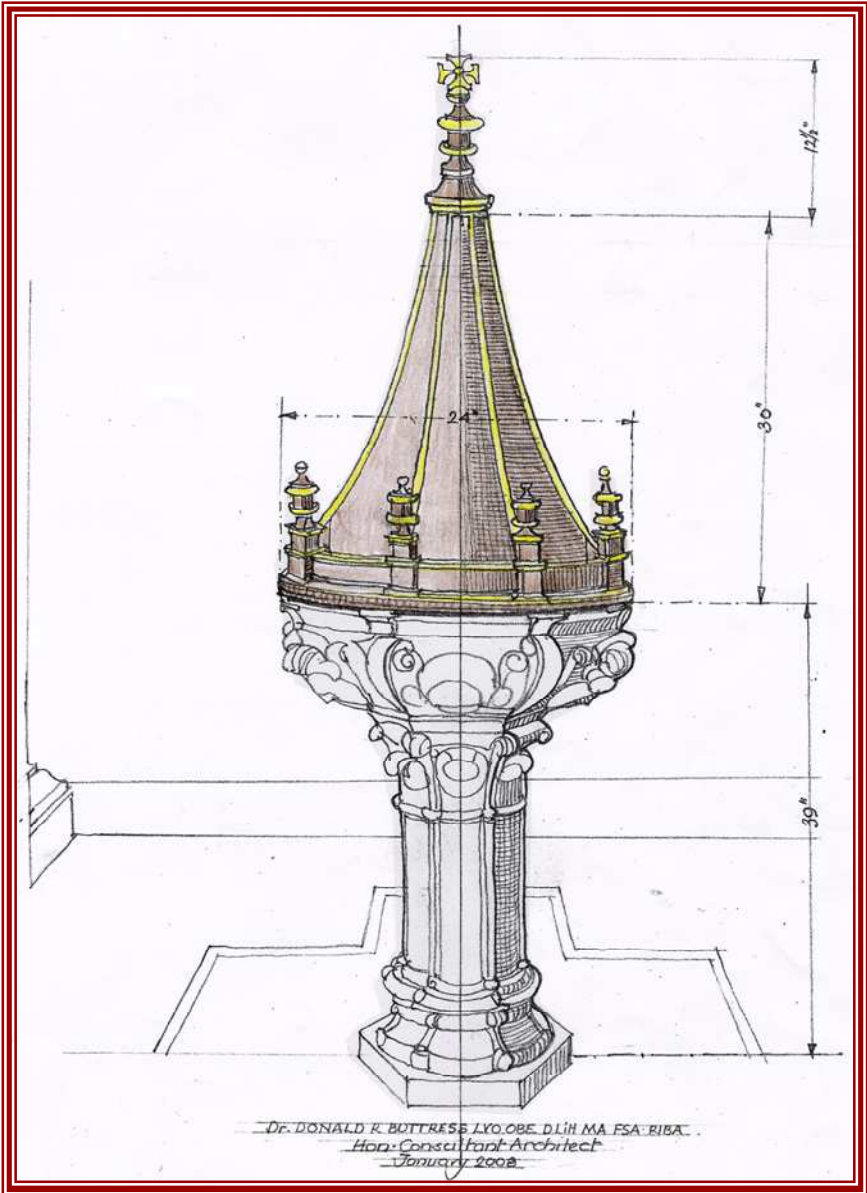


St Michael's Messenger

Winter 2008



Free

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Although this edition of *The Messenger* is a little later than usual owing to circumstances out of our control, I think that you will find it well worth waiting for.

Thank you to all the contributors; particularly Deanne for telling us about the various charities that St Michael's supports throughout the year and Josephine for sharing a rather remarkable experience with us, to Justin for his memories, Marie for her recipe, Nicola for her article on 'Outreach', Xenia Denner for bringing to life a plaque in the church and Fr Roger for all other information contained herein.

As always, a big **Thank You** to our advertisers without whom we could not exist. Please support them all you can!

Thank You too to two people: Hugh Mellor and Tom Downes. Indeed thanks go to everyone on the credit list!



Now – if you can - Don't forget to come to the Pancake supper on Tuesday 5th February when there will be a little musical entertainment and also to the Recital on Saturday 5th April given by the Copenhagen Girls' Choir (See STOP PRESS).

If there is anyone who would like to contribute an article, recipe, poem, puzzle, joke or indeed anything to *The Messenger*, please send it by email, as an attachment using WORD, to me;

stuartbarham@yahoo.com (understanding, of course, that my editorial word as to its use or suitability is final!)

Last – but certainly not least - I want to take this opportunity to personally congratulate Doremi and Shaun Vaardal on the birth of their son. **SB**



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LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

“Without the Day of the Lord we cannot live”.

I came across this striking phrase in a book I have been reading recently and which I can heartily recommend; **What is the point of being a Christian?** by Timothy Radcliffe.



In the year 304 somewhere in North Africa a group of Christians were arrested for gathering together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday. When the Imperial Proconsul asked Emeritus, the owner of the house, why he had allowed these people into his house (one senses perhaps that one member of the upper class was asking another why he tolerated such riffraff on his premises), Emeritus replied that they were his brothers and sisters. When the Proconsul (perhaps trying to find a way of escape for him from a charge that carried the death penalty) argued that he should have forbidden them entry, Emeritus replied that he could not ‘*quoniam sine dominico non possumus!*’ – because without the day of the Lord we cannot live. In those days of persecution you could have escaped arrest, trial, imprisonment and death if you simply stayed at home, secretly read the scriptures and tried to be a Christian without “going to church”, without meeting early on a Sunday morning for the Eucharist, the only activity that really exposed you to great risk. Christians did not meet for the Eucharist because of some externally imposed obligation (“It’s a moral sin to miss Sunday mass”) but simply because it was what gave meaning to their lives, because without the Sunday Eucharist life was not worth living.

How different things are today. We risk nothing – not in Europe or North Africa at least – by going to church on Sunday, but Sunday, *dies dominica* (The Lord’s Day), dimanche, has ceased to be special for so many contemporaries, even to the point of demanding the right to shop freely on this day. After the ‘Christianisation’ of the Roman Empire in the 4th century Sunday became the weekly day of rest, and even most of those who are neither Christian nor adherents of other religions recognize that a weekly rhythm which includes a day of rest is a human necessity, a day of relaxation and refreshment for soul and body. But how many of us can honestly say that a Sunday without the Eucharist is for us a real deprivation?

Cont.

Two of the eucharistic prayers in Common Worship in their modern-language version begin by acknowledging that it is our duty and our joy to celebrate the Eucharist. For how many of us is it a duty? And even if we recognize it as a duty, can we also recognize it as a joy? Can we say with Emeritus on trial for his life, “Without the Day of the Lord we cannot live”?

Roger Greenacre

A personal postscript.

Some time in the last quarter of 2007 I ruptured the Achilles heel tendon of my left foot. Because this was largely due to a long-standing but worsening deformation of the left foot, surgery has been prescribed. The operation has been booked for the end of May, but because of serious lack of mobility the request has been made that it should be advanced. Whether this can happen will depend on any cancellations in the surgeon's appointment list. We- the Church Council, my friends and, of course myself - hope and pray that this will be the case. Meanwhile I can only ask people to bear with me and to understand that for the immediate future I cannot make any firm commitments for the months ahead. You will have to put up with a lame duck well, perhaps no duck, but certainly lame!

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Funeral

Monday 22nd October 2007 Kenneth Smith (of Villefranche-sur-Mer)
Saturday 19th January 2008 Marie Rastoldo (of Beaulieu-sur-Mer)
- Conducted by Mr le Pasteur Tambon



IN BRIEF

Kykkos again

Does the name ring a bell? It is a famous orthodox monastery in Cyprus, home to a much-venerated icon of the Virgin and Child, which inspired Elvire Mercantini's version now hanging in St Michael's and also prompted Josephine Collins Attar to visit it and to describe that visit in issue No 23 of the messenger. Now the latest report of the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue, *The Cyprus Agreed Statement*, tells us that the final chapter of the statement was completed at a meeting held at the monastery in June 2005.

Our Architect honoured

We congratulate St Michael's honorary architect, Dr Donald Buttress, on his appointment as O.B.E. (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the New Year Honours List "for services to the conservation of cathedrals". St Michael's is no cathedral but its beauty has been significantly enhanced by Dr Buttress's skill and devotion. He is currently working on the national memorial in central London to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and King George VI.

More congratulations

1) To Dr – now Dame – Mary Tanner, a President of the World Council of Churches and the Church of England's best-known lay and female theologian, appointed a Dame of the Order of the British Empire (D.B.E.) in the same honours list. She has worshipped at St Michael's with her husband John while visiting friends in Monaco.

2) To Canon Jeremy Haselock, Vice-Dean and Precentor of Norwich Cathedral and a frequent visitor to St Michael's who has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (F.S.A.), a distinguished learned society founded in 1707.

A tough new job

Those of us who went to Chichester Cathedral for Fr Roger's golden jubilee of priestly ordination in September 2005 will not forget the striking presence and eloquent wisdom (expressed in perfect English) of the preacher on that occasion, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran. He has recently been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, in overall charge of relations with all the non-Christian religions and particularly, at this critical juncture, with Islam. We assure him of our prayers in this new and heavy responsibility.

Best wishes

Our best wishes go to Their Royal Highnesses Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and the Countess of Wessex – who visited St Michael's in September 2006 – on the birth of a son, James, Viscount Severn, in December.

Christmas at St Michael's

It is impossible to calculate with total accuracy the number of people who attended our Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December but we reckon that there were at least 120. It is the most popular service of the year with a large number of French visitors and we owe particular thanks to this year's team of musicians; Stuart Barham, Karen Andersen and Nigel Holdsworth. It is even rumoured that our cure, Père Filippi, is envious of the vigour of our singing! We had good numbers too on Christmas morning, and it was good to welcome back over the festival several old friends, among them Andrew and Marylyne Hayward, Paul, Debra and Felicity Garvey and Ripley Harrington.

Au Revoir and Godspeed

It is with sadness that we said goodbye in November to Mike Wain, confirmed at St Michael's in 2006, who came to the reluctant decision that, largely for health reasons, he should return to England and settle near Sheffield with his sister. He has written to us, assuring us of his affection and gratitude towards St Michael's and of his desire to keep in touch.

Drying out

We have had for a long time a damp problem inside the church in the south aisle. Now, thanks to the hardwork and perspicacity of Ian Corrie and his colleague Tony, the problem has been tackled. They discovered that in fact the drains on the south side of the church went nowhere! They have installed new drainpipes which now have a proper outlet.



FOR SALE (1)

Apartment for sale, ground floor, (one bedroom) in the house beside St Michael's.

**Private sunny garden. New kitchen.
Air cond. 2 caves. €340,000.**



WHAT'S COOKING ?

VEGETABLE AND CHICK PEA CURRY

INGREDIENTS:-

- 2 tbs. Olive Oil
- 1 brown/or white onion - chopped
- 1 tbs. Fresh or ground ginger - chopped
- 3 cloves garlic - chopped
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 2 teaspoons garum masala
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 potatoes – cubed
- 2 carrots – sliced
- 1 large sweet potato – cubed
- 2 courgettes (if you like but not essential)
- 425 g. tinned chopped tomatoes
- 250 ml. vegetable stock
- 1 400 gm jar or tin of chick peas
- 200 gm baby spinach
- 1 bunch fresh coriander



METHOD:-

Heat the oil in large saucepan. Add the chopped onion, ginger and garlic. Cook for five minutes on a medium heat until soft. Add all the spices and cook for 1–2 minutes. Add the vegetables (not the spinach or the chick peas) and mix into the cooked spices. Add the tomatoes, chick peas and stock - stirring gently. Cook until all the vegetables are soft. Add more water if you like your curry a little more moist. Add spinach for the last five minutes before serving so that it is tender. Serve with rice (or not) and sprinkle with fresh chopped coriander.

This meal is best cooked on a low heat for about two hours and even better if cooked 24 hours before eaten.

(Garum Masala is difficult to find - you can actually find it in Carrefour amongst the sachets of fresh herbs. It can be substituted with mild chilli powder)

Good and filling on a cold winter's night. Bon Appetit.

Marie Hayward

The Bairds of Beaulieu

by Xenia Dennen



Sarah & George Baird in Russia

Xenia Dennen, writer and traveller, is a specialist on Russian religious affairs, Chairman of the Keston Institute, wife of Fr Lyle Dennen, Archdeacon of Hackney, and the granddaughter of Field Marshal Earl Haig.

My grandmother, Dorothy Baird, born in 1881, was the youngest daughter of George and Sarah Baird whose memorial plaque is in St Michael's Church. George Baird came from a line of distinguished Scottish engineers who had made their fortune in Russia from the late 18th century. George's grandfather, Charles Baird, an expert in the casting and

finishing of guns at the Carron Company in Glasgow, accompanied the company's director to St Petersburg in 1786 in order to establish a canon foundry there. He soon set up his own iron foundry in St Petersburg, the Baird Works, which was remarkably successful and became famous for its order and efficiency.



Francis Baird

His son, Francis, who joined his father in Russia at the age of 17, took over the business at his father's death in 1843. Some Baird creations in St Petersburg include the dome of St Isaac's Cathedral – considered an engineering feat at the time – and all the statues round the dome; the column to Alexander I outside the Winter Palace; various bridges including the charming Lion Bridge for pedestrians over the Groboyedov Canal; and the gun carriage, with the name of "Baird" stamped clearly on the hub of its wheels, under the "Tsar-Gun" which stands prominently in the middle of Moscow's Kremlin.



Charles Baird

Francis Baird had ten children of whom only three survived: George was born in 1842 and when his father died in 1864 became head of the Baird Works. In 1871 he petitioned Alexander II, asking to be confirmed as an hereditary nobleman: "My dead grandfather, Charles Baird, obtained a hereditary nobleman's title for which I would like to receive a patent with coat of arms." Documentation dated 1815, which had included Charles Baird in the third Book of Genealogy, had been burned when the St Petersburg Council of Nobles' Deputies had caught fire in 1846. In a document dated 22 December 1871, the Senate is stated to have considered George's request for a patent of nobility, and because Charles Baird had received so many decorations and had become a Russian subject, "he had acquired the right to this honour".



Sarah Baird in Beaulieu, 1910



My father & his sister in the garden of the Villa Baird, 1913

George and Sarah left Russia in 1881, soon after the assassination of Alexander II, but the plaque in St Michael's Church testifies that they put down roots in Beaulieu well before this, in 1878. James Livesey, an engineer like George Baird (and a benefactor of St Michael's) who built himself the Casa del Monte in Beaulieu, became a close family friend and eventually a relation when his son, Fredrick William, married one of the Bairds' four daughters, Nadine. Yet another engineer and friend of the Bairds seems to have been part of the circle, an American, John Howard Johnston; he eventually married my grandmother, Dorothy.

My father as a child loved playing in the garden of the "Villa Baird" as he called it – it was like paradise and ran down to the edge of the sea, he said. He told me that because the Bairds lost much of their fortune, they turned the Villa into a hotel and moved further inland to a farmhouse "on the other side of the railway line," while living on the income from the Villa. I have no proof, but I wonder whether Bond's Hotel, run by the Bairds' former butler – now the Hôtel Résidence Jean Freville – is in fact the Villa Baird which my father so loved?



Xenia Dennen

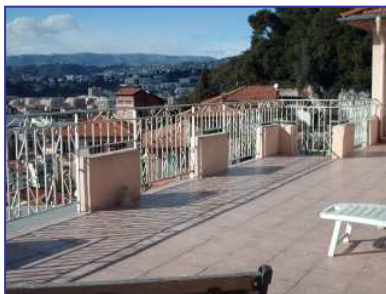
P.S.. We think it unlikely that the (former) Jean Freville could have been the original Villa Baird. It is in fact some way from the edge of the sea and "on the other side of the railway line". The memorial to George and Sarah Baird is on the inside wall of the church between the Font and the Altar of St Martin; that to John Bond is just above the steps to the Pulpit.



FOR SALE (2)

Jonny & Michelle Clegg have for sale their split-level 3 bedroom house at Mont Boron. In a quiet quarter, 6 minutes walk from Nice Riquier station and buses and 8 minutes from the tram. Terrace, garden, 120 sq m living space. Great views. Access is by steps (not for the infirm)

590,000 euros. Contact 0492042037



"As It Was In The Beginning....."

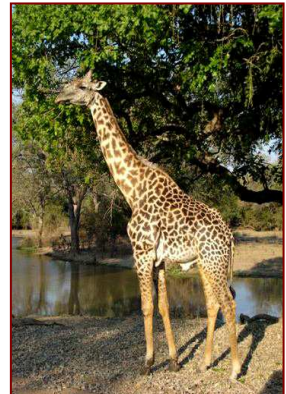
Josephine Takes A Walk On The Wild Side!!

So, what are your hopes and dreams for 2008? Maybe you would like to visit a country



you haven't yet been to or take an unusual, activity holiday? I must say that this time last year thoughts of this kind were not uppermost in my mind. I did want to write a book but I have been making that same resolution for more years than I care to remember! I certainly did not envisage an African adventure but that is what happened in August 2007.

I had just returned from a "visiting family and friends" (in Easyjet speak) fortnight in England, which, as we all know, can be exhausting! "I could really do with a holiday after that", I mused as I waited for my bags in Nice airport and, you know what they say, "Be careful what you wish for...!" Anyway, when I got home there was an intriguing message on my answerphone. It was a friend, asking me whether I would like to join them for a while in a safari lodge in the South Luangwa, Zambia. Another message told me that they were leaving in two days! After a few hours of dithering I made up my mind! Yes, I would go because I might never have this opportunity again, so I scurried round Beaulieu looking for safari jackets and anti malaria pills. I found neither but decided that I could manage without the safari jacket and, as divine winds were obviously blowing me along, my neighbours had the anti malaria medicine I needed.



We set off from Nice airport 48 hours later, stopped for re-fuelling in Hassan Djamous (Chad) and landed at Mfuwe airport in Zambia in the early afternoon. I spent 9 years of my life running a British school in North Africa but the heart of Africa is here under the Equator. This small town looked just like the Africa I remembered in Arthur Mee's children's encyclopaedia (Yes, I know you aren't old enough to remember it!). Mud huts with grass roofs, barefoot people walking to nowhere along the roads, ramshackle, roadside stalls and the occasional jeep from the safari lodges. There were also churches which had mud brick walls but tin roofs. We passed St Agnes Anglican Church which was awaiting a roof! I learned later that tin roofs are a sign of prosperity and that they are considered prestigious, rather like the marble and other noble materials used in the construction of our church buildings.

The South Luangwa National Park was only a short drive from Mfuwe but immediately the scene changed and the world of humans melted away. This is one of the greatest, wildlife sanctuaries in the world, a truly pristine wilderness. The word 'sanctuary' is a sacred word and I can only say that when one enters this place there is an immediate rush of awe and wonder which surely stems from an innate recognition of the power of the Creator made manifest in the most astonishing beauty of this huge park (9050 square kilometres). It is home to more than 60 different, animal species and 400 different bird species. The lifeblood of this remote and wild bushland is the Luangwa River crowded with hippos, crocodiles and waterfowl.



The lodge lay deep in the park and I was moved by the gentle welcome of the Zambian staff. These are peaceful people who face hardship and danger every day but they smile more than any people I have ever seen. Maybe they smile because they have realised that life is too short to waste in gloom, for average life expectancy in Zambia is only around the mid-thirties!! *Lion Camp* is as beautiful as it is elegant yet natural and simple, blending perfectly with the landscape. There are no windows nor shutters here, only mosquito netting and so dawn and dusk filled my chalet with hues of orange, purple, pink and gold, sumptuous enough to rival the best stained glass of Europe's finest cathedrals! Those were the moments I loved, especially at dusk when the elephants and the zebra wandered down to the river in stately file, followed by the extraordinarily lovely puku antelopes. The golden baboons came leaping and sudden showers of emerald green lovebirds lit the sky. It is an absolutely breathtaking scene reminiscent of the early days of the earth's story and Noah's Ark.



I saw the glory and magnificence of nature in a way that I had never seen it before but I also witnessed the terrible cruelty and efficiency of nature which was equally impressive but rather less uplifting! I will never forget the sight of the lions(19 of them!) munching away at a water buffalo closely observed by crowds of elegant, crowned cranes and hideous, black, marabou storks. Scores of vultures waited patiently in the skeletal trees but the hyenas got there first and they didn't leave much behind!!

Much of what I saw is hard to describe in words and I had never imagined that I would see this! So, I hope that 2008 will bring surprise opportunities for you too and, if they come do take them!

Josephine Collins Attar

LAST WEEK

Last week I watched
Two boys squatting on a
Dry, dark river bed.
They were digging for
Water, thick, brownly
Sort of water.

Today I marvelled
At the crystal stream
Spurting from my tap
And I thought of them.

(I know! You're in a hurry!)

Last week I saw
A barefoot woman carrying
Huge, heavy branches on her head.
She needed them for the fire
Then she could cook, you see.
I thought of her tonight as
I flicked a switch, commanding
Flames to heat my supper.

(I know! You've got to go!)



Last week I saw
A man and boy fishing
In a hot, brown river.
Hoping for a tasty catch!
Nearby, the flat, dark cross
Were hungry too!
I thought of that man
And the boy this morning,
Impatient at the checkout.

(What? They shouldn't be doing that??)



Last week I saw
Some forty children under
A mango tree, (YES! FORTY!)
They were reciting a poem
By heart, no books.
Tonight, when my son
Refused to read I told him
About the Mango School.

(Yes! No building you see)

Last week I saw
Too much maybe. It
Has caused a commotion
In my head and I can't
Stop thinking about all
That life struggle and
You complain of the rain!

*(I know! It's not your problem!
Just thought I'd tell you!)*

J.C.A.

Wotsurname?

From the following list of first names and partial answers, can you work out the famous personality and the phrase or saying?

Example: Franz Joseph HAYDN Seek.

Victoria _____ you buy a car from this man?

Francis _____ and eggs.

Alan _____ King's men.

Ian _____ stuff.

Neil _____ is forever.

Victor _____ your way and I'll go mine.

Answers on page 21

Bulletin Bloopers

As editor I know how careful one has to be in wording things the correct way. Here are three examples taken from other church magazines showing how misunderstandings can occur.

- The association Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday:- "I upped my pledge – Up Yours".
- Ms Charlene Mason sang 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- This evening there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Suggestions for an easier life!

- Never judge a day by the weather.
- The best things in life are not things.
- Tell the truth – there is less to remember.
- Speak softly, act loudly.
- Enjoy something funny at least once a day.
- Learn to laugh at yourself – a lifetime's source of humour.
- Goals are deceptive.
- The more you accumulate in life, the more you will have to leave behind.

“TOO QUICK - TOO QUIET!”

Our Churchwarden, Justin Hayward, recalls memories of Canon Brian Matthews who was chaplain of both St Paul's, Monte Carlo and St Michael's, Beaulieu-sur-Mer from 1958 to 1983 when he retired. He then moved along the coast to live in Beaulieu where he remained as Chaplain until shortly before his death in 1997.

The Reverend Canon Brian Matthews was the chaplain at St Michael's when I first came to worship here. I stumbled into the church one Sunday morning with the purpose of giving thanks that a particular issue in my life had been resolved.

I knew of the existence of St Michael's because of my obsession with exploring in detail the areas around the places I find myself living or staying in, and in the late 80's and early 90's that place was a flat with the most stunning views in an apartment block built on the site of an old monastery on Mont Boron, Nice.

On a previous 'recce' of the outside of the church I had seen a slightly faded note posted on the old dilapidated wooden notice board on the railings (later replaced by me, along with the letter box – which, incidentally, was originally designed to hang *on* the railings not to be set into them - a decision that was made by my carpenter, probably because my 'back of an envelope' drawings weren't explicit enough! Sorry about that). On the note was written:

Every Sunday — Morning Prayer 10.00 am Holy communion 10.30 am.

Somewhat confusing?

I thought so!

Anyway, the following Sunday, thinking I would hedge my bets on my arrival time, I gently edged into the church at about ten fifteen – in the middle of Brian's Gospel reading. He looked up for a second and stopped in the middle of a verse, just long enough to draw everyone's attention to my rude late entrance and then carried on forcefully while I joined Deanne Fox and the six or seven others in the congregation.

The service in those days was always from The Book of Common Prayer — which was right up my street. I always loved the language and feeling of it, and even as a small child I understood every phrase and sentence. Over time I had grown to admire and treasure it - we used to chant the Psalm too. Lovely. I was slightly offended that one of the reasons cited for updating the Eucharist was that we normal folk needed simpler language or... 'words that we could easily understand'!

Back to my first Sunday at St Michaels: Canon Matthews slowly and purposefully climbed the steps of the slightly wobbly tilting pulpit and delivered the sermon. And did he deliver!! I was absolutely mesmerised. I was captivated and I was sold.

He was an extremely emotive and totally convincing speaker and his words always came from his heart. I never heard him lecture or harangue but sometimes, just occasionally, while on the track of a particularly pure train of thought, he would get so caught up in the emotion of his words that he would falter slightly and a lump would come to all our throats. In more evangelical surroundings someone would have shouted 'Hallelujah!' or 'Praise the Lord!' as they do in those wonderfully musical American Baptist churches - Strictly taboo in St Michael's of course.

Well, I was hooked.

It's my belief that when you find someone as powerful as that in your life you should stay close to him or her, listen and learn and hope that some of the mystery rubs off a bit on you. In Father Brian Mathews I had found such a man.

Of course being in his company was not without its risks as he always spoke his mind and sometimes could be brutally and refreshingly truthful. He didn't suffer fools gladly and woe betides anyone who talked lightly of religion.

It was important to him that words spoken to a congregation should be clear, and on one occasion I remember him saying simply "Too quick - too quiet!" to a reader of the lesson who was eagerly expecting some kind of approval from him after the service. Advice yes – praise no.

I was there one Sunday when an American man, never seen before at St Michael's, decided, or was persuaded, to read the lesson (which he did rather quietly and sensitively) and as he got under way I could see Brian squinting at him from his chair. About half way through the reading Brian suddenly cried, "Speak up!" very loudly. The poor man never recovered I'm afraid and was never seen again.

For all this Brian was a kind, hugely generous and understanding man and you could soon become his friend. An old Monagasque local said of him that he would help anyone, hoping that it would go unnoticed.

He lived a simple and frugal life that was no clue at all to his extraordinary career; Canon of Malta Cathedral, O.B.E., Archdeacon of the Riviera, A Chevalier of the Order of St Charles and a Naval Chaplain during the war on the cruiser *Orion* (he was present at the shelling of the Normandy beaches on D-Day, characteristically reading '*The Telegraph*' in the bar when *Orion* was hit by enemy fire).

It was my privilege to be part of the life of St Michael's then, as it still is now. Only now we have another great preacher and teacher amongst us -- Father Roger. I'm staying close this time too -- and oh yes — "Speak up!"

Justin Hayward

CHRISM EUCHARIST

As you will notice in '**Dates for your Diary**', to be found on the back cover, on Tuesday 18th March at 11.00 in Holy Trinity, Nice, there is a 'Chrism Eucharist' to be held by Bishop Geoffrey. If you are like me, you may wonder what a 'Chrism Eucharist' is. Well, I can now tell you – it is an occasion that happens every year when the Bishop blesses The Holy Oils and leads his clergy in their renewal of ministerial commitment. All are welcome to take part as members of the congregation. If you would like to know more about this see **The Sacrament of Easter** by Greenacre & Hayslock (!) chapter 6.

Answer to the last "Mindboggler" (there isn't one in this issue)

Last time I set an anagram as the Mindboggler : **A thin man ran, makes a large stride, left planet, pins flag on moon! On to Mars!** The answer – won by Simon Goldstein – is:

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." Neil A. Armstrong.'

(Obvious really, isn't it!)

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.

Charity does begin at home! It is where we first learn to share - and then to give.

St. Michael's gives to various charities throughout the year and perhaps now, in January, it is as good a time as any to tell you about them. This support usually takes the form of a donation of the collection on a particular Sunday (with the relevant expenses for that Sunday deducted of course - such as printing, special service sheets, etc). Let's now go through the year:-



At the end of January there is always 'World Leprosy Day' from which many leprosy organisations benefit. Each year we support the French Association: 'Raoul Follereau'.

During Lent, those who heed our Chaplain's encouragement to give up something "*for the benefit of somebody else*" give their savings to the Bishop's nominated Lent Appeal. In 2006 it was for 'The Padre Lerchundi Children's Centre', and in 2007 it was 'Zumad - School for Life' (through Christian Aid).

At Easter it is the custom in the Anglican Church to give the collection to the incumbent. This might be seen as a report on the year's work! There again, it might also be seen as a reflection of the parishioners' generosity ...

The Whitsun, or Pentecost, collection has traditionally been St. Michael's 'Third World' offering. For many years this donation went to support Bishop Benzies in Madagascar for his work looking after disabled boys such as repairing a house for them or funding an operation for an individual. Bishop Benzies was always very effusive in his thanks for our offering (it *always* arrived 'just in time' and it *always* benefited from "a very favourable exchange rate"). He once came to France and preached at St. Michael's. He arrived carrying his vestments in a cloth bundle, which made it a rare 'Third World' personal connection. Sadly he died and because his successors did not appear to be so appreciative our allegiance has moved to 'Papua New Guinea Church Partnership'.

In July there is an ecumenical service with the Danish church (and sometimes the Swedish church). The Danish pastor nominates a charity for which the collection is to be given on this particular day. It is usually an organisation working in France.

October brings the Harvest Festival. The collection on that Sunday is always donated to 'Christian Aid' with the request that it goes to relieve hunger somewhere in the world.

November brings us remembrance for All Saints and All Souls and co-incidentally it is also when we remember those who have died in the two world wars, and others. The collection taken on the Sunday nearest to the 11th day of the month goes to the 'Royal British Legion' which helps the veterans, widows and families of those who fought for Great Britain.

December is a busy month. There are three occasions this month when St Michael's gives a donation. The collection from the **Carol Service** goes towards the Bishop's Advent Appeal (In 2007 it was for 'Friends of Children in Romania'). The collection from the **Christmas Day Service** goes to 'The Children's Society'. **In addition** to these, St. Michael's makes a donation to the 'Club de l'Oliveira', run by the Mairie in Beaulieu, which looks after elderly people in the local community.

Whilst we are not actively looking for another charity to support, if anyone does have a 'Third World' connection, or knows of a community that needs support or even a sponsored individual needing help, please let a member of the council know or contact the Editor of 'St Michael's Messenger'.

Deanne Fox

You can now see how well we have done over the past 2 years (or not, as the case may be!) from the following table: - (All figures are in euros)

	2007	2006
Leprosy	167	94
Lent Appeal	700	280
Easter Sunday	1,000	955
Whitsun	145	361
Ecumenical service	128	182
Harvest Thanksgiving	324	109
Remembrance	226	145
Carol Service	281	280
Christmas Day	281	397
Club de l'Oliveia	150	200

TITBITS

- ◆ Remember – if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.
- ◆ As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.
- ◆ For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
- ◆ For attractive lips – speak words of kindness
- ◆ For lovely eyes – seek out the good in people

From the Chaplain's Commonplace Book

"Everyone is a reflection of how he or she is seen by others. The very way you look at people can help to transform them."

Jean Vanier

REACHING OUT

St Michael's thinks about 'Outreach'.

St Michael's Church serves a somewhat unusual community; English speaking residents of many nationalities, both full time and part time - with maybe a second home elsewhere - as well as many holiday makers visiting the area. It covers the villages of Villefranche, St Jean-Cap Ferrat, Beaulieu, Eze and Cap d'Ail. This tends to make the task of contacting potentially new congregational members, and indeed maintaining the current congregation, a rather complex issue.



It was for this reason that on 12th January this year, members of our existing congregation met to discuss how we could improve our 'Outreach'. i.e. reaching out to people who might not otherwise realize that we exist as well as encouraging those already knowing about us. Council members and friends who could not attend the meeting sent contributions by email or sent literature from their home churches.

The meeting began with Father Roger setting the context for our discussion stressing that our aim should be witnessing our faith through our behaviour, rather than aggressive proselytizing. He pointed out that although our church is open to all, we should not be targeting those whose needs are already catered for, in particular Roman Catholics, and people from outside our catchment area. He also explained the nature of 'laicite' in France, which means that all beliefs are treated equally but that none are favoured by state institutions. There would be no question, for example, of advertising our presence in state schools. However the Mairies in the area have always been co-operative in advertising events at St Michael's.

The meeting then considered three topics:

- i. How can we **communicate** better with potential and current members?
- ii. How can we **encourage** those not normally attending a church to dip a toe in the water by attending events at the church?
- iii. How can we **support** and strengthen our existing congregation?

A wealth of suggestions came forth, from the startling simple to the more long term and ambitious, and will be presented in full to the Church Council for action. Just a few examples of what was mentioned are listed here:

- ◆ Liaison officers for each commune
- ◆ Offering transport to services
- ◆ Maintaining the outside notice board
- ◆ Pamphleting tourist offices and estate agents
- ◆ An email mailing list for upcoming events
- ◆ More social activities in the church
- ◆ A nativity play for children
- ◆ Advertising on Riviera Radio
- ◆ Baptismal anniversary cards
- ◆ Home bible study
- ◆ Songs of praise

You may have other ideas that you would like to contribute. If you do, please contact Nicola Karlsen (e-mail ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr) or any member of the church Council.

NK

TWO GENEROUS BENEFACTIONS

We record our gratitude for two generous benefactions, each one worth several thousand pounds.

The first is a gift from Dr Dermot Ward of Chichester in memory of his wife Ruth who died in June last year; they came regularly to Beaulieu and Ruth loved St Michael's Church. The gift is a monetary one for the fabric fund of the church but a very small part of it will be used to purchase a Book of Benefactors which will allow us to have a permanent record of benefactors and their gifts.

The second is the gift from Edgar and Joan Harborne of a beautiful font cover designed by Donald Buttress and made by Philip Irvine, a skilled and dedicated craftsman of the old school whom many of us enjoyed meeting when he came to see the font and take measurements last October. The font cover will be dedicated on Saturday 5th April at the same time as the inscription honouring the Duke of Connaught which will also be located in the baptistery.

R.T.G.

Whatsurname answers:

Wood, Bacon, Duncan, Alda, Wright, Diamond, Hugo

TOM MERRIFIELD



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STOP PRESS

WE ARE MOST CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT A RECITAL OF SACRED MUSIC GIVEN BY THE COPENHAGEN GIRLS' CHOIR IN ST MICHAEL'S ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL AT 18H (6PM). THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY: A SHORT ACT OF THANKSGIVING (TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DANISH CHURCH ON THE COTE D'AZUR & THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR USE OF ST MICHAEL'S) & THE BLESSING OF BOTH A MEMORIAL INSCRIPTION TO THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT & THE FONT COVER (SEE PAGE 21).

A *VIN D'HONNEUR* WILL FOLLOW THE CEREMONY. WE CAN NOW CONFIRM THAT H.R.H. PRINCESS BENEDIKTE OF DENMARK WILL BE PRESENT ON THIS OCCASION.

CONGRATULATIONS & HEARTIEST GOOD WISHES TO SHAUN & DOREMI VAARDAL ON THE BIRTH OF A BABY BOY ON 22ND JANUARY IN CORNWALL & TO DOREMI'S PARENTS JUSTIN & MARIE HAYWARD ON BECOMING GRANDPARENTS.

IT NOW LOOKS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT FR ROGER WILL HAVE HIS OPERATION IN MONACO SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY.



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The contribution of each and every one is gratefully acknowledged

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Friends

Matthew & Laurence Bate, Fiona Brannon, Lord and Lady Charles Cecil, Professor Richard Cooper, Dr Paul And Mrs Judith Couch, Canon Chad & 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, Mark and Sarah Holford, Robin and Sarah Hutchins, Vanessa Ilsley, Chris and Rita Jonas, Alfred and Brenda Louch, Colin Menzies, Christopher Reddington, John and Vanessa Stone, Heidi Van Arsdell, Anthony Vernon, Michael Wain, Dr Dermot Ward, Lyndon and Eira Williams.

As at date of publication

ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

11, Chemin des Myrtes, 06310 Beaulieu-sur-Mer

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		
February		
Tuesday 5th	19.00	Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, with entertainment
Wednesday 6th	10.00	Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Friday 22nd - 24th	Riviera Churches' retreat at Notre Dame de Laghet Conductor : Fr Andy Hawes, Warden of Edenham Retreat House, Lincolnshire	
March		
Sunday 16th	10.00	Palm Sunday Procession & Eucharist
Tuesday 18th	11.00	Chrim Eucharist with Bishop Geoffrey (Holy Trinity Nice)
Thursday 20th	18.30	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
Friday 21st	18.30	Good Friday Liturgy Followed by ecumenical service in the market place
Sunday 23rd	10.00	<u>EASTER DAY EUCHARIST</u>
April		
Saturday 5th	18.00	<u>Recital of sacred music</u> given by The Copenhagen Girls' Choir
Sunday 13th	10.00	Eucharist, followed by A.G.M. of Electoral Roll / Association Cultuelle

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

Hon Assistant Chaplain	Fr Philip Robinson
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Churchwardens	Vance Johnson	04 93 54 56 25
	Justin Hayward	04 93 21 60 83

Treasurer	Deanne Fox	04 93 22 92 13
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Secretary	Tom Downes	04 93 01 47 53
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St Michael's Messenger is printed 3 times a year.

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