

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

Eucharest Every Sunday at 10.30am

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd. Chris Parkman tel: #33 (0)6 51 52 50 49

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|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Safeguarding Officer | Jacqueline James | jacqueline.james@mac.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

<https://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 Wednesday mornings 10.00-12.00 in the Louvre

website: <https://www.britishassociationmenton.org>

CROSS BORDER NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2024

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

Celebrant: The Revd. Chris Parkman

Organist: Monsieur Benjamin Prischi

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THE ANGLICAN CHAPEL, BORDIGHERA

EUCCHARIST - WEDNESDAY 10 JULY - 10.30

Celebrant: The Revd. Chris Parkman

NO SERVICE IN AUGUST

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ORDINARY SEASON

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**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF
THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA**

EUCCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30

HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS – WEDNESDAYS 12.30

email: chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org – website: anglicanchurchgenoa.org

READINGS for SUNDAYS in JULY 2024 - YEAR B

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|---|---|---|
| 7 July 6 th after Trinity Green | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Ezekiel 2.1-5 123 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13 |
| 14 July 7 th after Trinity Green | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Amos 7.7-15 85.8-end Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29 |
| 21 July 8 th after Trinity Green | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | Jeremiah 23.1-6 23 Ephesians 2.11-end Mark 6.30-34, 53-end |
| 28 July 9 th after Trinity Green | 1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel | 2 Kings 4.42-end 145.10-19 Ephesians 3.14-end John 6.1-21 |

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

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.

Reflection from our chaplain Chris

Grace or Graft

I recently had a conversation with a friend who knows a guitar teacher well. The guitar teacher had been bemoaning the fact he had two pupils who, if only their skills were combined in one person, would make for an extraordinary, top-performing guitarist. One of the pupils had an immense natural ability, but was not that committed to practice. The other worked hard practicing, day in, day out, but lacked somehow that final 'giftedness'. They were both great guitarists; but would have been oh so amazing if they were combined into one person.

As I write this, England's Football team has just qualified for the next round in the European Football Championships. Even so, the English Media is being scathing about their performances. The team performance looks laboured and lacking in panache, yet here are 11 highly gifted players who excel week in, week out in their football clubs. What's the problem? Some say it is lack of practice together; others say they are not using their natural gifts as well as they could.

Then after a recent sermon in which we were exploring how the Kingdom of God comes about (the parable of the mustard seed – Mark 4. 26-34), someone questioned my closing comment. I had summarised the Kingdom of God will come about 'depending on what we trust, depending on how we orientate our life, depending on our ability to imagine. Yes, all these things. But thank God, that at the end of the day, it doesn't depend on me or you!' We had a great discussion reflecting on the fact that yes – we cannot take it all on ourselves to bring about the Kingdom of God – but somehow also, we are called to act and work for God's kingdom.

This all calls me to reflect on the following tension: we live, we exist by the grace of God alone and need to learn to live into that truth; at the same time we are called to be people who work towards the realisation of God's kingdom on earth. I sense living the paradox is the key to our living well.

As the author Frederick Buechner wrote, 'the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' As individuals, and as a community.'

Blessings
Chris

The Church can be hired for weddings or events. Please see Revd. Chris for information.

The Chapel, Bordighera The next service is on Wednesday 10th July and we hope to see you there – servc outside in the shade of the trees - weather permitting. There will be no service in August.

Keep Cool in Nature – Friday 19th July Come for a fun day out and discover Les Courmettes A Rocha France's nature conservation and environmental education centre in the hills above Tourettes-sur-Loup. Enjoy the cool(er) beautiful surrounds at 850m with views out over the Côte d'Azur in July. For more details see the information sheet included with the Cross Border, or speak to Revd. Chris Parkman.

St. John's on the Beach Please note the July meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th July at 6pm.** August and September meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month as planned.

St. John's Library : It will continue to be open during the summer on Wednesdays 14.30-17.30 and Saturdays 09.30-12.30.

Events include a **Summer Exhibition 'Jardins en Méditerranée'** presented by artists of 'L'Atelier Art et Patience', Nice. The Vernissage is on 3rd July at 6.30pm and the Exhibition continues until 31st August.

Sophrology Class - Susanne Bohus Wednesday 24 July and Wednesday 21 August. Limited spots -please reserve by text #33 607063125

Children's English Reading Group with Arabella Isca arabella.isca@gmail.com The last class will be on Tuesday 2 July and recommence on Tuesday 10th September

French Class with Regine Dedonder continue throughout the summer on request. Please contact Regine by leaving a whatsapp message on #33 744802141 or email r.deder@gmail.com

Hella Kalkus Members may remember the exhibition of paintings by Hella Kalkus in the Library. She is now giving an Exhibition in the Hanbury Gardens from 29 June-14 July at their opening hours. Library Members are welcome (Admission via ticket to the Garden).

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': J.S. Bach's joy and dance

In 1956 a small novel by German writer, Johannes Rüber, appeared in an English translation. It was called 'Bach and the Heavenly Choir' and tells of Pope Gregory XIX's desire to elevate Bach to the ranks of the saints. To bring together the Lutheran bishop and his own cardinals, he organizes a great Bach festival in Rome. At the festival he announces his plan and the reasoning behind it: that in J S Bach 'faith has become music.'

In that realization lies the grace and glory of Bach's achievement, and why we treasure his works today. The irony is that the bulk of his music was never published in his lifetime. The six Brandenburg Concerti, beautifully copied out and offered, were never performed and the music put in a cupboard. His music in all probability would have been lost for ever had it not been for a young Mendelssohn, who just happened to find a manuscript of the St Matthew Passion in his music teacher's house. He recognised it for its brilliancy and beauty and ordered a massive search to unearth the decaying manuscripts.

Last month we saw how so much of Bach's music is inspired by his joy in believing. Out of that treasure house, this month I would like to focus on one of the six motets. 'Jesus, meine Freude' (Jesus, my joy). It was probably written for a memorial service in July 1723. In his other works, freude, or 'joy', releases new movement. In this motet, the word is kept within the constraints of the chorale melody that acts as a framework for the motet. The word that brings a joyous release is Geist, Spirit – when it appears, then each voice joins in the chase as notes spill over the page and into our ears, proclaiming the inspiration of God's Spirit in human life.

This spirit of joy, helps us realize that what makes his music so vital and rewarding is that total sense of movement and dance. Wilfred Mellers wrote a book 'Bach and the Dance of God,' showing how so much of Bach's music is dance-inspired from lively gavottes to more stately sarabandes that can be heard in both the instrumental and choral music. Wider, like Bach a great organist, wrote that 'For me Bach is the greatest of preachers.'

And what does he preach? That in the end, all is dance and life in the power of God's Spirit. In 'Jesus, meine Freude' as in all his music we hear and relish the movement and pulse of his compositions that open up for us a world where all is joy and dance. That is how Dante ended his vision of Paradise, where everything is movement and dance, and what moves the sun and the other stars is love. (4)

More Thoughts from Jacqueline James about her Camino Walk in May. Jacqueline begins by writing information about St. James:-

St. James, the patron saint of Spain, was the first of Jesus' apostles to be martyred for his faith (Acts ch.2v2). There are so many stories about how his remains found their way to Spain (even one that involves a dragon). This is perhaps a more believable version:-

James was captured and beheaded, by the order of King Herod Agrippa, when he returned to Jerusalem after spreading the word in Hispania. His remains were secured by his supporters and taken by sea – some say in a stone boat set adrift on the mediterranean; others describe a boat made from a single scallop shell – to Padron in Roman-held Galicia, before being carried inland by cart to his burial site in woodland. Two aides were left to guard the tomb and were buried by his side when they died.

Under Roman rule, visits to holy sites were forbidden and the burial site was forgotten for hundreds of years until in the ninth century, a hermit, named Pelagius, saw unusual lights and heard strange noises in the wood where St. James was reputed to have been buried. The ruins of a building were found together with the remains of three men, as the ancient scriptures had detailed. The remains were declared to be St. James and his aides.

King Alphonso II ordered that a church be built on the site. It is said that the name Compostela comes from *campus stela* – field of stars. Santiago de Compostela has been a site of pilgrimage since.



Jacqueline then describes her Camino following the road signs:-

There were no *road to Damascus* moments. But the feeling of belonging, of looking after each other and the random acts of kindness along the way made it very special.

There came a point towards the end of each day when it seemed impossible to lift your foot high enough to get onto the kerb, and then, someone would make you laugh or another person would need your help and all of a sudden you're up the kerb and you've walked another kilometre.

The Camino took us through beautiful countryside on ancient paths, rutted by centuries-old cart tracks. We went through medieval town centres, dismal suburbs and industrial landscapes. It rained every day, adding to the challenge, but we tried not to let it dampen our spirits.

In spite of all the other pilgrims (and they were numerous), the beauty of our surroundings, and the feeling of peace, allowed for conversation or contemplation along the way.

People were very kind: like the woman who dashed out when we passed her house, on our way to our accommodation. She had seen us turn off and wanted to tell us we were no longer on the Camino; and the woman who seeing us standing looking flummoxed on a road bridge, pulled up and jumped out of her van to help. We knew that we had to cross the river, could see the bridge that we should take, but didn't know how to get to it. She pointed us in the right direction.

There were people who made space in crowded cafes and those who provided us with good cheap food.

Arriving at the cathedral is very special. I had undertaken the Camino two years ago, walking from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela. Then, for reasons I still cannot fathom, I burst into tears on reaching the square. This time, it wasn't until I went into the cathedral, that it fully struck me where I was and whose remains were buried beneath.

Thanks to everyone's generous donations I raised €1,288.00 for St. John's Church, Menton.

(Well done, and **thank YOU** Jacqueline)

St. Swithin's Day

July 15th is St. Swithin's Day. St. Swithin was a Bishop of Winchester in England in the 9th century. When he died in 892 he was buried in the churchyard because he wanted to lie where the rain would fall on his grave.

Nearly 100 years later the monks at Winchester decided that they would re-bury him in a much grander tomb inside the Cathedral. Legend says that the Saint was so angry, because the monks were against his wishes, that he made it rain violently for 40 days until the monks gave up the plan.

Ever since then, if it rains on St. Swithin's Day, it is supposed to rain for the next 40 days. The old rhyme says:

*St. Swithin's Day, if it do rain, for 40 days it will remain.
St. Swithin's Day, and it be fair, for 40 days t'will rain no mair.'*

Watch the weather on July 15th and for the next 40 days to see if the old rhyme is really right.

After the rain you get the rainbow. The Bible tells the story of Noah, and that after the great flood when only Noah and his family and all the pairs of animals in the ark were saved, God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise that he would never again send a flood.

You can read about the story in Genesis, from chapter 6, verse 9 to chapter 9, verse 17.

Do you know the order of the seven colours of the rainbow beginning with red? If not, you can learn them by heart – here they are.

RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, GREEN, BLUE, INDIGO, VIOLET

What is the wettest animal in the world? **A reindeer.**

What sort of lighting did Noah put in the ark? **Flood lights.**

What falls often but never gets hurt? **Rain.**

4 August
10th after Trinity
Green
1st Reading Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78.23-29
2nd Reading Ephesians 4.1-16
Gospel John 6.24-35

11 August
11th after Trinity
Green
1st Reading 1 Kings 19.4-8
Psalm 34.1-8
2nd Reading Ephesians 4.25-5.2
Gospel John 6.35, 41-51

18 August
12th after Trinity
Green
1st Reading Proverbs 9.1-6
Psalm 34.9-14
2nd Reading Ephesians 5.15-20
Gospel John 6.51-58

25 August
13th after Trinity
Green
1st Reading Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34.15-22
2nd Reading Ephesians 6.10-20
Gospel John 6.56-69

1 September
14th after Trinity
Green
1st Reading Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
2nd Reading James 1.17-27
Gospel Mark 6.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A Prayer for Strength

by Mark Gibbs

O God, you have told me that without you I can do nothing, but that with you I can do anything. Life has taught me that I am helpless by myself. Give me strength to do my day's work, even when it is difficult and hard. Give me strength to conquer my temptations even when they are very strong. Give me strength to bear my own sorrows and disappointments and not to bore others by talking about them. Give me strength to bear my own burdens and to give someone else a hand with his. Give me strength to say yes to the right thing and no to the wrong thing. Give me strength to go on when I am tired. Give me strength to walk with you and not to fall from you until I reach your presence.

This I ask for Jesus's sake. Amen

