



St Michael's Messenger

Christmas 2008

Free

Issue No. 27

The magazine of the Anglican church of Beaulieu-sur-Mer

www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org



Merry Christmas

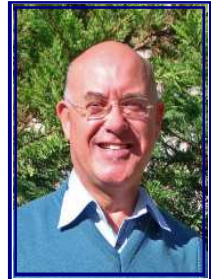


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, may I say....

A Very Merry Christmas to All!

Being as observant as you are, you will have noticed that this issue of the *Messenger* is a little later this year. Since the summer issue, circumstances have arisen that caused this change, not least, the fact that Father Roger was ill and had to be rushed into hospital – of which you are surely all aware. He explains all in his Chaplain's Letter. As you read further it will become clear that the design is different and the fact that we have decided to publish this time without our usual advertisements. The lack of adverts is because of 'reasons beyond our control' as they say. (We remain truly thankful to our advertisers who have been so supportive of us in the past and hope that we may be able to come back to them in the future.)



Later in this issue we happily hear from Christina Gorna giving us an update on her health. There's lots of news to read about our friends as well as bits and bobs of fun and interesting facts about Christmas and this time of year; including another recipe from Fr David Skeoch's dinner for the Nuncio. There is also a most interesting article on St Patrick with a report on the trip made by some to the island of St Honorat in October.

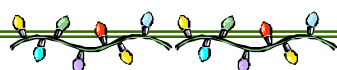
You may like to know that Nicola Karlsen is putting together a list of email addresses of all who would like to have regular updated news of what is going on, what needs doing by whom, where and when etc etc In and around St Michael's. If you are interested in adding your email address to this list please contact Nicola at ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr if not, don't forget our website – magnificently put together by our webmaster Hugh Mellor.

As Fr Roger says in his letter, please look out for, and come to, our ecumenical Christmas Carol Service on the 22nd Dec at 18.00 and don't forget our Christmas Mass on the day itself at 10.00

Of course I will be able to say it in person to many of you, but if I don't

Have a happy Christmas and a very happy new year!

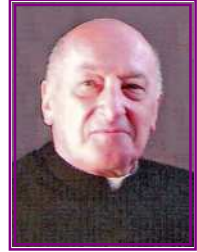
S.B.



LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

'Lord, yet more trouble!'

These are the last recorded words of some unfortunate victim, convicted of high treason in England and sentenced to the barbarous penalty of being hanged, drawn and quartered. He had just been cut down, still breathing, from the gallows in order to undergo the butchery of being drawn and quartered (which I prefer not to describe!) and just had time to utter this cry – a notable example of British understatement – before the executioners got to work on him again.



'Lord, yet more trouble': these words came to my mind in September, when having made good progress in recovering from the operation on my left foot in February, I was suddenly taken ill with a severe intestinal blockage and rushed to the Centre Hospitalier Princesse Grace in Monaco. A colonoscopy revealed a polyp in the colon which necessitated a return to hospital for surgery. The polyp was indeed malignant, as was part of the colon immediately surrounding it, but there was no trace of cancer in any other part of my body. I was offered the choice of undergoing a (preventative) course of Chemotherapy in the form of pills taken at home and agreed to do so. As I write, in the last week of November, I am learning to live with this and to carry on with my work. Once again I must record my gratitude to a caring and supportive congregation, to my sister Mary who came out to Beaulieu for a second three week spell, to Fr Philip and Fr Chad and this time specially to Colin Podmore (see 'In Brief'). Let me conclude this boring part of my letter with the text of a prayer printed on a card sent by a friend who has also been suffering from health problems this year:

'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.'

There is a lesson for all of us in that.

This issue of the *Messenger* will, I hope, reach you in a time for Christmas. I will not try to duplicate the wisdom of our Bishop's Christmas Message, (printed in full on later pages herein) but would draw your attention – if you will be down here at the time – to our Christmas Carol Service on Monday 22nd December and to the Eucharist on Christmas morning. We had originally planned to hold the carol service on Sunday 21st, but on discovering that Paul Ly, the Vietnamese seminarian who serves the French Catholic parish, was to be ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Nice at 4 p.m. on that Sunday in the Church of the Sacré-Coeur in Beaulieu, we agreed to move it to the Monday. If you are here over Christmas, do make a special effort to be present at one or the other – or indeed, both – of our services. 'Do not leave Christ out at Christmas' was a slogan in the United Kingdom some years ago, and I would add to that, 'Do not leave the Mass out of Christmas, Christ's Mass, either'. And if you think Mass is a rather naughty four-letter word, remember that our Lutheran friends use it also and that the first edition of the Book of Common Prayer called the Eucharist, 'The Supper of the Lord, and the Holy Communion, commonly called the Mass.'

Wishing you all every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Roger Greenacre

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism

Sunday 19th October Victor Nelson Henry Louis
MASULLO



Weddings

Saturday 19th July Frederick James **DURMAN**
Madelaine Cian Elizabeth **JONES**

Saturday 20th September Richard John Metcalf **EMANUEL**
Judith Clare **HALMSHAW**

Saturday 27th September Jeremy Shayn **SLOAN**
Jane **HARGREAVES**

IN BRIEF (I)

Representing the Archbishop

When Dom Philibert Zobel, former Abbot of Bec, died in June, Fr Roger, still at the time walking with a crutch, decided that, if humanly possible, he would try to attend his funeral. He had first met Père Philibert in 1952 (just after his finals at Cambridge) and they had worked very closely together in the ecumenical field since Archbishop Michael Ramsey's visit to the Abbey in 1967. He was able to fly to Paris and was then driven to the Abbey of Le Bec-Hellouin in Normandy by a Dominican sister – Soeur Dominique – living in Paris. He was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury to be his representative at the funeral and read Archbishop Rowan's tribute during the funeral mass. By a happy chance a group of priests and students from Pusey House, Oxford (whose buildings were designed by our own architect Temple Moore) were staying at the Abbey and Fr Roger was invited to share his experience with them the next morning.

The right place at the right time!

When Fr Roger was unexpectedly rushed to hospital on Friday 5th September, his friend Dr Colin Podmore, who is a Lay Reader in the Church of England and was staying at the Presbytère on holiday, stepped at very short notice into the breach and in the absence of both Fr Philip and Fr Chad presided at a Liturgy of the Word on Sunday 7th and gave a much appreciated address. It was an object lesson in what can and cannot be done in the absence of a priest. We all have cause to be extremely grateful to Colin for his ministry. The Church Council will know what to do next time!

Welcome to Pastor Carl.

Pastor Carl Bjarkam (see issue no 26) was formally instituted as Priest of the Danish Church on the Côte d'Azur at a service in St Michael's on Sunday 14th September, followed by a reception in the garden. Fr Roger and Egill and Nicola Karlson represented St Michael's. Our congregation was able to welcome him more informally on Sunday 12th October in the gap between our service and theirs.

A neighbour honoured.

We congratulate Jean-Philippe Secordel-Martin, who lives opposite the church and allows us to use his garden on Palm Sunday, who was honoured in a ceremony in Sancta Maria de Olivo on Tuesday 23rd September. He was awarded the *Medaille d'Honneur de la Jeunesse et des Sports* by Mme Roselyne Bachelot, Minister of Health, and was presented with the award by the mayor of Beaulieu, acting on her behalf. Fr Roger was invited but was in hospital at the time.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE



Jack and Roberta Moore are faithful members of our congregation for that part of the year they spend at their home on Cap Ferrat.

They first met and fell in love when they were both at the same boarding school in Germany, and they were married in Windsor Parish Church on 13th September 1958. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in September this year.

The high point of the celebrations was on Sunday 21st, when in the course of the Sunday Eucharist in St Michael's, Jack and Roberta came forward to the sanctuary steps to renew their marriage vows and to receive a special blessing. We were then able to drink their health in a glass of bubbly after the service. It was a great joy to us all that their daughter and granddaughters were able to be present.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S COMMONPLACE BOOK

'Preach the Gospel – and sometimes use words!'

St Francis of Assisi to his disciples

CHRISTMAS LAWS

In Britain there are ancient forgotten laws still existing on the statute books. Here are some – with the dates that they were enacted - that you could still, in theory, be legally arrested for at Christmastime!

Watch out – there could be a copper about!!!

- 1541** The Unlawful Games Act prohibits anyone from playing sports on Christmas Day – except archery.
- 1551** The Holy Days and Fasting Days Act requires every citizen to attend church on Christmas Day – and to walk to and from. Anyone caught using a vehicle will have it confiscated and sold: proceeds will go to charity.
- 1625** It is illegal to gather a group of people together for any type of entertainment during the holiday.
- 1646** (*Believe it or not...*) No Christmas dinner can have more than three courses, and absolutely no mince pie or Christmas pudding may be served. *
- 1667** The law states that there will be no working on Christmas Day!
- 1831** The law states that there will be no hunting on Christmas Day!

* *I'm afraid the chaplain feels obliged to add a pedantic footnote here:
The Puritans, victorious in the civil war and Oliver Cromwell after it, actually abolished Christmas day altogether as rank Popery. I doubt whether any of this legislation remained on the statute books after the 1660 Stuart restoration.*

CHRISTMAS GROANS

The children at the school I am working at gave me some of their Christmas jokes. I thought I would share some with you.....

1. Why does Father Christmas have three gardens?
2. What do you get if you cross a snowman with a shark?
3. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
4. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?
5. What was so good about the neurotic doll the girl was given for Christmas?

And this one from an extra intelligent child...

6. What do you call Santa's helpers?

Answers on page

CHRISTMAS COOKING

Our friend The Reverend Canon D.W.Skeoch continues his recipes from the dinner he cooked for the Nuncio (See issue No 26) The final recipe from Fr David's Nuncio Dinner will appear in our Summer issue.



In the last issue of the messenger I told you how to cook the Oeuf Cocotte, I won't insult you by telling you how to cook the English style Roast duck which followed - but as it's Christmas here is the recipe for the Port Wine Jelly that the Nuncio found so delicious.

Old English Port Wine Jelly



5 oz granulated sugar

1 stick cinnamon

1 blade mace

3 4oz pkts of powdered gelatine

5 fl oz light red wine

1 pint water

4 cloves

zest & juice of 1 lemon

15 fl oz of quality ruby port

frosted black grapes

Put the water, sugar, cinnamon, cloves, mace and lemon zest and juice into a saucepan. Cover and bring to the boil, then remove from the heat.

Sprinkle in the gelatine, whisk and allow to dissolve for 15 minutes, whisking again from time to time.

Strain the spices and zest from the syrup and stir in the port and wine. Taste for sweetness... it should be sweeter than you would normally like. . it lessens once chilled. Add more sugar at this stage if needed - but make sure it dissolves.

Pour into a jelly mould or 8 stemmed glasses and leave to set.

Serve slightly chilled with frosted black grapes.

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2008

Each year the Diocesan Bishop, **The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe** sends a Christmas message. Because we are doing a Christmas issue we are able to print it in full.



St Luke tells us at the end of his story of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem that his mother Mary 'kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.' (Luke 2.19) This is what as Christians we do year by year, as, in the familiar words of Bishop Phillips Brooks' much loved Christmas hymn, 'the dark night wakes, the Glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.' The Greek word which St Luke uses to speak of Mary's deep and reflective meditation is *sumballo*, from which we get our word 'symbol'. Mary both keeps and holds on to the amazing and overwhelming reality of God's action and presence in and through her motherhood, and imaginatively reflects upon it, going deeper and deeper into the meaning of what this birth and this child, of which she is so intimately a part, is about. She 'ponders in her *heart*', and the heart in the Bible is not primarily the place of feeling, but of willing and of choosing. Her deep reflection is to shape her life, and brings her to the foot of the cross, and to be part of the worshipping and expectant community, as Luke tells us in Acts, awaiting the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. The angel had said to Mary in the moment of annunciation that 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you' and therefore the child she was to bear would be called 'the Son of God.' And so Mary became, in the words of another ancient Christian hymn, 'the gate of Heaven's High Lord, the door through which the Light has poured.' When Jacob in the ancient story in Genesis lay down in a desert place and dreamed of a ladder set between heaven and earth with the angels of God ascending and descending upon it, he woke up exclaiming, 'this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!' if this was true of the place of Jacob's dream, even more is it true of the Mother of the Lord and Christian devotion has not hesitated to speak of Mary as the temple of God, the ark of the covenant, and the gate of heaven.

Mary, the ‘Christ-bearer’ reflected deeply and imaginatively on what Jesus meant, and she has been seen as an image, a picture of the church, which likewise reflects on and lives out the meaning of the God who so comes among us. The great movements of renewal in Christian history have come about through a return to what the Scriptures tell us. We have to realise over and over again how great and how overwhelming is the reality of God’s love which always comes down to the lowest part of our need, as it came in Mary’s child at Bethlehem.

Many years ago J.B. Phillips, one of the first translators of the Bible into contemporary English, wrote a book with the title, *Your God is too small*. He was right then, and is right now. Our human tendency is to domesticate God, to make God in our own image, to shape him by the culture and expectations of our own day, But the Gospel message of Christmas – and of Good Friday and Easter from which that Christmas message is inseparable – is of a love that goes to the uttermost and will never let us down and will never let us go. This is the ‘amazing grace’ of Evangelical conversion; this is the same grace which we receive and adore in the holy and blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. As John Betjeman put it simply, ‘God was man in Palestine, and lives today in Bread and Wine’ – and so in our hearts, in our willing and our choosing, in our transformed lives as we like Mary live out our vocation as ‘Christ-bearers’. St John said of the Word of God who became flesh, that the light shone in the darkness and the darkness was not able to overwhelm it, to snuff it out. The light of Christ in us is to shine in the darkness – the darkness of human fear, and violence, and the sinful distortions of deception and betrayal. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God with us, God in the muck and the mess (and the stench) of a stable at Bethlehem; God as a fragile, new-born child laid in the pricking straw of a rough feeding-trough; God in the mess of our world, a world both beautiful and distorted. At Christmas also we celebrate our own new birth, the Christ born in us. And so we rightly sing and pray:

*O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.*

May the God who came to us at Bethlehem to take us by the hand, surround you and renew you with his love, and light, and grace, that you, like blessed Mary, may know his peace and joy this Christmas and in the year ahead. With every blessing,


+GEOFFREY GIBALTAR




CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Grab a pen for this fun Christmas trivia quiz

- 1) How many times is Santa Clause mentioned in Clement Moore's famous poem 'The Night Before Christmas'?
 - A. One
 - B. Three
 - C. Six
 - D. None

- 2) What American State was the last to declare Christmas an official holiday?
 - A. Texas
 - B. Oklahoma
 - C. New York
 - D. Arkansas

- 3) Which vocal artist first recorded 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'?
 - A. Frank Sinatra
 - B. Danny Kaye
 - C. Gene Autry
 - D. Burl Ives

- 4) Which Roman leader is credited with standardizing 25th December as Christmas Day?
 - A. Constantine
 - B. Julius Caesar
 - C. Nero
 - D. Titus

- 5) What ancient civilization began the Wreath tradition?
 - A. Greek
 - B. Sumarian
 - C. Hun
 - D. Roman

- 6) In what country are children allowed to see Santa delivering their presents?
 - A. Canada
 - B. Finland
 - C. Australia
 - D. Hungary





7) On what day of the year is it traditional to stir the Christmas Pudding?



- A. 1st Sunday in Advent
- B. Last Sunday of Lent
- C. Sunday before Advent
- D. Sunday before Lent

8) Who introduced the Christmas tree to England?

- A. Queen Victoria
- B. Prince Albert
- C. The Red Baron
- D. Napoleon

9) Which famous poet included the following lines in the Poem 'Christmas'?

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Becomes a Child on earth for me?

- A. William Wordsworth
- B. John Betjeman
- C. Rupert Brooke
- D. William Shakespeare

10) Who wrote the words to the carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter'?



- A. Oscar Hammerstein
- B. Charles Wesley
- C. William Shakespeare
- D. Christina Rossetti

So there you are. 10 questions Check you answers with the correct answers on page 20



THE MESSIAH

The *Messiah* is Handel's most famous work, one of the most popular oratorios in the world, and a fixture of the Christmas season. Are you aware, however, that:

Handel actually wrote the *Messiah* to be sung during Lent when the theatres were closed for operas and plays. It actually had its debut on 13th April, the Tuesday before Easter, 1745. It was performed in a small theatre in Dublin, where it became an annual event during Holy week.

It was originally sung by 27 choristers – members of the combined choirs of two cathedrals – and a small string orchestra.

The *Messiah* was completed in less than three weeks! He made life easier for himself by often using melodies from works he had already composed. For example, the original words to the melody of "For Unto Us a Child is Born" were "No, I don't trust you blind, Cupid!" (Although it was in Italian.)

Charles Jennens, a literary scholar, assembled the libretto for the *Messiah* out of Old and New Testament scripture. He intended it to be his masterpiece. When Jennens saw the finished *Messiah* he was extremely disappointed with the music. He declared that "...there are some passages far unworthy of Handel but much more unworthy of the *Messiah*." Although Handel made some modifications, they were not enough to satisfy Jennens. He wrote to a friend: "I shall put no more Sacred Words into his hands, to be thus abus'd!"

Despite Handel's popularity in London (by the way, he was a German expat), finding a venue for the *Messiah* was not easy. He had always considered opera to be his true calling and only turned to oratorio as a format because of the growing unpopularity of opera. Most clergy viewed Handel's work as purely secular and deplored his use of sacred texts. The Bishop of London for example denounced his use of cathedral choristers in a production of *Esther*. Since the only choirs to be had in London were cathedral choirs, the churches made it impossible for Handel to get enough singers to perform his oratorios. That is why he chose Dublin for the debut of the *Messiah*. He had no such problems there.

1784 saw the start of the tradition of performing the *Messiah* with a huge chorus and larger orchestra. For that event 4000 people crowded into Westminster Abbey to hear it performed by 513 performers

It is very difficult to perform an authentic version of the *Messiah* because there is no such thing. Handel himself kept meddling with it, re-setting the words, rewriting arias and recitatives for whichever soloists were available at the time, and adding finishing touches here and there. There is no definitive musical text.

In the 19th century it crossed the Atlantic where it first became associated with Christmas by singing the first part only – tacking the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ on for good measure. (Even today, how many people who count the *Messiah* as a favourite work can hum ‘Since by Man Came Death’ from the 3rd part?)

Handel was fortunate enough to see the *Messiah* become popular in his own day. There are several portraits and a statue of him created at the time that picture him resting a hand on a page of the *Messiah* score. In fact, the last performance he ever heard was of the *Messiah*.

Beethoven was a fan of it. Mozart wrote his own arrangement of it. Liszt deplored it and Berlioz declared it ‘a barrel of roast pork and beer!’

The most persistent legend about the *Messiah* is that we stand during the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ because George II stood at this point in the first London performance. One story says that he fell asleep and woke at the jubilant sounds thinking it was the end of the performance. Whether this is so or not - because the King stood and all the public should follow the King’s example - it remains the tradition to always stand during the singing of this magnificent chorus.

As a gift, Handel made sure that during his lifetime all the proceeds from London’s annual performance of the *Messiah* were donated to the Foundling Hospital. So helpful was this gift that the Foundling Hospital tried to obtain exclusive rights to perform it after Handel’s death, saying that Handel had specified that in his will. Luckily for all of us, they failed and it remains a Christmas favourite, performed and listened to by thousands of people, both amateur and professional all around the world.

COULD THIS CATCH ON IN BEAULIEU?

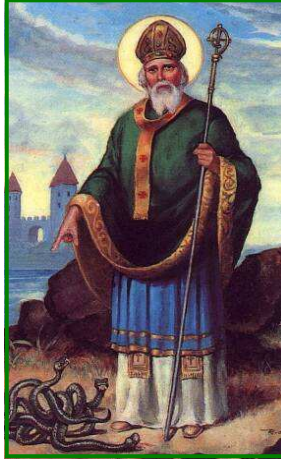


A Catholic group ‘Sentinelli del Mattino’ have set up an inflatable ‘bouncy’ church on an Adriatic coast beach in order to encourage beachgoers to attend Sunday Worship. Mmm..... Not sure.....

SAINT PATRICK

By John Kerry Keane

IRISH, SCOTTISH, ENGLISH OR WELSH?



St Patrick – did he come from Scotland, from England or from Wales? That is the subject of a great continuing debate. There are so many who wish to claim St Patrick as one of their own. But one thing is certain, although he is the revered Patron Saint of Ireland; he was not himself an Irishman.

In folk memory Patrick belongs to Ireland and to Britain. He was imbued with that intense spirit of evangelisation which inspired so many of the early Christian communities. He had an earnest desire to spread the word of God, through Christ the Saviour of the World. It is an ideal that has been lost to many in the contemporary world but then it was new, vibrant and impelling.

Because he was born in about 385, probably in Kilpatrick, Scotland, it is impossible at this remove, over 1,600 years later, to be quite certain about everything in his background. But the tradition – and a strong oral tradition should not be discounted – is that he was born to Calpurnius and Conchessa, a Roman family in occupied Britain. As a boy of fourteen, he was captured by a raiding party with many others by 'Niall of the Nine Hostages' and was then brought as a slave boy to work as a shepherd on Slieve Slemish, near what is now the city of Belfast.

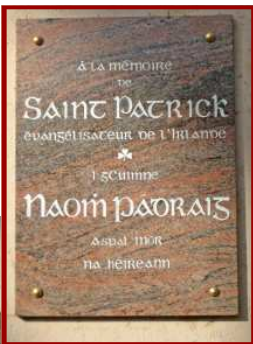
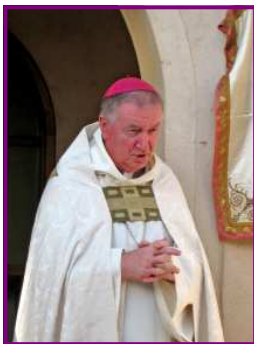
Patrick loved the Irish people and he decided in a dream that it was his mission in life to bring Christianity to Ireland. That is exactly what he did.

It was on the island of St Honourat where, according to tradition, the young Patrick spent a length of time studying to become a priest and praying for the success of his mission to bring the spirit of Christianity to the Irish people.

From the island of St Honorat he travelled to Auxerre, where he was consecrated a Bishop, before setting out on his mission to Ireland.

In his life, Patrick preached the unity of the blessed trinity – three divine persons in one, the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. To explain this he used the example of the three-leaf shamrock – the trefoil – which to this day is the national and heraldic symbol of Ireland.

Patrick spent his life bringing people together in a spiritual communion. How appropriate it was then that Christians from all over Ireland and Britain, representing many denominations, should have joined together in October to celebrate the life of St Patrick.



The dedication at St Honorat with, from L to R: Bishop Duffy, Mme. Vouillon, M. Joannon, Abbot Vladimir, John Kerry Keane, Canon Greenacre and Pat Heneghan

THE TRIP TO ST HONORAT

Many members of St Michael's participated and, led by Fr Roger, they travelled by coach from Beaulieu to the old Port of Cannes, before going aboard the ferry to the island of Saint Honorat. There they were joined by Irish, English and other friends from Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and from America who were happy to be part of the commemoration.

The Irish Ambassador to France H.E. Anne Anderson and H.E. Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh, were joint Patrons of the event. The Irish Government was represented by the Hon Consul M. Pierre Joannon, who spoke of the many historic ties between Ireland and France and the deputy of the Mayor of Cannes, Madame Catherine Vouillon, spoke warmly of the spirit of the Irish tradition.

Abbot Vladimir welcomed everyone on behalf of the Cistercian Community and said how happy they all were to have the visible sign of Ireland and of St Patrick on the commemorative plaque on the island of St Honorat. He thanked John Kerry Keane, Pat Heneghan and Canon Greenacre.

Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher, a noted Patrician scholar, presided and represented the Irish Hierarchy. He gave a homily in French and in English. Canon Roger Greenacre, representing the Anglican Communion on the Côte d'Azur, proclaimed the Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful were offered by those of many different Christian denominations.

Ancient Irish airs were played by the celebrated Irish flautist Dr Fintan Vallely and Deirdre O'Callaghan sang 'Dochas Linn Naomh Pdraig'.

At the unveiling ceremony of the commemorative plaque, John Kerry Keane thanked the Abbot and community for their welcome and for all the Irish, English and other friends who had joined the celebration. He thanked Frère Antoine for assisting with the liturgy and the choral responses and he congratulated M. Benvenuti, the doyen of monumental sculptures in Cannes, for the great artistry of his work.

The coach journey back to Beaulieu was a happy event, lightened by a little white wine and water, served by Biji, a Christian from Kerala

IN BRIEF (II)

The Chaplain in print.

Though Fr Roger has not had a good year healthwise in 2008, his brain has not been entirely idle! In September was published the volume *Lent to Embertide* in the series *Using Common Worship: Times and Seasons*. The main text is by Canon Jeremy Haselock, Vice-Dean and Precentor of Norwich Cathedral, and Canon Dr David Kennedy, Precentor of Durham Cathedral. The Introduction is by a retired Canon Precentor of Chichester, now living in Beaulieu! Cathedral Canons, you will be pleased to know, no longer live a life of cushioned ease! Then in October came two contributions to French ecumenical publications, *Unité des Chrétiens* (No 152), an interview by Catherine Aube-Elie, and *Unité Chrétienne*, and accompanying document for the Week of Prayer for Unity, an article on Pope Paul VI's gift of his episcopal ring to Archbishop Michael Ramsey in 1966. In December will be published a piece he has done (with the help of Jeremy Haselock and Colin Podmore) on *Cranmer et la liturgie anglicane* for the French biblical review *Cahiers Evangile*.

Congratulations!

Olivier-Henri Sambucchi, Senior Curator of national Heritage, Director of Cultural Development, Communauté d'Agglomération Nice-Côte d'Azur (CANCA), who has long been a friend and supporter of ours at St Michael's, has produced with a number of collaborators, a handsome and lavishly illustrated volume, *Nice Tramway des Métamorphoses*, devoted to the modern works of art which now punctuate the route of the Nice tramway. It was he who was "...charged not only with constituting this collection of public art but also curating it over the long-term."

In November he was appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite, an honour not, we imagine, unconnected with this achievement. Next time you take the tram look out for the artworks!

A Boy is Born

Congratulations to David and Sara Green on the birth of their son Alexander on the 6th November. David and Sara were married in St Michael's in September 2005 but now live at Callian in the Var, so we do not see them so often.

May she rest in peace.

Blackie, the wife of our generous benefactor, the Sculptor Tom Merrifield, died after a long illness on 25th October. She was prayed for in St Michael's on the next two Sundays and Fr Roger sent a letter of sympathy to her husband. Barry Ayres, a frequent visitor to St Michael's, is Tom's manager and was very close to Blackie.

RESTORATION

In the last edition of the Messenger we reported that we have raised over £100,000 towards complete restoration of the exterior of St Michael's and promised an update in this edition. What we have to report is good news and bad news—mostly good I hope!

The good news is that the application to the Conseil General des Alpes Maritimes for a grant towards the restoration cost was finally completed and lodged with the authorities in October. Grants are available “up to” 50% of the total cost. Times are hard and we don't know how much if any will be granted. We have been advised our application will be considered in around May 2009.

Preparing this application has been quite a job in itself—not helped by having to change architects not once but twice! We owe a debt of gratitude to Nick and Stephanie Harley for locating an architect, Robert Capelier, who has done a very impressive job of putting the technical report together and also for pushing the project forward; without their efforts there would be no application and no prospect of a grant. Thanks also to Vance Johnson, Father Roger and others who have helped put together all the other, often bureaucratic, pieces of the puzzle.

The bad news is that the original cost estimate for the work has gone up and now stands at 280,000 euros. Part of the reason seems to be the massive demand for contractors who have been busy extending and renovating all those lovely villas along the coast. We shall see whether or not the credit crunch changes the balance of supply and demand next year. It is an ill wind.... as they say.

Whatever happens it seem certain that more funds will be needed—and the architect's report graphically illustrates the need for this work so, as always, all donations of any amount will be very welcome. They should be addressed to our Treasurer and posted to the Chaplain at “Presbytère Anglican, Residence St Michel, rue Paul Doumer, 06310 Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France” – and if you are a UK taxpayer please ask us to send you a gift-aid form and get the taxman to add to your gift.

Hugh Mellor

ANSWERS

GROANS 1) So he can go: 'Ho Ho Ho' 2) Frostbite 3) 'It's Christmas, Eve'.
4) Because he had low elf-esteem. 5) It was wound up already.
6) Subordinate Clauses. **CHRISTMAS QUIZ** 1) None 2) Oklahoma 3) Gene Autry 4) Constantine 5) Roman 6) Finland 7) Sunday before Advent 8) Prince Albert 9) John Betjeman 10) Christina Rossetti

HOME AT LAST !

An update by Christina Gorna



Readers were informed in the last issue of this parish journal of my incarceration in a London hospital of over 6 months earlier this year. My dear lawyer friend and fellow parishioner of St Michael's, Simon Goldstein, wrote of his faithful visits to me and reported on my state of health. I am happy to report that I managed to finally escape to the Cote d'Azur on the 2nd September 2008.

At the request of our editor, I am most happy to update you all on my slow but steady progress toward mobility – helped only, I may say, with the great support from all your prayers, visits, letters, cards and telephone calls! I have even been given my own special seat at the back of the church and am already itching to cast aside my canes and walk up to the Altar, unaided, to receive Holy Communion as well as resuming my turn of reading the lessons. Please God, let it be soon....but maybe not till next term.

I want to thank you all – Although I know I can't name everyone, I feel that I must mention Simon and Fr Roger and the fact that I was thrilled to have a visit from the Hayward family who uplifted me by introducing me to baby Cassius just before Justin embarked on yet another strenuous tour. Also, thank you to Micky who sent welcome news and a round robin of good wishes from my Villefranche neighbours and to my good friends the Blundreds who treated me to a slap-up meal in one of the greatest and world-renowned restaurants in Villefranche.

In fact everyone has been so kind and caring and truly Christian. I am blessed indeed to belong to the family of the beautiful church of St Michael's in Beaulieu. Thank you.

Christina Gorna

DID YOU KNOW ?

- * Assuming Rudolph's in front, there are 40,320 ways to arrange the eight other reindeer.
- * Fake Christmas trees have out-sold real ones every year since 1991.
- * The tradition of sending Christmas cards originated in England in 1843.
- * CB radio users don't like to get a Christmas card – that's a code name for a speeding ticket.
- * Ninety-eight per cent of Christmas trees are grown on tree farm.

TOM MERRIFIELD



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Friends and Patrons of St Michael's

The contribution of each and every one is gratefully acknowledged

Patrons

Ceri and Susan James, Vance and Linda Johnson, Justin and Marie Hayward, Mark and Sarah Holford, John and Leonora Kerry Keane, Jack and Roberta Moore, Jeremy and Susan Nordberg, William Prather, Rex and Sophie Thorne.

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Matthew and Laurence Bate, Fiona Brannon, Lord and Lady Charles Cecil, Professor Richard Cooper, Dr Paul and Mrs Judith Couch, Canon Chad and Mrs Jean Coussmaker, Robin and Janna de Vere Green, John and Sarah Glaister, Roger Greenacre, Christina Gorna, Edgar and Joan Harborne, Nick and Stephanie Harley, Teddy Heywood, Robin and Sarah Hutchins, Vanessa Ilsley, Chris and Rita Jonas, Alfred and Brenda Louch, Hugh and Anne Mellor, Colin Menzies, Charles Parsley, Christopher Reddington, John and Vanessa Stone, Heidi Van Arsdell, Anthony Vernon, Dr Dermot Ward, Lyndon and Eira Williams.

As at date of publication

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Next time you are at St Michael's look around at the congregation and try to guess how many are permanent residents here. Perhaps you were thinking that you were the only part-timer among a large group of established residents. In reality only about half a dozen families are year round residents, the rest are either second home owners, winter or summer only residents, or holiday visitors. This makes our congregation a unique one, which hardly ever has the same composition two Sundays in a row. It also means that many of the lay person duties tend to fall on very few people.

For this reason the Church Council has started an email newsletter called 'Keeping In Touch' so that all our far-flung friends can be kept up to date with news of forthcoming events. We will also be letting you know ways in which you can participate in the life of St Michael's even if you are only here part of the time.

If you have not already received the email newsletter, (not to be confused with the *Messenger*!) do let us have your email address by contacting Nicola on ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr your email address will not be disclosed to others on the mailing list.

N.K

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E U C H A R I S T E V E R Y S U N D A Y A T 1 0 A M

Followed by refreshments

Dates for your diary

December

Monday 22nd 18.00 Carol Service (bilingual and ecumenical)
followed by mince pies and mulled wine
Thursday 25th 10.00 Christmas Day Eucharist

January 2009

Thursday 1st 12.00 New Year's Day Eucharist (said)

February

Tuesday 24th 19.00 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
(in the church)
Wednesday 25th 10.00 Ash Wednesday Eucharist for the 1st day of
Lent

April

Sunday 12th 10.00 Easter Day Eucharist
Sunday 19th AGM to follow the 10.00 Eucharist

Chaplain Canon Roger Greenacre DD 04 93 01 45 61
In the Chaplain's absence, emergency calls to: 06 60 42 52 47

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The editor reserves the right to alter and edit material as may be required.