

READINGS for SERVICES in MAY 2024 - YEAR B

5 th May Easter 6 White	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 10. 44 to end 98 1 John 5. 1-6 John 15. 9-17
12 th May Easter 7 White	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Acts 1.15-17, 21 to end 1 1 John 5. 9-13 John 17. 6-19
19 th May Pentecost Red	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Ezekiel 37. 1-14 104. 24-34 Acts 2. 1-21 John 15. 26-27; 16. 4b-16
26 th May Trinity Sunday White	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 6. 1-8 29 Romans 8. 12-17 John 3. 1-17

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

The Church of EnglnD 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.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Fr. Anthony Ingham We are sorry to share that Father Tony Ingham, chaplain of St. Michael's church of Beaulieu-Sur-Mer has died. He passed away at his home in Beaulieu on 15 April 2024.

Please see obituaries by the Venerable Dr. Peter Hooper, Archdeacon for France, and Father Hugh Bearn, Chaplain of Monaco, on the Diocesan website:

europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/obituary-father-tony-ingham

We hold Tony's wife Fiona and the community at St. Michael's in our prayers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory

Earth Day 2024 - L'opération 'Nettoyons Le Sud' Earth Day is one of the most important days regarding the environment celebrated by the United Nations on 22nd April every year. This year's theme was reducing plastic from the planet.

Members of St. John's joined several of the community of Menton on Saturday 20th to do their bit locally by clearing up the beaches and squares and more in the above operation. Make a date to join your locality next year in this important work or pick up rubbish wherever you are every day of your life and either recycle or put it in the appropriate bins.

Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer Mrs Jacqueline James has been appointed the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer for St. John's. Bishop Robert stated in the Diocesan website when writing of Safeguarding that “the church is as safe and nurturing a place as it can possibly be for the sake of children, vulnerable adults and indeed all people” and” I am profoundly grateful for the work of Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officers, which is freely given and often hard. Thank you!”.

Bishop Robert asks us all to “keep in our hearts and prayers all those involved in and affected by safeguarding”.

Before the AGM on 21/04/2024

Immediately after the Eucharist, our Chaplain Chris informed the people present that Mrs Valerie Aucouturier was stepping down from the church Council which she had served faithfully for 25 years. On behalf of the community our churchwarden, Mrs Carolyn Hanbury, gave Valerie a bouquet of flowers and thanked Valerie for her work on the council as well as having been churchwarden for several years too. Carolyn said she had learnt such a lot from Valerie and she would be sorely missed However Carolyn was pleased to add that Valerie would continue as Sacristan. Mr George Owen, accompanied by Mons. Benjamin Prischi on the piano, then sang a favourite song of Valerie – *Rose of England* . It was a lovely way to thank her for all she does in the church.

Have you heard about Jacqueline James's new adventure and her hope to raise money for the maintenance of our church and library? Read on and support her in her enterprise.....

In May 2024, I will be embarking on a walk along the Camino Santiago de Compostela, covering a distance of 149km from Caminha in Portugal to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The walk is a personal challenge but along the way, I wish to raise money for St. John's English Church, Menton and am hoping that people will sponsor me as a means of encouragement.

Moving to France has been an adventure filled with new experiences and challenges. However the warm welcome and supportive community at St. John's Church have made all the difference.

All donations will be used to maintain the fabric of this beautiful building. The upkeep of the church, and attached Library, relies solely on peoples' generosity.

I have a Just Giving Page if you wish to donate in £
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jacqueline-james-1707236714053>

Donations in euros can be made directly to the church by bank transfer, cash or cheque payable to Diocese in Europe, St. John's Church.



A poem to accompany Jacqueline

Just one step can start a journey,
Just one step is all it takes,
Just one match can set a lantern
burning brightly till morning breaks.
Just one voice can launch an anthem,
start a song that never ends,
Just one smile can bridge a silence,
turning strangers into friends.
Just one deed of simple trusting
sometimes very hard can seem,
Don't despair; for just one footstep
leads the way to find your dream.

(Margaret Ingall) (3)

A Reflection from our chaplain Chris

“Take off your sandals, for you are on Holy ground!” Joshua 5.15)

As many of you know, I ended up preaching at my father's funeral recently. I say 'ended up' because years ago, when I heard of someone who preached at his father's funeral, I was horrified! How could anyone have the capacity to preach at the funeral of such a close, loved one. But in the moment, as my family discussed how we would like the funeral to be, it seemed natural that my brother and sister took the lead on giving the eulogy, and I give the sermon.

The task was made easier by the fact that Dad had marked his favourite Bible passage; Joshua 5.13-end. We knew I had to preach on that! Joshua, the recently appointed leader of the Israelites after the death of Moses – is near Jerico, a well defended fortress town. Joshua is leader of a ramshackle bunch of people looking to settle in the land and is probably on edge as he meets anyone; are they friend or foe? He asks this person whom he meets -'an angel' – whose side is he on. The answer comes back: 'Neither! But as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come. Take off your sandals for you are on holy ground!'

As I reflected on these words and why they would have meant so much to Dad, I realised Dad had first read them at an anxiety-filled time of his life. I am sure Joshua was anxious too - newly appointed, in potential danger, maybe feeling the weight of people's expectations, not yet having fought a battle. In moments of anxiety, we often want to know the clear answer. Most often it does not come.

The clear answer doesn't come for Joshua. Instead, he is drawn into a bigger story: the ground is holy! Holy means wildly good and beyond our imagination and control.

So often, my day to day worries and challenges seem the 'main' thing that is going on for me. This story reminded me: 'they aren't!' The main thing is this: I am standing on holy ground. Every encounter is an opportunity to meet holiness. Every part of creation is holy. Every moment has holy possibilities. May we know this is so.

Blessings
Chris

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 21st APRIL 2024

St. John's Chaplain, Revd. Chris Parkman, welcomed all the people present and opened the Meeting with a prayer.

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM of 14th April 2023 were handed round. Mr. George Owen proposed and Mr. Robert Edwards seconded and they were confirmed correct.

Reports were then heard from Chaplain Chris Parkman, Churchwarden Mrs Carolyn Hanbury, Treasurer Mr Robert Edwards and Communications Officer Mrs Suzanne Prince.

2023 has been a year of growth in all aspects of our church life. The Reports acknowledged with many thanks the increase in;- weekly attendance, families, the support and generosity in the community as a whole, the large number of volunteers taking on responsibility themselves, week by week, giving their time, energy and expertise to help the church function in many ways. Chris spoke of our spiritual depth that comes from the grace of God and asked us to please thank God for these encouraging signs and to remember our first call is to be faithful.

Although our financial position is in deficit there was a positive response to the problem arising directly from the Season of Generosity launched in October 2023 – still a deficit but a much brighter outlook than last year. The church continues to work closely with St. John's Library which arranges a variety of events, concerts, exhibitions, social activities throughout the year and from which they are able to donate money to the church. It is much appreciated.

The website and email list keeps the church in touch with the wider community. And the marketing of events taking place in church or Library ensure us to be part of the greater community of Menton.

Chris had brought to our attention the 'Mission of our Church' to reflect on at home from time to time. It had been arrived at by our Council reflecting on our ideas and hopes for the future which we had been asked for at last year's AGM.

There are Five Values we aspire to live by:-

Welcoming – Faithful – Inspiring – Hopeful - Joyful.

Elections of the Churchwarden and Council then took place. Sadly Madame Valerie Aucouturier stood down from the Council. The re-elected council are: Mr George Owen, Mr Robert Edwards, and Mrs Suzanne Prince .

Mrs Carolyn Hanbury was re-elected churchwarden and, led by our Chaplain Chris, she made her promise. The AGM ended with a prayer and blessing. (5)

GOD in MUSIC

'The trumpet will sound ... and we shall be changed'

TQ - Tingle Quotient: is an expression used to describe the effect music has on us. It could be a chord of music on the organ, a melody on the violin, the sound of voices singing, or the trumpet sounding. St. Paul wrote that when the trumpet does sound, we shall be changed. He was describing the resurrection of the dead, but we know music has that power to transform us here on earth. It can send a kind of tingle or a shjiver of excitement up and down the spine. What us called the Tingle Quotient.

It is not just music that produces this effect. It could be the sight of a sunset at sea or the beauty of a building or a painting. What we look at or hear has an almost physical effect on us. Something sublime unfolds before us, producing wonder and amazement, delight and a hint of glory. Music epecially has this power. It can make the paradox of life meaningful and tolerable, particularly when we face tragedy and suffering. Nietzsche wrote, 'Life without music would be a mistake.' Music opens out for us a world of beauty and sound. St. Thomas Aquinas said that it 'bursts forth in sound from things eternal and exalts the mind.'

Henry Purcell was born in London in 1659 and died just 36 years later in 1695. His obituary in the Flying-Post proclaimed him as 'one of the most celebrated masters of the service of music in the kingdom, and scarce inferior to any in Europe.' His epitaph in Westminster Abbey reads, 'Here lyes Henry Purcell Esqre, who left this Lyfe and is gone to that Blessed Place where only his Harmony can be exceeded.'

I should imagine that most of us will know his hymn tune Westminster Abbey; a majestic, but buoyant and harmonically exciting setting for the words : 'Christ is made the sure foundation.' As the melody moves from bar to bar, it can produce that tingle down the spine.

For me that TQ came when I heard Dame Janet Baker singing 'When I am laid in earth' in his opera, 'Dido and Aeneas,' a work first performed at Mr Josias Priest's Boarding School for Girls in 1689. Purcell's wonderful music overcame the limitations of the libretto, and this final aria rings out with great power and beauty. 'Remember me' the Queen of Carthage sings. It is because of the beauty and grace of all his music that we remember and give thanks for Henry Purcell.

(by The Revd. Michael Burgess looking at Great Works of Music)

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THE ARRIVAL OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME

MARSEILLE - 8-9 MAY 2024

Our Chaplain Chris has received a message from All Saints Chaplaincy in Marseille as follows:

The Olympic Flame will be travelling to France aboard the three-masted ship, the Belem, arriving in Marseille on Wednesday 8th May. The arrival will be marked by a naval parade, fireworks, a concert – and an ecumenical service in which the local Anglican chaplaincy of All Saints will be participating.

On Ascension Day, Thursday 9th May, the Olympic Torch Relay will begin at 8.30am from the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde, an iconic landmark of Marseille. The torch will pass through various locations in the city, concluding at the Velodrome Stadium (another landmark of Marseille) in the afternoon.

All Saints are planning to hold an Ascension Day service at 11.00am, followed by a picnic or lunch at the church depending on the weather, and will also be cheering the Olympic flame along its route.

They would be delighted if members of other congregations along the coast would like to join them for this unique occasion.

Please contact Chris if you are interested and require more information

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**Words 'out of date' lost their use - but fun to use .....**

**apricity** - n. the warmth of the sun in winter. Ex. my cat enjoys napping by the window even in cold months because of the '**apricity**'

**frigorific** - adj. Chilling, causing cold. Ex. The '**frigorific**' blast of wind left me chilled to the bone.

**Fudgel** - verb pretending to work Ex. Our boss blocked access to Facebook out of suspicion we were '**fudgeling**'

**gorganize** - verb to have a paralysing or mesmerizing effect. Ex. Her sudden appearance '**gorganzed**' the crowd leaving them awestruck

**jirble** - verb. To pour carelessly

**quidnune** - n. an inquisitive, gossipy person. Ex. You can't tell him anything personal because he is such a '**quidnune**' (7)

## P E N T E C O S T

by Roger Roberts

Nine days after the Ascension of Jesus, and 49 days after his crucifixion, the Jews were doing what they always did this time of year, preparing for the Feast of Ingathering, or Harvest. It was held 50 days after the Passover, and with it, life in Israel looked set to return to normal, with Jesus well on the way to becoming just a memory.

So no one paid any attention to a small group of Jesus' disciples who had gathered in a house in Jerusalem. There were only about 120 of them, and they were quiet and kept to themselves. The Jews, if they thought about it at all, would have assumed they were still grieving their lost leader. But the disciples far from grieving Jesus' death, were eagerly awaiting for him to send them a present.....Though they did not understand exactly what it might be.

All they knew was that Jesus was alive, and that before he had ascended to heaven, he had told them to go to Jerusalem and wait there together for "the gift my father has promised" (Acts 1:4) He had said: "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24.49)

These disciples, though they did not know it then, were already acting as the future church – the ecclesia, which literally means 'called-out ones'. For those disciples stuck together, together they waited for God's blessing.

As with them, so with us today: even though each conversion is intensely personal, we are not converted to be alone in our faith. Far from it! We are not saved to solitude, but to a life in the fellowship of the Church. Jesus has ordained that his followers, TOGETHER, be his family on earth, his witness to the world.

But it has never been a family built on likeness – the believers in the house that day came from very different backgrounds – from right-wing conservatists (Matthew) to radical left-wing zealots (Simon). There were some straight-forward fishermen and even women, for good measure. From the day of its birth, Jesus' family would include all kinds of people who would find their unity in him.

The first thing the disciples did was to get down to the business of praying. They did not try and unite themselves by long discussions with each other. It was the "joining together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14) that brought them together.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century London pastor F.B.Meyer expressed well what awaited those disciples. "The task that awaited that little group was one of unparalleled difficulty..... They were to disciple all nations, speaking different languages, scattered from the Atlantic to the Far East..... They were to substitute Christianity for paganism, as the foundation of a new type of civilization.... In fact, humanly speaking and without exaggeration, it depended on that tiny group of unknown (8)

ordinary men and women, whether the Incarnation and Death, the Resurrection and Ascension, of the Son of God would obtain the audience and acceptance of mankind.”

Today the Christian Church faces the same challenge – of making Christ known. We can do “business as usual” in our strength and by our resources. But great manifestations of God's saving, healing and restoring power come only as God's people “stay for the spirit” and “wait for the gift” as Jesus commanded (Luke 25:49; Acts 1:4)

Each of us would do well to “ask, seek and knock” for God's fullness day by day, if we are to enjoy his full anointing of power on our lives and ministry. We all 'leak', and need the continual infilling that comes from abiding, persistent prayer.

It was out of the context of prayer that this incipient church in Jerusalem was preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. For God's fullness in our lives and awakening in our church today we must believe that he is able and willing to fulfill his highest purpose for us. He wants to give us his “good gifts”, namely, his Holy Spirit in fullness.

That day in Jerusalem, when the Holy Spirit arrived in all his fullness, Peter stood up and preached the first ever Christian sermon to the astonished Jews in the city. So – the Jesus their rulers had crucified at Passover was not dead after all! That Jesus WAS the Messiah, and he was alive! 3,000 were converted that same day. In the power of the Spirit, the Church was born – and growing fast!

*Roger Roberts was former senior pastor of International Baptist Church in Brussels from November 2003 to September 2012 when he retired and returned to USA. This article was printed in The Beacon in May 2008)*

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Travelling.....

“People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains,
at the huge waves of the seas,
at the long course of the rivers,
at the vast compass of the ocean,
at the circular motion of the stars,
and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.”

(St. Augustine)

(Barbara Corry, thinking about the world today, suggested this to ponder)

Hymn N° 509 from our hymn book ' Complete Mission Praise'

O Lord, the clouds are gathering

the fire of judgement burns.

How we have fallen!

O Lord, You stand appalled to see Your laws of love so scorned
and lives so broken.

*Have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord
Forgive us, Lord, Forgive us, Lord.
Restore us, Lord; revive Your Church again.
Let justice flow; let justice flow,
like rivers, like rivers;
and righteousness; like a never-failing stream.*

O Lord, over the nations now, where is the dove of peace?
Her wings are broken, O Lord, while precious children starve,
the tools of war increase, their bread is stolen

Have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord

O Lord, dark powers are poised to flood our streets with hate and fear,
We must awaken!

O Lord, let love reclaim the lives that sin would sweep away,
and let Your kingdom come!

Have mercy, Lord, have mercy Lord

Yet, O Lord, Your glorious cross shall tower triumphant in this land,
evil confounding;
through the fire, Your suffering Church display the glories of her Christ,
praises resounding.

Have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord

A never-failing stream.

(Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)