



**READINGS for SERVICES in JUNE 2024 - YEAR B**

June 2 1 <sup>st</sup> after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Deuteronomy 5.12-15 81.1-10 2 Corinthians 4. 5-12 Mark 2.23 - 3.6
June 9 2 <sup>nd</sup> after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Genesis 3.8-15 130 2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1 Mark 3.20-35
June 16 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> after Trinity All Age service Theme - Peace-making Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Readings to be decided
June 23 4 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Job 38.1-11 7.1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-end
June 30 5 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Lamentations 3.23-33 30 2 Corinthians 8.7-end Mark 5.21-end

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

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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.

**Reflection from our chaplain Chris .....**

***Summertime***

Here in Menton, the seasons feel that they have moved on as we approach June and 'midsummer'. People are back in numbers lying on the beach. Tourists are here for the Grand Prix in Monaco and the Cannes Film Festival. The trees are fully green and leafy, the sun strong.

Summer in Church life is often a time to breathe, take a pause, maybe some holiday, and start looking ahead to September and plans for the rentrée and beyond. And it arrives after Pentecost which closes the 'intensity' of Lent and Easter and marks the start of 'Ordinary Time' in the church calendar.

Pentecost is a call to think about our communal life. The Spirit descended such that people found themselves speaking languages they could not understand and which could only be understood by others around them. Galileans might be speaking Parthian, and it took one of the Parthians present to tell them what they were talking about! What this showed was a diversity – of cultures, languages – drawn together into a strange new unity.

Immediately after Pentecost comes Trinity Sunday, the start of Ordinary time. The doctrine of the Trinity is also a call to community but still with the distinctive elements of each 'Person' of the Trinity – God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

I have been thinking quite a lot about building good community recently. Last month we had a concert raising money for children affected by the Gaza crisis: that made me think about peace-making. The Olympic flame arrived in Marseilles on its journey to Paris: the Olympics aspire, at their best, to bring athletes from all over the world achieving brilliance in a spirit of global community.

So I am looking forward to summer as we grow deeper in community together. We'll be having *St. John's on the Beach* – invite your friends, bring your favourite drink and join us for informal gatherings on the beach on the first Wednesday evening of the month throughout summer – starting June 5<sup>th</sup>! And an All Age service as we approach the end of the school year on June 16<sup>th</sup>, with a focus on 'peace-making'.

I'm looking forward to seeing each of you through the summer – wherever, whenever!

Blessings,  
Chris

**NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS**

**New Feature on the website** Since the beginning of May it is possible to read the Sunday sermons, given by our chaplain Chris each week, on the church website: <https://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com> - click 'Download Sunday Sermon'

**New LVS representative** Edwin Gould replaces Ennis Cardew as the other LVS representative with Béatrice Fratini.

**St. John's Jazz - Friday 7 June 2024 at 18.30** in the church  
Manu Carré et Ben Prischi 4TET. Adults 15€ children/students 10€

**Concert – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 18.00** St. John's church will be hosting a concert given by: Ensemble Vocal 'Cant C'a Grana' who will be singing a selection of music from different parts of the world.  
Free entry: a collection will be taken in aid of St. John's church.

**Council Meeting** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 16h30

**Canon Tony Dickinson** has retired as chaplain of Holy Trinity Anglican church Genoa and returned to the UK. Before leaving he launched his new book '**Pearls of Life: A Life-belt for the Spirit**'. In 1996 Bishop Martin Lönnebo (1930-2023) recently retired after fifteen years as Lutheran Bishop of Linköping in Sweden, was exploring the Aegean when his boat was overtaken by a storm and he and his fellow passengers had to take refuge on a tiny island with a single guest house. While the storm blew itself out Bishop Martin set about designing what he described as a 'prayer ribbon' that would summarize the message of the Christian faith. The result was a bracelet – known as *Frälsar Kransen*. The word means 'life-belt' – hence the sub-title for this short book, which provides an introduction to Bishop Martin's thinking behind the beads, and suggestions for using them for prayer and contemplation.

The books at the launch in May were sold out but are still available from the publisher, SLG Press: <https://www.slgpress.co.uk/product/pearls-of-life-a-life-belt-for-the-spirit>.

Canon Tony often came to Bordighera English Cemetery to celebrate, and to Sanremo for Christian Unity Services, as well as to The British and Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Bordighera. He will be greatly missed for all he did during his six years as the Chaplain for Liguria.

**The Chapel, Bordighera** Flying ants have appeared again leaving their droppings on the altar and floor. They have been removed (we hope) by insecticides inserted under the roof tiles. However, doing this work it was discovered that three tiles above the porch were broken, perhaps when the dead tree beside the entrance was cut down, so more work to be done!

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**From St. John's Register**

Funeral - Andrée Gerbault - Tuesday 21 May 2024

Andrée died on 7<sup>th</sup> May, unexpectedly. Our prayers are for her partner David Cohen, and her son Patrick and grandson, and all those who mourn her loss.  
May she rest in peace.



**For our children .....**

**THE FIRST**

All the answers to this Bible quiz are the first: either the first thing in a list or the first person to do or be something.

1. The first man (Genesis, Chapter 2)
2. The first of the 10 plagues of Egypt (Exodus, Chapter 7)
3. The city where Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts, Chapter 11)
4. The first bird Noah sent out of the ark (Genesis Chapter 8)
5. The first woman (Genesis, Chapter 3)
6. The first person to see Jesus on the first Easter Sunday (John, Chapter 20)
7. What happened on the first day of creation (Genesis, Chapter 1)
8. Israel's first king (1 Samuel, Chapter 10)
9. The first of the four Gospels (New Testament)
10. The first of the books in the Bible dedicated to Theophilus (New Testament)

answers on page 10.



This invitation seen outside a church ....

**Life is a puzzle - Look here for the missing peace !**

## Father's Day - Sunday 16 June 2024

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well. . . .

It all started way back in 1909 when Sonora Louise Smart Dodd in Spokane, Washington heard a church service about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. But Sonora knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother died in childbirth. The sermon on mothers gave Sonora the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers and in particular her own father, William Jackson Smart, a civil war veteran. With the support of the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA she soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane which eventually took place on 19 June 1910. That service was so successful that Sonora began a campaign to get a special day for fathers recognised throughout the United States, writing countless letters in support of her cause.

President Wilson was the first American President to approve of the idea of Father's Day across the nation and President Calvin Coolidge gave his support. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson recognised the third Sunday in June as Father's Day and it became official when President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation in 1972 declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. The UK followed suit.

In fact in USA, UK, Canada, France and India and numerous other countries around the world, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. But not all countries do. In Australia, Father's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September; in Russia in October; in Norway, Sweden and Finland, the second Sunday of November,

In many European Catholic countries, such as Spain, Italy, and Portugal, Father's Day is celebrated on St. Joseph's Day, i.e. 19 March, as this day is dedicated to Jesus' foster father and has been celebrated on that day since the middle ages.

Some countries are not known to celebrate Father's Day officially - among them The People's Republic of China – but where they do celebrate some wear a white rose for a father who is dead or a red rose to honour a father who is living.

*(some information from Google internet sources;  
other information from Pat Rissen in The Beacon)*

(5)

## God in Music - Rev. Michael Burgess looking at great works of music

### **'There is sweet music here':- the oboe and the lost sheep**

One of Bach's most popular works is the pastoral music, 'Sheep may safely graze.' It is part of a secular cantata where the composer illustrates the tranquility and security of the flock under the watchful eye of the shepherd with flutes. When Bach wanted to portray the lost sheep and his dilemma, he chose another woodwind instrument: the oboe. It has one of the most distinctive sounds in the orchestra. We hear it at the start of a concert as the oboist gives the A for the other instruments to tune from. It was originally called the hautboy (the high wood) – Nahum Tate instructs musicians in one of his poems to play on 'the sprightly hautboy.' It has gone through various transformations: Vivaldi wrote works for the oboe d'amore, which has a deeper, richer sound, and there is also the oboe of caccia – the oboe of the hunt and the chase.

As Bach muses on the parable of the lost sheep in his church Cantata 21 ('I had a great affliction'), he turns to the oboe and first violin. In the opening Sinfonia, the arabesques of the oboe depict the lost sheep wandering the bare hillside, far from the comfort of the flock. Twice the music seems to come to a close on discords with the oboe uttering a cry of desolation. Wailing passages of falling seconds paint a picture of the sheep alone and bereft. It sings out again in the aria that follows the chorus. The soprano describes the downcast heart, and the oboe adds its notes of sadness and despair. That is caught up in the heart-rending tenor recitative. 'Why God have you turned from me in my need?' The mood begun by the wandering, desolate oboe dominates the first part of this cantata.

Then in the second part Bach portrays the Good Shepherd coming to find and redeem the lost sheep, and the work ends not with the oboe's plaintive cries. No, the mood is one of triumph and joy with the chorus 'Worthy is the Lamb.' We know these words set in Handel's 'Messiah.' Here the oboe's brightness and liveliness ring out as it joins with the bassoon and strings – trumpets and drums answer their shouts of elation. Then suddenly the music and singing are at an end. Bach wrote this beautiful and moving cantata in Leipzig in 1723, inspired by St. Luke's parable of the lost sheep. That sheep joins the lost coin and the lost son to show how Jesus searches out for those in the darkness and sadness of life to bring light and redemption. In his setting Bach has the oboe sound out the plight of the human soul, lost and wandering, but also the great joy when the lost is found. That for Bach was the Good News of the Gospel. As we listen to this cantata today, over 300 years later, we can capture again that Good News and claim it for our own. (6)

**News from Jacqueline James .....**

*I did it! I walked 107 miles (172 km) on the Portuguese Camino to a very special destination. It was difficult sometimes, but I was with wonderful people and met others.*

*There was lots of laughter and many acts of kindness along the way, from fellow pilgrims and local residents.*

*A big Thank You to everyone who donated.*

*Buen Camino Jacqui.*

Well done Jacqui, who completed her walk and raised over 500€ for church funds! Photos can be seen on our website.



**Wise Words . . . . . to ponder on . . . . .**

- PRAYER is not like a “spare wheel” that YOU PULL OUT when in trouble, but it is a “STEERING WHEEL” that can help us find the BEST PATH THROUGH LIFE.

- WHY IS A CAR'S WINDSHIELD so LARGE & the REAR VIEW MIRROR so small? BECAUSE our PAST is NOT as IMPORTANT as OUR FUTURE. So, LOOK AHEAD and MOVE ON.

- FRIENDSHIP is like a BOOK. It takes a FEW SECONDS to BURN, but it TAKES YEARS to WRITE

- ALL THINGS in LIFE are TEMPORARY, if they are GOING WELL, ENJOY them, they WILL NOT LAST FOREVER. If they are going wrong, don't WORRY, THEY CAN'T LAST FOREVER EITHER

- When GOD SOLVES your PROBLEMS, you HAVE FAITH in HIS ABILITIES, when GOD DOESN'T SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS, HE has FAITH in YOUR ABILITIES

- WORRYING does NOT TAKE AWAY TOMORROW'S TROUBLES; IT TAKES AWAY today's PEACE. (7)

**Life at St. James-the-Least**

**The Rectory  
St. James-the-Least**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Ah, the joys of June! At last I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next 4 months, all windows and doors are left open in order to let the heat in. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in a 12 bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural Rectory; the days of wandering about the house in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since for 6 months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the Rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness – to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the Rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace.

(8)

