

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

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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**

### **JULY-AUGUST 2025**

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

**EUCCHARIST - SUNDAYS - 10.30am**

**Celebrant: The Revd. Chris Parkman**

**Organist: Monsieur Benjamin Prischi**

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**THE ENGLISH CEMETERY CHAPEL,  
BORDIGHERA**

**EUCCHARIST - WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY - 10.30am**

**Celebrant Revd. Chris Parkman**

**NO SERVICE IN AUGUST**

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

**EUCCHARIST - EVERY SUNDAY - 10.30am**  
**HOLY COMMUNION or SHARED PRAYERS - WEDNESDAYS 12.30**

email: [chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org](mailto:chaplain@anglicanchurchgenoa.org)

website: [anglicanchurchgenoa.org](http://anglicanchurchgenoa.org)

## READINGS for JULY 2025 Year C

6 July 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 66.10-14 Psalm 66.1-8 Galatians 6.7-16 Luke 10.1-11, 16-20
13 July 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Deuteronomy 30.9-14 25.1-10 Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37
20 July 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Genesis 18.1-10a 15 Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-end
27 July 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Genesis 18.20-32 138 Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13

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**BAPTISM, 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.

## READINGS for AUGUST 2025 YEAR C

3 August 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Ecclesiastes 1.2, 12-14; 2.18-23 49.1-12 Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21
10 August 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Genesis 15.1-6 3.12-21 Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16 Luke 12.32-40
17 August 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Jeremiah 23.23-29 82 Hebrews 11.29-12.2 Luke 12.49-56
24 August 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Isaiah 58.9b-end 103.1-8 Hebrews 12.18-end Luke 3.10-17
31 August 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity Green	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Psalm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Gospel	Proverbs 25.6-7 112 Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16 Luke 14.1, 7-14

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### A thought to reflect on .....

“Everybody can be great . . . . .

because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

Martin Luther King

## NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

**St. John's on the Beach is back! Wednesday 16 July 18h** Plage du Fossan, Menton. Invite your friends, bring your favourite drink and join us for an informal gathering at the beach. All are welcome!

**The Chapel, Bordighera** The next service is on Wednesday 16 July 10.30am – in the shade outside under the trees, birds singing. Looking forward to seeing you there. (No Service in August)

**St. John's Jazz will return after the summer holiday**

**The Art Exhibition by Mamadou Telly** continues throughout July in the St. John's English Library. Mamadou's works reflect themes of identity, migration, and multiculturalism. He uses vibrant colours and bold shapes to express emotions and tell stories, creating a bridge between his African roots and his life in Europe.

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### **A prayer for our church community.....**

At this holiday season of the year, we pray that everyone will have a lovely holiday as they explore new places, meet new people and strengthen their family relationships.

And for those who are unable to go away, may they also find opportunities for rest, relaxation and refreshment.

May we all return safely, to continue our work, whatever or wherever it may be, with renewed vigour.

## **Reflection from our chaplain Chris**

### *Independence or interdependence?*

A strong message (overt or implied) in our western culture is that of independence. To be strong and have a good quality of life, this message says one needs to be self-sufficient and self-contained. But in recent weeks in church life, we have been reminded that independence is not at the heart of the Christian message. Instead, interdependence is.

We reflected on the idea of the Triune God on Trinity Sunday. There are all sorts of implications that follow from this understanding of God. In Michael Lloyd's book *Café Theology*, he writes, *'If God were One and not Three, if God did not exist eternally in relationship, if God were a unity and not a triunity, then what would God's worshippers value? I suggest they should value independence and self-sufficiency. For those would be the qualities most pertaining to a God who had spent "most" of eternity in splendid isolation with none to love or relate to.'* By contrast, a Trinitarian God reminds us that interdependence and love are at the heart of the Creator and established as a principle within the creation.

On Trinity Sunday, we also welcomed Bob Sluka, a marine scientist with A Rocha International, as our preacher, after his week attending the UN Ocean Conference in Nice. He reminded us of the impact plastics are having across so many aspects of marine life, showing us yet again how connected we are with all of creation, and reminding us of our interdependence with all creation. He told us of the Horseshoe crab, which has existed for around 450 million years on the eastern seaboard of North America, and the amazing ability of its blood cells to detect the smallest quantities of pathogens. That ability has benefited us humans enormously, as scientists now use the crab's blood to test the purity of injected medicines. Yet in many places the Horseshoe crab is under threat. We depend on the Horseshoe crab. In many ways its active flourishing depends on human actions: yet another example that shows us how we are dependent on the wider creation, and vice versa.

The following week, it was Refugee Week. Human migration in our world is only increasing as wars continue and as various parts of the world face dramatic and increasingly extreme events due to climate change. It's a question which is causing tension in numerous countries. Yet, the profound truth is, refugees bring invaluable diversity and richness to our societies and are often the hardest working contributors to our economies. Interdependence, together, makes each of us all the better.

How would our responses change to the various challenges we face, if we valued interdependence over independence? Something I will continue to ponder.

In peace  
Chris

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## **For Children 'On the Move' ...**

Here are some things to do while you are travelling....

### **I Spy**

Make a list of 10 things you may see as you travel, like...  
a yellow car, a phone box, a pushchair, a police car, a sweet shop .. etc  
who ever spots the most wins!

### **Make Words**

choose a long word and see how many other words you can make out of its letters.. Try this ....      **h o l i d a y s**

### **Holiday Memories**

collect together your holiday postcards and photographs, then put them in a scrapbook. Write in what you did, where you went and who you met. Later, you can look at your scrapbook and remember the fun things you did and thank God for summer holidays !

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

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

**Press one for vicar, two for curate, 12 for prayer**

My dear Nephew Darren,

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of “press one for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary”, until we end with “12 for requests for prayer”. I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing “Thine be the glory” on one finger on an electric organ while I am “on hold” I will have him excommunicated . At least you have the grace while I am waiting not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come; in fact, another on 9 for funerals may well be necessary by the time that number comes up. Entire families could be born, marry and die before they hear that 15 is specially reserved for urgent calls. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine is specially designed not to accept incoming messages and that I only answer the thing personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may be answered at my convenience, or could be ignored if I disapprove of its contents. This has the added benefit that I have not received any invitations to buy photocopiers or to learn that I have been selected to have a new kitchen installed, for many a year.

For the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to tell them that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St. James-the-Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all-but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy, I shall be just about to enter a tunnel. Your loving uncle Eustace

## God in Music

### **'Glorious the song when God's the theme: Surely angels play Mozart at home'**

The German theologian, Karl Barth, is reputed to have said, “Whether the angels play only Bach in praising God, I am not quite sure; I am sure, however, that *en famille* they play Mozart.” It is a lovely image of angels in the heavenly courts above mirroring the human enjoyment of music making here on earth. And what more wonderful music than Mozart's! From child prodigy to fully mature composer in the space of just 35 years – encountering frustrations and disappointments, poorly paid and exploited, beset by problems of debt and ill-health – and yet rising above all that to create a wealth of music for voice and instrument that continues to lift the human heart.

Mozart was nothing if not life affirming in his music. He enjoyed life in spite of the disasters and tragedies that occurred along the way. This from a letter he wrote to his father after the performance of one of his symphonies: 'It was performed on Corpus Christi day with great applause. I was so happy that as soon as it was over I went off to the Palais Royal, where I had a large ice'. Enjoying this world, he had that rare ability to transcend it and open up a greater world of beauty and harmony. That realisation caused Schubert to write in his diary in 1816, 'O Mozart, immortal Mozart, how many, how infinitely many inspiring suggestions of a finer, better life have you left in our souls.'

As illustrations of that, we focus this month on two works, one early and one late in his composing life. In January 1773 Mozart wrote a motet, *Exsultate Jubilate* for a castrato who had appeared in one of his operas. It is almost a concerto in miniature for the voice. The opening *Allegro* calls on heaven to join in the praises of earth and leads into an *Andante* of great beauty, where Mary is praised as the mother who brings light to a darkened world. The work ends with a glorious *Alleluia* with notes cascading off the page and into the air. Perhaps Mozart had in mind a thank offering for the success of his opera *Lucia Silla*. Whatever the music's origin, we cannot deny the inspiration and skill with which Mozart weaves together words and music to dazzle and transport the listener.

In the last year of his life in 1791, when his mortal body began to fail, his mind took on a new vitality with the composition of two operas, a clarinet concerto, a Requiem, and a wonderful, concentrated setting of *Ave verum corpus*. This motet in praise of Jesus on the cross and in the sacrament was written for the choir-master at Baden. It is just two pages in the manuscript, written out by Mozart, without any corrections. There are no flourishes and runs here as in the earlier work. The music is simple and yet sublime as Mozart conveys a sense of holiness and serenity. Michael Levey has written of this work: 'Short but not slight, it seems to float like a cloud of incense on the air.' Here, as in all Mozart's music, a creation of this world opens up for us that greater world where all is light and joy.

The Rev. Michael Burgess

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### **Have you ever noticed that.....**

- after your hands become coated with grease, your nose begins to itch?
- identical parts - aren't.
- any tool, when dropped, will roll into the least accessible corner.
- nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come.
- if it jams, force it, If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway.
- The solution to a problem changes the problem.
- It is a mistake to allow any mechanical object to realise that you are in a hurry
- If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the next morning you will have a flat tyre.

### **Handy Guide to Modern Science:**

1. If it's green or it wriggles, it's Biology.
2. If it stinks, it's Chemistry
3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

## 5<sup>th</sup> August Oswald – a king with faith, courage and humility

Many Christians have indulged in fantasies from time to time about doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 - 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, but in those times such a title exposed him to danger as well as power. His father Aethelfrith was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only twelve years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim the kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St. Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the river Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage.....for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross

which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St. Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry. Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates. But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one-

Prayer from the liturgy for St. Oswald's day (August 5<sup>th</sup>) written by the Northumbria community:

*"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear. May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have the power to do the good which endures."*

(copyright Northumbria Community Trust)

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