comte: ASS NDEC ST JOHN S CHURCH |              |               |         | 31 Ave. Carnot<br>06500 Menton     |

(7)

**what to do:** Tell Bob the amount you plan to give and how often  
Bob will issue you a receipt at the end of the year for your total annual amount given

**If you are a French Tax payer** You can enjoy a tax eeduction of 66% of the amount you donate, up to a maximum of 20% of your taxable income. When you give three times more, it costs you nothing! e.g.

| you want to give ... | give instead.... | Tax reimbursement |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 30€                  | 90€              | 89€               |
| 100€                 | 300€             | 198€              |

**If you are a British Tax payer** the church can claim back Gift Aid on your GBP gift, increasing its value to the church.

**If you want to set up a regular payment or a one-off donation in UK Pounds**

| Account name               | Account no. | Sort code | Enter in Payment Reference |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| The Diocese in Europe Fund | 4031 7039   | 20-06-13  | St John's Menton           |

**what to do:** Tell Bob the amount you plan to give and how often  
Bob will issue you a receipt at the end of the year for your total annual amount given

**If you are a UK Tax payer** Complete the UK Gift Aid form (Bob can supply you with that)  
Bob can claim the basic rate of tax on your gift for the church (25% value of your gift). Higher rate Tax payers can claim back the difference between the basic and higher rate

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Bob, Chris or a member of Council.

bob.edwards@live.co.uk +44 7796 330370

rev.chris.parkman@gmail.com

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In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men  
The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

(From John 1.1-5)

(8)

**THE BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2023**  
**ANGLICAN COMMON FUND - SOUTH ASIA**

**Supporting women in Pakistan and South India,  
addressing violence, discrimination, and poverty.**

**Donate to make a difference**

As the Diocese in and for Europe, we are deeply aware of our international context; perhaps we're also well-placed, then, to think internationally, outside Europe itself. I'm delighted to say we will be supporting this Advent the Anglican Common Fund of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It exists to make small investments across the church; in the right hands, these can have great impact.

The focus of this year's work is South Asia, with which I now myself feel a special link, after my sabbatical in that part of the world in early 2023.

**Pakistan** The Bishop's wife in the Diocese of Sialkot, in Punjab Province, is leading and teaching women about their rights and protection for them to pass on to young women. Sessions on the law of Pakistan educate women about domestic violence and harassment; girls are given strength and confidence to recognise the protection they need.

**The Church of South India** is starting a programme for young women aged 18 to 28, particularly in rural areas, to study home care nursing and health care. After completing a basic course, some will go on to higher level training and others will work in some of the CSI Mission hospitals.

**Hpa-An Diocese** A grant from the the church to purchase and distribute rice – both to Christian families and to the very poor of other faiths, feeding the hungry and serving as a witness to God's love in this area touched by conflict, natural disaster and other maladies.

Yours sincerely in Christ, + Robert Gibraltar in Europe  
(complete appeal article on the Diocesan website: [europe.anglican.org](http://europe.anglican.org))

**A REQUEST**

Male parishioner of St. John's based in UK, aged 69, seeks a furnished room to rent, preferably in Menton, for about a month each year at a mutually convenient time.

Please contact Chris: Telephone - +44 (0) 780 380 6887  
email - christopherhuband@yahoo.co.uk

**January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany**, when we remember the Three Wise Men, who followed the Star, bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus ..... Simon, thinking of his mother, told his teacher,

THREE WISE WOMEN would have:

asked directions  
arrived on time  
helped deliver the baby  
cleaned the stable  
made a casserole  
and brought the gift of nappies

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**THANK YOU** to all who have contributed in any way to the Cross Border.

**MAY ALL OUR READERS  
HAVE A JOYFUL and PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS**

**and A HAPPY HEALTHY 2024 !**

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**A Blessing**

At the beginning, at the end, at this moment in between,  
in these best and worst times:  
Now is the time in which God heals  
Now is the time in which Christ comes.  
May the life of the Christ child given for this broken, yet  
beautiful world  
be born anew this day  
and the blessing of God:  
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of Life  
be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen**