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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 Chapel in The English Cemetery, and

The British & Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery

Via del Campo Santo, 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

JANUARY 2025

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MENTON

EUCCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY 10.30am

Celebrant during January : The Revd. David Houghton

Organist: Monsieur Benjamin Prischi

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EPIPHANY

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THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL,

BORDIGHERA

EUCCHARIST WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025 10.30am

Celebrant: Revd. David Houghton

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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

THE HOLY GHOST, GENOVA

EUCCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am

COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS – WEDNESDAYS 12.30

email: chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org

website: anglicanchurchgenoa.org

READINGS for SUNDAYS in JANUARY 2025 Year C

5 January Epiphany of the Lord White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 60.1-6 72.10-15 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12
12 January Baptism of Christ White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 43.1-7 29 Acts 8.14-17 Luke 3.15-17, 21-22
19 January Epiphany 2 white/gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Isaiah 62.1-5 36.5-10 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11
26 January Epiphany 3 white/gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 19.1-6 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21
2 February Presentation of Christ Candlemas White/Gold	1 st Reading Psalm 2 nd Reading Gospel	Malachi 3.1-5 24 (1-6) 7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

**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. (1)

and God created humour

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

The starting pay is €40,000. Later it can go up to €80,000. "Great. I'll start later."

When the pool reopens, due to social distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1, 3, and 5..

When I get a headache I take 2 aspirins and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

I envy people who grow old gracefully. They age like a fine wine. I'm ageing like milk: getting sour .

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the i-Pad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bed time.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was 3 I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage. Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she is mowing the lawn.

Just one thing, I want the username and password prompt to say, "close enough"

Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40 minute flute solo.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Tip: save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

Answers to NEW WORDS

1. newt 2. Newfoundland 3. newlywed 4. newel 5. New Testament
6. newcomer 7. newsagent 8. newspaper

A Prayer to God

All-powerful God,
You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures,
You embrace with Your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of Your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in
your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor
and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature,
as we journey towards Your infinite light.

We thank You for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Amen

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We wish all our readers
a very Happy, Healthy 2025

NEWS

St. John's Library After closing over Christmas and the New Year, the
Library will open again on Saturday 5th January.

Our chaplain Chris will be away during January and the Revd. David
Houghton is locum during that time.

Poppy Day Appeal The total of €333.80 at the British & Commonwealth War
Graves Cemetery Bordighera in November was received with thanks by the
Royal British Legion, Nice Monaco Branch.

The Chapel, English Cemetery, Bordighera Please note the Eucharist will be
on Wednesday 15th January at 10.30am and the celebrant will be Revd. David
Houghton

Christian Unity Service will take place in the Lutheran Evangelical Church
in Sanremo on Saturday 25th January. Revd. David Houghton, St. John's
locum, will represent the Anglican Church.

EVENTS

St. John's Library

SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY - 6.30 to 7.30pm

POETRY PLEASE

Join us for an eclectic mix of old favourites, humorous odes, and classic
verses followed by a glass of wine.

Readers are:

Jane Dubuisson, Pauline Minnis, Gareth Hardy, and Andrew Riley

Directed by Merville Spiers

Entry:- Free for Library Members. €10 for non Members

NEW SUFFRAGAN BISHOP IN EUROPE

On 29th November, it was announced from Downing Street that the Reverend Canon Andrew Norman, currently Director of Ministry and Mission for the Diocese of Leeds will be the next Suffragan Bishop in Europe. He succeeds Bishop David Hamid who retired in February.

Andrew has previously worked and lived in the Diocese in Europe. Prior to ordination he worked in Malta in a bank-note-printing factory.. His curacy was at St. Michael's, Paris. Andrew remembers his time at St. Michael's very fondly and is looking forward to returning to explore more of the Diocese in Europe.

Andrew was ordained priest in 1996. Following his curacy in Paris he became Associate Vicar at Christ Church, Clifton in the Diocese of Bristol. He worked with Archbishop Rowan Williams as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for International, Ecumenical and Anglican Communion Affairs. He was then Principal of Ridley Hall theological college from 2008 to 2016 before moving to the newly-formed Diocese of Leeds. He is author of 'A Church Observed: being Anglican as times change'. Andrew is married to Amanda, who works for the Leprosy Mission and is a Licensed Lay Minister. They have two adult daughters.

Andrew said:

“I am delighted to be returning to the Diocese where I served my curacy. Being Suffragan Bishop in this vast and fascinating diocese is an exciting as well as a daunting prospect. In partnership with other churches in Europe, there's wonderful potential for nurturing Christian faith and witness. I'm really looking forward to coming alongside our chaplaincies in all their glorious diversity, so we can rise together to the challenges and opportunities ahead, in faith-filled and imaginative ways.”

Bishop Robert said:

“I'm very excited about Andrew's appointment. Andrew has a great variety of experience and gifts in theology, ecumenical work and strategic development that are highly relevant to our diocese. I'm sure he will be a wise senior colleague and an encouraging pastor to our clergy and congregations. I'm very much looking forward to working with him. Please do join me in praying for Andrew and Amanda as they face this major time of transition.”

The Suffragan Bishop in Europe will be based in Brussels where he will work with the Diocesan Bishop Right Revd. Robert Innes. As Suffragan Bishop, Andrew will Chair the Ministry Team of the diocese and will be the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding alongside his other responsibilities.

The plans for Andrew's consecration in England and then installation at Holy Trinity Cathedral Gibraltar are being finalised. Details will follow in due course. (3)

Life at St. James-the-Least

The Rectory,
St. James-the-Least

My dear nephew Darren,

I was pleased to hear that you enjoyed your first Christmas in your parish, although a little disappointed that you replaced the 'boring' Crib Service with a 'more exciting alternative'. I have yet to understand the theology – or even point – of your 'Bananarama' celebration. I'm sure your bishop would be interested to hear of its biblical authority .

Having said that, our own Crib Service proved to be a little unorthodox and far from boring. Choosing the cast from the Sunday school is always a delicate process. One of the youngsters who wanted to be Joseph was only given the part of the innkeeper. He seemed to accept the disappointment with good grace, but had clearly made his plans.

On the evening of the performance, Joseph knocked on the innkeeper's door and asked if there was any room. This was our innkeeper's great opportunity. He three open the door and told Joseph and Mary that there was plenty of room and they were both welcome. The cast and audience froze, while the teacher responsible contemplated early retirement.

But Joseph hadn't got the star part for nothing. He pretended to look round inside and then turned to Mary and said, “Nah, it's too crowded in there, we'll use the stable round the back.” And so the nativity was rescued by one nine year-old. There's Episcopal material in that boy.

Christmas would not be the same without carol singing round the village. There is the annual dilemma of deciding just the right moment to go and sing in the pub. Too early, and the customers aren't sufficiently maudlin to give generously; too late and they drown out the choir with their own variations of 'Silent Night'. We are offered mulled wine at most of the houses we visit. Mr. Prentice's solo as Balthazar became ever more operatic with his 'sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,' as the evening progressed.

And so to the climax of it all, with the midnight Service. We had a full church lit only by candles, which ruin many a good coat every year. However, Mr Onion's behaviour in putting up his umbrella as he stood under the great nave candelabra on his way to receive Comunion was regarded as being a little de trop by most of us.

But a new year is now upon us; after the joys of Christmas, Lent comes hard on its heels. Precisely my philisophy: every silver lining contains a cloud.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Maureen's Christmas Gift - Shared with us all

I was given a gift last Christmas whereby I get questions and send answers to a company that at the end of the year send it back to me in book form. I'm very inconsistent in responding to the questions, but this morning's question surprised me *'What fascinated you as a child?'* and in ten minutes I wrote what follows:

I can remember hanging out of the window on cold and frosty nights where I grew up in the UK in Kent. I used to gaze up at the sky and marvel at all the stars. My mother would find me and say “get back into bed child. You will freeze”.

I found a book, I can't remember where, showing the constellations and learned many of their names. I can't remember why I particularly liked The Plough. Is it really called Ursa Major – the Great Bear?

Now living in the country in Australia there are no street lights to interfere. The surrounding darkness only serves to make the heavens clearly visible.

I love to see the mistiness of the Milky Way and can still see from the southern hemisphere The Plough, although I think it looks upside down! Or perhaps I am upside down.

Wherever we are the heavens just display the glory of God. Sometimes I can see His enormous benevolent caring hand holding the whole expanding universe.

In the midst of this power and grandeur, beyond our imagination's range, Father God tenderly holds each one of us in that same hand. My inner child still gazes at the skies in wonder, but I know now that more wonderful than the heavens is the love that creates a home for me, you, us all.

As I write today, it's only five days until Christmas when Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world, to once and for all change everything by providing Father God's love for us.

Thus started the great plan of salvation – a baby in a manger. Destined to become the sacrifice for all sin for all time on a Cross.

Death could not hold him! On the third day he rose from the dead and through faith in Him so will we!

(Maureen)
(7)

WHAT NEW YEAR?

New Year's Day is January 1st, isn't it?

Well, until 1582 the whole of Europe celebrated it on March 25, but then most countries adopted January 1st like the Romans had. But England didn't adopt it till 1752.

Various religious groups keep different dates: the Jewish new year falls on the first day of the month Tishri, which varies between September 6 and October 5; the Chinese new year varies between January 20 and February 20; Muslims reckon time by a year of 354 or 355 days so their new year is always changing

AND NOW SOME NEW WORDS

All these words begin with the letters NEW. So which NEW..... ..

1. is a small lizard?
2. is a type of dog?
3. is recently married?
4. is a stair post?
5. is the second part of the Bible?
6. is a beginner?
7. sells papers and magazines?
8. is read each day??

[answers on page 10]

(by ANGELA WEBB)

A Smiler:

Trust Science. Studies show that if your parents didn't have children there's a high probability you won't either.

A Meditation.....

Please start by looking at your hands

as you do so,

thank God for all the good things that your hands have done over the years

the things you have made, the words you have written, the objects you have cleaned, the games you have played

Now thank God for all the other hands that have done things for you over the years

parents, husbands or wives, children, grandchildren, friends, neighbours

Now thank God for kindnesses you received from strangers:

people you never knew who helped you - maybe someone who gave you a hand in the street - maybe someone who sorted out a problem for you by telephone

Then, think on these words by St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Christ has no body but ours,
no hands, no feet on earth but ours.

Ours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,

ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world,

ours are the feet,
ours are the eyes,
we are his body.

Yesteryear

Back in the days of tenners and bobs, when Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs, when football team families wore hand me down shoes, and TV gave only two channels to choose,

Back in the days of threepenny bits, when schools employed nurses to search for the nits, when snowballs were harmless, ice slides permitted. and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted,

Back in the days of hot ginger beers, when children remained so for more than six years, when children respected what older folks said, and pot was a thing you kept under your bed,

Back in the days of Listen with Mother when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other, when cars were so rare you could play in the street, when Doctors made house calls, Police walked the beat,

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons when butter was butter and songs all had tunes, it was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea, and your annual break was a day by the sea,

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green, Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream, when children could freely wear National Health glasses, and teachers all stood in FRONT of their classes,

Back in the days of rocking and rolling when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling, when woodwork and pottery got taught in schools and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools,

Back in the days when I was a lad, I can't help but smile for the fun that I had; hopscotch and roller skates, snowballs to lob,

Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

By Bob Howe

(I think some of our older UK folk will appreciate this poem of Yesteryear, And others? Let me know. Editor)