

# ***St Michael's Messenger*** ***Summer 2008***



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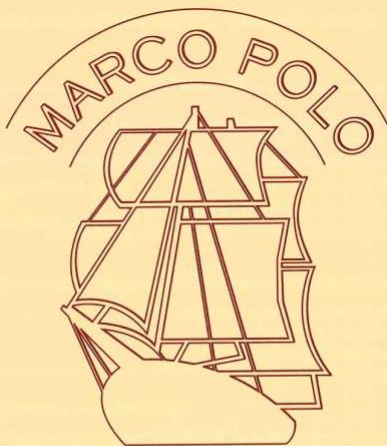
**Issue No. 26**

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

[www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org](http://www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org)



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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our Summer issue of the '*St Michael's Messenger*'. Much has happened since we last went to print. For one thing there's a report of a great success story with Fr Roger. For another there is a report on the marvellous Anglo-Danish get together with royalty. Others include a very special menu, a damsel in distress and we learn of an extremely generous gift given towards the Restoration Fund as well as other gifts given to St Michael's - all within the last three months. You can read about these stories and more in the following pages.



As usual I would like to thank everyone who has helped with *The Messenger* - All our advertisers and all those in the 'credits'. I am not naming them this time; they all know who they are. Sadly, we have had to say good-bye to Johnny Clegg who has retired from his post. So I would like to say a special thanks to him for all his hard work towards getting advertisers to be included in our pages. We will of course look forward to seeing him around just as much as we have done in the past. When one person goes another arrives - well in this case two actually. We extend a warm welcome on our credits list to our friends Jack Moore and Heidi Van Arsdell who have agreed to take over the hard job of Advertising Executives.

With my hat on as a Church Council member I have been asked to report that we are hoping to create a modest collection of children's religious themed books which can be used by children who attend our services. Perhaps you have a book or two at home which children have outgrown? If you would like to donate them to St Michael's, please bring them along to Sunday Service and give to a Church Council member. It will be much appreciated.

Please don't forget to use our website which is now kept together regularly by our own Hugh Mellor with news of up and coming events, our history, as well as copies of '*The Messenger*' - past and present. There are maps of how to find us (for those of you who get lost) as well as times of our regular and special services. Contact numbers etc are there - in fact it is FULL of information. Well worth keeping up with!

Well, I hope you enjoy this issue full of news and fun and that you have a wonderful Summer.

**SB**

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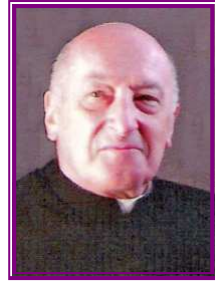
### WEBMASTER

Hugh Mellor

Front Cover: *St Michael's*, photo by Hugh Mellor

## LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

*'Bear one another's burdens'* [Galatians 6, 2]



In a personal postscript to my letter in the previous issue of *'The Messenger'* I wrote of having an operation on my left foot at the end of May, expressing the fervent but not very confident hope that it might happen earlier. As most of you will know, it did in fact happen on 7<sup>th</sup> February because friends – notably Bridget Maunier, Justin Hayward's secretary, and her friend Henriette (Yetou) Buckley – made a rendez-vous for me in Monaco at the Institut Monegasque de Médecine et Chirurgie Sportive or IM2S. Yes, 'Sportive' indeed; please don't laugh! They persuaded an able young surgeon, Dr Julien Cazal, to perform the operation and to do it in early February. The Institut is a bright new 'state of the art' clinic, admirably equipped, efficient, helpful and cheerful. I am so grateful to the friends who acted so swiftly and so decisively, for I was in considerable pain in the weeks before the operation but am now, in mid-May, after a very successful operation, well on the way to full recovery. On Trinity Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> May) I appeared in church without my wheelchair and was able to concelebrate from the sanctuary supported by one crutch.

The operation and the long convalescence which followed it have taught me to try (not always successfully) to practise the virtue of patience (my particular Lenten discipline this year) and to accept with gratitude and humility all the help I have received. I cannot name everyone for the list is very long, but I must first of all thank the Churchwardens and Church Councillors, who unanimously declined to accept my offer of resignation, and the priests who have taken over sacramental and pastoral responsibility; firstly Fr Philip Robinson, who has borne the brunt of the burden, and during his absence Canon David Skeoch and Canon Chad Coussmaker. Then I must thank those who came to stay in the presbytere and looked after me, cooking and shopping and running errands and pushing my wheelchair, my sister Mary, David Ritchie, Jeff Fuller, Canon David Skeoch (as accomplished in the kitchen as at altar and pulpit) and Michael Stuart. Finally, I thank the noble army of parishioners and others who have shopped for me, cooked meals and provided transport and other services. "Bear one another's burdens", St Paul exhorted the Galatians. You have certainly borne mine (and I am not exactly lightweight) and demonstrated that St Michael's is a caring community in which we try to look after one another. And now I look forward to *'standynge at Goddes board'*, as Archbishop Thomas Cranmer rather quaintly put it in the first English Prayer Book, before too long.

Forgive me for taking up so much space this time talking about myself, but there are lessons here for all of us. It is often easier for us to be at the giving end rather than at the receiving end of acts of kindness and it is not easy for us to accept our own frailty and need for help. We must learn not only to give generously and unsparingly but also to receive graciously. We never know at what moment we may be called upon to be at either end of this process of sharing burdens, physical, moral or

*Roger Greenacre*

## IN BRIEF

### A visit from Bishop Geoffrey

Dr Geoffrey Rowell, our Diocesan Bishop, visited St Michael's on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March to view the redecoration of the interior, executed since his last visit at Christmas 2004, and to lunch with Fr Roger and his sister at the Prebytere. He celebrated the Chrism Eucharist next day at Holy Trinity, Nice.

### Well done, Paul and Sharon

Congratulations to Paul & Sharon Meakins (Sharon Kidson) for the joint exhibition of their paintings held in May at Sancta Maria de Olivo. Many of us who have enjoyed the olive oil and the honey from their property just across the border in Italy have been made aware also of their skill as artists.

### News of our invalids

1) Christina Gorna has had a very long stay in Charing Cross Hospital after damaging her spine in a fall at her London flat in February. Now, at last, she has been able to move to a Convalescent Home in Chelsea. We hope it will not be long before she can come to her apartment in Villefranche and we see her again in St Michael's. (See 'A Damsel in Distress' by Simon Goldstein on page 16)

2) Christopher Harborne, the elder son of Joan & Edgar, had a potentially lethal crash in the plane he was flying back to England from France in May, damaging his skull and breaking several ribs. Fortunately, he is now making a swift and complete recovery.

### A dramatic accident

A lot of building work has been going on recently in the Place Duc de Connaught. In May there was an accident at the house next to St Michael's which knocked down a lamp post and damaged our railings. We are assured that it will all be put right soon, at no cost to us or to our insurers.

### An anniversary return visit

It was good to see Matthew & Katherine Bannister at our Sunday Eucharist on Trinity Sunday, the first anniversary of their wedding in St Michael's and a deliberate return visit. Other wedding couples, please note!

## FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

### Funeral

Thursday 13th March                      Mrs Elsie Lawrie

### Wedding

Saturday 31st May                          Jonathon Plum & Rosalyn Maclennan



## Project 'OUTREACH'

An update to this worthwhile project, in which we set out to widen people's knowledge of St Michael's in and around our catchment area of Beaulieu, St Jean-Cap Ferrat, Eze, Cap d'Ail and Villefranche. At the last meeting of The Church Council it was agreed that the following recommendations (some of which have already been successfully achieved) should be implemented:

**A folded colour pamphlet should be produced.** This has now been done by Hugh Mellor. It has been printed and has already been placed in many of the Hotels around Beaulieu and Villefranche. It is available for any member of the congregation to take and pass on. Please take copies. 'Link Persons' are being appointed to each commune in order to liaise with the various 'Mairies' and tourist offices and to oversee the distribution of leaflets to other hotels and gathering points.

*Already a new couple have joined our congregation specifically as a result of seeing one of these leaflets in the Villefranche tourist office.*

Other suggestions that were agreed upon include:

**Advertisements on Riviera Radio** of major Church events.

**'Danish' Sundays;** Already a local venue for refreshments on these 'Get-Out-Of-The-Church-Quickly' days is kindly being provided by Andrew and Margaret Mercer. The Council believes that the burden should be spread – Any offers? No one person or couple can be expected to be hosts every time.

**Baptismal anniversary cards** will be sent to those who have been baptised in St Michael's recently.

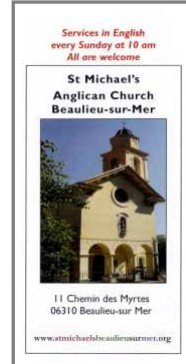
**A Social Committee should be formed** - anyone who would like to be members please contact one of the Church Council.

It is suggested that a **Home Bible Study** session should be held during Lent.

Although this list is not complete, it includes those suggestions that have already been implemented or are about to be.

**NB** Please realise that you don't have to be a permanent resident in order to contribute your time or expertise in any of these initiatives. We need all you itinerant and part time members in order to help keep our wonderful Church Community thriving.

N.K.



### From the Chaplain's Commonplace Book

"The opposite of joy is not sorrow but the numbness of heart that makes us incapable of any feeling."

Fr Timothy Radcliffe, OP.



## WHAT'S COOKING

### DINNER FOR THE NUNCIO.

As prepared and cooked by our friend The Reverend Canon D.W.Skeoch

*At Canon Greenacre's Golden Jubilee, some of you met Cardinal J-L Tauran. At that time he was staying with the Apostolic Nuncio at Wimbledon, and Fr Russell Frost and I took him to Chichester and, on taking him back, joined a delightful lunch party at the Nunciature. We got on so well with Archbishop Sainz Munoz and his staff that we decided to ask them to dine with us at my house in Warwick Square, an invitation which was accepted. I decided that the menu must be an English one (despite one French name) and here it is: -*

*Oeuf en Cocotte with Smoked Salmon*

\*\*\*

*Roast Duck (English Style)*

\*\*\*

*Port Wine Jelly*

\*\*\*

*Mushrooms and Bacon*

*(Accompanied, of course, by suitable wines.)*



*I will not insult you by telling you how to roast a duck with sage and onion stuffing, but over three issues of 'The Messenger', I will describe the other dishes which I highly recommend you try. I am starting, this time with:*

#### Oeuf en Cocotte with Smoked Salmon

##### Ingredients (per portion)

- ◆ Slice of Smoked Salmon
- ◆ Double cream (1Desertspoon)
- ◆ Medium sized egg
- ◆ A thin slice of butter
- ◆ Freshly ground black pepper

### Method



1. Put a slice of Smoked Salmon into a cocotte dish, so that it covers the bottom of the dish and some of the sides.
2. Pour on it a dessertspoonful of double cream.
3. Break into it a medium sized egg.
4. Put a thin slice of butter on top and grind some black pepper.
5. Carefully place the cocotte into a lidded dish full of boiling water (about ½ -¾ ins deep).
6. Put it on a hot gas or electric ring or into a hot oven.
7. Cook for 8-10 minutes (until the white of the egg is solid, but the yoke still runny!).
8. Eat immediately!

*In the September issue of 'The Messenger' I will tell you how to make my Port Wine Jelly. You will have to wait till the New Year in order to try my recipe for Mushrooms and Bacon! By the way, in case you are puzzled by the fact that Mushrooms and Bacon are served after the dessert - I always keep the old English tradition of serving a savoury at the end of an all-male dinner .*

*David Skeoch*

*PS (From the Editor) Just in case there is anyone like me who doesn't know what a 'Nuncio' is, here is the explanation Fr Roger gave me: **Nuncio (from the latin 'Nuntius', a messenger) is the title (Apostolic Nuncio) given to the Ambassador of the Holy See to governments with which it has diplomatic relations; he is always a cleric in episcopal orders.***

### ANAGRAMS...

*...Words or phrases whose letters are rearranged to form new words or phrases.*

Recently I was given the following anagrams where the new phrase has more or less the same meaning as the old one. Perhaps you could add to this list. If you have a clever anagram we could print, please give it to the editor of 'The Messenger'.

A TELEPHONE GIRL ...	becomes ... <b>REPEATING "HELLO"</b>
THE COUNTRYSIDE ...	becomes ... <b>NO CITY DUST HERE</b>
THE PUBLIC ART GALLERIES	becomes ... <b>LARGE PICTURE HALLS, I BET</b>
HEAVY RAIN ...	becomes ... <b>HIRE A NAVY</b>
A DOMESTICATED ANIMAL ...	becomes ... <b>DOCILE, AS A MAN TAMED IT</b>
CONVERSATION ...	becomes ... <b>VOICES RANT ON</b>
LISTEN ...	becomes ... <b>SILENT</b>

## **RESTORATION – A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS OUR GOAL!**

It is some time since we reported on progress towards our aim of restoring the exterior of St Michael's – but this lack of news does not by any means reflect lack of progress.

As reported in an earlier issue of *The Messenger* we had obtained an estimate of about 180,000 euros for restoring the fabric of the whole of the exterior in three phases.

The excellent news here is that St Michael's has received a major donation to the restoration fund. This comes through the generosity of Peter Howard who is the son-in-law of Hugh and Anne Mellor. We wish to express our grateful thanks to Peter and his wife Sharon.

We have also been considerably helped in our task by a number of others; Mark and Sarah Holford, Ceri and Susan James, Egill and Nicola Karlsen, John and Leonora Kerry Keane, Hugh and Anne Mellor and Jack and Roberta Moore - to name but a few.

The result of these efforts is that the restoration fund now stands at around £108,000 (around 130,000 euros at today's sadly depleted exchange rate); a tremendous step forward!

In parallel with these efforts we have also been preparing an application for a grant from the Conseil Général des Alpes Maritimes. This takes time and if successful, as we hope, the funds will be available from the Département's budget for 2009.

If we are successful in obtaining the grant we shall be nearing the total figure required and we dare to hope that we will have enough for the work to be completed in one phase. We have therefore asked the builders to review and update their quotation on this assumption; more news on this in the next edition of *The Messenger*.

Of course this does not mean that we have reached the point of "Mission Accomplished". It is unlikely that the grant will cover all the extra funds needed to reach our target and, even then, there will always be further tasks that need attention. Our church may be far from old in comparison with others but, as we have discovered in the past few years, a building over 100 years old needs care and attention if it is to be available for future generations to use and enjoy.

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.

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## **AN ANGLO DANISH SUMMIT**

A lot has been written in advance of the special celebrations held in St Michael's on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April in previous issues of the *Messenger* so a full repeat is unnecessary. Suffice it to say that the Saturday evening event was a great success as the photographs on pages 12 & 13 and the excerpts we print from letters sent to us by Pastor Henrik Christensen and by Colin Menzies (Secretary of Church House, Westminster) demonstrate. Princess Benedikte of Denmark, who has graciously allowed us to print a short speech she made when unveiling the memorial to the Duke of Connaught, stayed for a long time and talked to many of us during the reception that followed the service before going off to have dinner with the Copenhagen Girls Choir, whose singing we had all so much enjoyed.

Saturday's service was a joint Anglo-Danish celebration; at the Danish Lutheran mass on the Sunday morning, also attended by the Princess, Father Roger made a short speech congratulating the congregation on their significant anniversary and assuring them of our support and prayers.

This weekend was a fitting climax to the ministry of Pastor Henrik Christensen who celebrates his last service with the Danish Church on the Cote d'Azur in St Michael's on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, followed by a farewell reception.

Hail and farewell – or as they put it in my school magazine (in the days when we were all supposed to know Latin), *Ave atque vale!* Farewell (*vale*) to Pastor Henrik, whose friendship we have much appreciated, and hail (*ave*) to his successor who takes over in September, Pastor Carl Bjarkam. We extend a warm welcome to the new Pastor, his wife and child (or children, for there will soon be two of them) and look forward to a fruitful and happy relationship with them.

RTG



**Pastor Henrik Christensen**



**Pastor Carl Bjarkam and his family**

THE JOINT  
ANGLO DANISH  
CELEBRATION  
5TH APRIL 2008



Princess Benedikte unveils  
the Memorial



The Princess signs the  
Visitors' Book

*"...It was quite an event, and everybody including Her Royal Highness, was very pleased with it. I am grateful also for the atmosphere of fellowship between our two communities that this ceremony witnessed."*

*Pastor Henrik Christensen*



The Copenhagen Girls Choir singing



The Choir with our organist



The Connaught Memorial

*".....I thought that all the arrangements for Princess Benedikte went exceptionally well and I congratulate [the] team on that. The choir sang beautifully (and not too long), the inscribed vellum is most handsome and the new font cover is a tribute to Donald and to its maker - it was good that they could both be there that evening."*

*Colin Menzies*



Joan & Edgar Harborne with the churchwardens



The Font Cover

## THE SPEECH OF PRINCESS BENEDIKTE

### At the unveiling of the Connaught Memorial

It is special to be present at Saint Michael's Anglican Church tonight. Not only do we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a Danish congregation in the southern part of France - as a Dane living abroad I know how links to a native country remain of importance while enjoying a new environment, and I know how the Danish Church abroad fulfils a very important role in this respect. - but to night we also inaugurate a new Baptismal Font in commemoration of the Duke of Connaught - my great grand father.

On the plate I am about to unveil is written:

"Remember before God His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught (1850 - 1942). For many years between the two world wars he worshipped in this church and was a generous benefactor. To keep alive his memory and to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Danish Church on the Cote d'Azur this memorial inscription was unveiled by his great granddaughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark, and this Font Cover was blessed, in the presence of the Anglican and Danish congregations, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008."

## THE BIBLE

Here are some interesting facts - sometimes in the form of a quiz – about the most read book in the world.

- 1) How many times are 'dogs' mentioned in the Bible?
- 2) How many times are 'cats' mentioned in the Bible?
- 3) What is the longest name in the Bible?
- 4) How many times does the word 'sermon' appear in the Bible?

*Did you know that 60% of atheists and agnostics say they own at least one Bible?*

- 5) How many times does the word 'girl' appear in the Bible?
- 6) What is the most mentioned woman's name in the Bible?
- 7) How many books in the Bible are named after women?
- 8) What is the last word of the Bible?

*Did you know that over 6 billion copies of the Bible have been sold?*

- 9) The Bible is the most shoplifted book in which country?

*Did you know that the Bible has actually been translated into Klingon!*

- 10) In what year did hotels first stock Gideon Bibles?

*Did you know that the first hotel to stock Gideon Bibles was the Superior Hotel in Iron Mountain, Montana, U.S.A.*

### ANSWERS

- 1) 14 times. 2) Not once! 3) Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1) 4) Not once! 5) Once only.  
6) Sarah mentioned 56 times. 7) 4books - with the Apocrypha: (Ruth, Esther, Judith and Susanna).  
8) 'Amen'. 9) The United States of America. 10) 1908

**“To the philosophical eye the vices of the clergy are far less dangerous than their virtues.”**

**Edward Gibbon, Historian (1737-1794),  
The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, 1776-1788**

## DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

*Simon Goldstein gives an up to date, personal report as to what exactly has happened to our friend Christina Gorna who has constantly been in our prayers since February.*

In early February Christina Gorna, a regular worshipper at St. Michael's, slipped and fell down the steps leading to her flat in London and landed heavily on her back. She didn't immediately think the injury was too serious although she was in great pain. Eventually the pain became so acute that she called for an ambulance which transported her to Charing Cross Hospital. She was sure she had broken her back and feared that she would never be able to walk again. Once at the hospital it was confirmed not only that she had indeed broken two of the vertebrae in her back but also that x-rays revealed a tumour on her spine.



I paid the first of my many visits to her in hospital soon after she received this news. She was in a mixed ward, which I would have found soul-destroying but which she did not seem to mind. She was in a supine position (in which she remained for many weeks) and had been given a cocktail of drugs to ease her pain and discomfort which had the effect, as I would later see, of disorienting her. She was lucid and very apprehensive about the tumour and about how severe her injuries were. At one stage she said to me, "I may never walk again." which became a recurring theme over the next few weeks.

I went to see her a week later. She had some very good news. The tumour was benign! Nothing other than that had changed though - she was still no nearer to having the surgical procedure that would 'cement' the breaks in her vertebrae.

At my next visit she immediately said to a nurse who was attending her, "This is my friend Simon. He has come for the concert! He is very musical, you know." She insisted, although both the nurse and I told her it was not so, that there was to be a concert in the hospital that night and that was why I was there. The next time I made the journey to see her she greeted me and thanked me for coming and immediately said, "I am going to sleep now, good-bye!" She turned over and was literally fast asleep in seconds. I discussed these incidents with her at a later date. She said she had no memory of them and indeed related others of a similar nature that her friends and family had reported. It was of course the heavy dosage of drugs which was the cause of this erratic behaviour.

The surgical procedure was eventually carried out and the nurses soon started trying to get her up and out of bed. I assumed the operation had been successful and was somewhat surprised to hear her say that, in her opinion, it had not been a success because she was still in pain.

I was actually present on the first occasion when the nursing staff arrived to get her out of bed. This was going to be done by using a hoist. Sadly I was not allowed to stay to witness the manoeuvre! On that occasion I met Christina's daughter, Samantha, who had been constantly by her mother's bedside and to whom a lot of the credit must go for seeing her safely through those early dreadful weeks. Unfortunately, Samantha had to leave to go back to China where she has a teaching position. She has been much missed.

Physiotherapy for Christina has not been easy. I put this down to three causes. 1) She had been on her back for so long that her muscles were very weak. 2) She is, in the words of one of her favourite authors Ian McCall Smith, "A traditionally built lady". And 3) she was, and still is, very tentative about taking those first magical steps after such a long period of inactivity. She described her physiotherapists to me as, "Bastards and Sadists!" - So you can guess how well the first few sessions went!

On another occasion she described herself as a "Wimp" because she was unable to conquer the thought which constantly told her that she was never to going to walk again. That was when I came to France and stayed for 25 days.

On my return to England I contacted the hospital. Christina was still there. I immediately went to see her. I didn't know what to expect but what surprised me most was that she was still staying in bed. It turned out that progress was very slow although she was taking a few steps with her zimmer frame. On one occasion she'd had a fall and was experiencing pain in her hip for which no explanation could be found. She said she was fed up and couldn't wait to get out.

A week later she was more cheerful. She had been assigned a '*with-it*' doctor called Tom; young enough to be her son, very charming and with whom Christina could relate. He gave her enormous confidence saying she would get better in time and that she must be patient. She was also told that a possible nursing home had been identified for her in Chelsea and very near her own home. She had also started to receive letters, cards and messages from her friends in Beaulieu. She said, "I was buoyed up enormously!" She spoke on the phone not only to Father Roger (comparing notes no doubt!) but also to other friends from the Cote d'Azur. She has asked me to convey her thanks to everyone and to say that she might be among you sooner than you think, and in her new svelte state!

My last visit to the hospital elicited the good news that she had been accepted and was moving to the nursing home on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

She arrived and I have already visited her there. She has her own room en suite, TV, and private telephone. When I first saw her there she was sitting in a chair and was starting to resemble her old self. She goes to the gym (!) in the basement with her physiotherapist (!!). She has her meals either in her own room or the dining room. She watches TV and has her radio permanently tuned in to Radio 3 (I wonder if that was for my benefit!). She has visits from family and friends and has been taken out to Chelsea Farmers' Market which is next door. I have promised her I will take her out on my next visit. As I left she actually walked a little way with me, aided by the Zimmer of course.

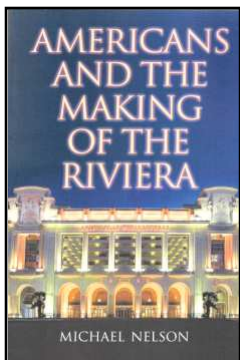
I have to say that Christina has my never-ending admiration for the way she has coped with the pain, discomfort and endless frustrations of being in hospital. I saw at first hand how debilitating and depressing it is to be lying on your back for such long periods of time. I am amazed at how uncomplaining she was. All I can say is that I doubt whether I would have coped so well. Well done to her.

Get well soon, Christina!

Simon Goldstein

## BOOK REVIEW

By Heidi van Arsdell



The American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne proposed, “If people are transplanted to new soil, they are made hardier and more flourishing”. This insight elucidates the colorful tales that **Michael Nelson** assimilates in Americans and the Making of the Riviera. Certain transplanted Americans drew energy from the Riviera and consequently, left a lasting impact. Do not be misled; Americans did not singularly ‘make the Riviera’. Mr. Nelson aptly demonstrates in his excellent book on Queen Victoria that the British and other aristocracies created the Riviera of the twentieth century. This earlier privileged Riviera however defined ‘Winter’ as prime time and ‘Summer’ as unhealthy. It was this attitude and behavior that Americans revolutionized. *They* created the ‘Summer Season’

- more importantly, Americans contributed significantly to the arts, music, architecture, historical restoration and general investment in the Riviera. It is the compilation in English of this American influence that distinguishes Mr. Nelson. Additionally, he holds your attention with his breadth of coverage and his detailed, esoteric information.

**He starts** in 1787 with Thomas Jefferson, who explored the Riviera from Marseilles to beyond Menton. Fascinatingly, Jefferson lugged across this entire undeveloped Riviera a portable, self-designed copy machine! Would he comprehend our complaints about laptop-lugging across endless airport security?

**By the** 1860s, Americans, benefiting from a mere six-day transatlantic journey, comprised the fifth largest foreign group wintering in Nice. Modernized steamships brought Mark Twain, in 1867, to write *Innocents Abroad*, and Louisa May Alcott, in 1865-66, to write a Nice scene into *Little Women*.

**World War I** changed everything for the Riviera. War and revolution excluded Russian and German aristocracy. In their place came others: American GIs (for hospitalization or R & R), passengers on Cunard’s direct US–Riviera line, and holiday makers on the new ‘Blue Train’ from Calais. Disillusionment with America was a factor. Individuals, such as Sara and Gerald Murphy, Cole and Linda Porter, Dorothy Parker, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Isadora Duncan found solace in France and, as James Baldwin later put it, “...*the sanction to become oneself...*”. I think this is the key for those Americans who left their mark on the Riviera: they were not anti-American; they just drew energy from the Riviera.

**Other Americans** arrived: by *wanderlust* (Hemingway) - by *error* (James Thurber, dispatched by coding error near the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war) - by *royal liaison* (Princess Grace and Princess Alice) - via *friends* (the Scott Fitzgeralds and Robert Benchley amongst many others) – and by *ambition and talent* (Elsa Maxwell and Josephine Baker etc.).

**The lure** of this book is in its details. Mr Nelson is skilled at unearthing intriguing facts. Did you know that the original Hotel Negresco entrance was not on the Promenade des Anglais and that it was not as glamorous as it is now? Instead it was situated at the rear - to avoid the nasty sun. I personally enjoyed details about Alfred Hitchcock's allegedly lackluster name and James Thurber who, with his wife, wrote the society column for the Chicago Tribune, Riviera edition. This was accomplished, "...with the expenditure of very little mental energy..." by simply copying names from local hotel registers and, 'after dinner', using the names to conjure up amusing stories.

**You will** find intriguing local trivia: Did you know Isadora Duncan lived briefly in Beaulieu? It was here, in fact, in 1910 that she gave birth to a son, whose father, Paris Singer, had a magnificent Berlugan villa. Are you aware that Mary Garden, the great American opera singer of the early 1900's, who personally financed the war memorial for the village of Peille, also resided in Beaulieu? This remarkable woman is distinguished, together with the Cole Porters, for inventing the 'Summer Season'. She also attempted to fight with the French in World War I, disguised as a man.

**Another Berlugan-American**, James Gordon Bennett Jr, founder of the *Paris Herald*, had enormous influence. This innovative American singularly impacted multiple industries: communication, yachting, aviation, automobiles, and printing. Ever grateful for his Gallic home, Bennett never hesitated to 'give back', especially to the Beaulieu he loved including our own St Michael's Church. Dartmouth College affiliates will be intrigued to learn that the same individual, Amos Tuck, who founded the Amos Tuck Business School also financed restoration of the Roman Trophy commemorating Emperor Augustus in 6 BC at La Turbie.

**Local reminders** of American influence include: Villa Leopolda in Villefranche (built by Bostonian architect, Ogden Codman Jr.), Juan les Pins (developed largely by the American railroad money of Frank Jay Gould; who also financed the Palais de la Méditerranée on the Promenade des Anglais) and there are numerous other villas financed by Americans.

**In conclusion**, Mr. Nelson wets our appetite for more information. For example, which was Isadora Duncan's Beaulieu villa, "...magnificent with terraces sloping down to the sea..."? If we are lucky for a hard cover edition, more pictures would be welcome, as well as some minor fact checking (e.g. Grace Kelly's nine siblings, the location of the Mougins School and Gordon Bennett's building of a house in Beaulieu). Some balance of detail would also be in order. For example, rather than detailed minutia on each of Josephine Baker's twelve adoptions, we would rather know why their father left.

**We are grateful** to Mr. Nelson for his insightful research and demonstration of American contributions. Equally important, he inadvertently conveys how much France gave to Americans - "Yes, I tried to enlist in the French army. Why not? I owe France more than I can ever repay, even by giving my life..." (Mary Garden, November 16, 1916). For this, Mr Nelson, we are also grateful.

HvA

**ARCHDEACONRY OF FRANCE - 2008 SYNOD**  
**L'ABBAYE DE SAINT-JACUT-DE-LA-MER**  
**9 – 12 APRIL 2008**

This synod, held this year at the beautifully restored Abbaye-de-Saint-Jacut-de-la-Mer along the Brittany coast, began on the evening of Wednesday 9 April with a welcome by the Archdeacon, Canon Ken Letts. The following three days and evenings were filled with prayer, lectures and discussions, as well as fellowship during meals with 130 delegates.

The featured speaker for the synod was Dr Colin Podmore, church historian, who is currently the Secretary of the House of Clergy, the Dioceses' Commission and the Liturgical Commission. Over the following three days Dr Podmore gave a series of extremely informative and thought-provoking lectures on the subject of *Anglican Identity*. His initial point was that Anglican Identity does not depend on either a specific person (as does a Lutheran who follows the teachings of Martin Luther) or a specific theology. The Church of England is 'Trinitarian', part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, and professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures. The correct definition of the word 'Anglican' simply means English, a term used by Henry VIII when he broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. At the time of the Reformation the Church of England did not reject catholicity but claimed to be part of the Catholic Church and to be, in fact, more catholic than the Roman Church ... admittedly a point of debate.

Dr. Podmore identified the historical basis of the Anglican Church, i.e. the Church of England, as the *Thirty-nine Articles of Religion*; The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal (ordination services for Bishops, Priests and Deacons). The true strength of the Anglican Communion lies in the fact that it is held together by an ordered structure that is episcopal and an ordered worship that is liturgical.

An informative business session was conducted where various aspects of legal authority for the church in France were discussed. During that session, the matter of insurance for the church structure, the priest, the churchwardens and the church council was also presented. Chaplaincies were strongly advised to review their policies to confirm that proper insurance was in place for all situations that might arise.

Anna Mc Gillivray, an environmental economist, discussed methods of reducing the carbon footprint of our church building and activities. The presentation was in line with the current Diocesan efforts towards a concerted effort to reduce our carbon footprint. Heating, air-conditioning and electrical use of lights, computers and electrical appliances are the largest contributor to the church's carbon footprint and are the most easily addressed. It was noted that the 'standby' position on televisions, radios and computers consume as much as 80% of the energy as when in the 'on' position. The solution is to switch these electronic devices off when not in use.

Bishop Geoffrey spoke on various matters arising in the Diocese, giving answers to questions raised by specific chaplaincies. Of general concern was the continuing question of having a 'free-standing archdeacon' in France. He explained that the restructuring of various archdeaconries in Europe was under discussion and until the matter was fully reviewed, no decisions on a free standing archdeacon in France would be entertained. He also explained that at the present time there was no funding available for a free standing archdeacon in France.

Bishop Geoffrey had just returned from extensive travel to former communist countries and had been greatly impressed by the growth of Christianity on those areas. He also stated that he was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of the laity in the various dioceses in Europe.

Synod concluded on Saturday morning with delegates returning to their parishes, filled with hope for continued growth within the Diocese in Europe!

**Justin Hayward and Vance Johnson**  
Synod Representatives

## **WARNING!**

*Some things in life should go without saying.*

Here's another batch of warnings actually printed on labels of household items  
(believe it or not!) ....

- ◆ On a CD player:  
***"Do not use the Ultradisc 2000 as a projectile in a catapult."***
- ◆ On a propane blowtorch:  
***"Never use while sleeping."***
- ◆ On an air conditioner:  
***"Avoid dropping air-conditioners out of windows."***
- ◆ On a toilet bowl cleaning brush:  
***"Do not use orally."***
- ◆ On a cardboard sunshield for a car:  
***"Do not drive with the sunshield in place."***
- ◆ On a pair of shin guards:  
***"Shin pads cannot protect any part of the body they do not cover."***
- ◆ On a portable stroller:  
***"Caution: Remove infant before folding for storage."***
- ◆ On a plastic, 13-inch wheelbarrow wheel:  
***"Not intended for highway use."***
- ◆ On a laser pointer:  
***"Do not look into laser with remaining eye."***
- ◆ In the instructions for a digital thermometer:  
***"Do not use orally after using rectally."***

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## Mindboggler

Yes, the 'Mindboggler' is back by popular request (and in the hope of getting the free meal as a prize).

**A Proverb By Any Other Name** .... Here are a few well known proverbs or sayings like - 'A rolling stone gathers no moss' – except that they are virtually unrecognisable because they have been translated into the most obtuse language possible. I would like you to figure out the original proverb or saying of each of the following and let me have your answers (the correct ones will be printed next issue). The first person to give me all the correct answers will have a free meal with the editor.

1. "Never under any circumstance scrutinize the mastication orifice of a gratuitous herbivorous quadruped."
2. "Habitual or customary performance of what you advise in your homilies is advisable."
3. "Show extreme caution to those of Hellenic persuasion who are transporting goods for disposal on a no charge basis."
4. "Consolidation affects erection of our personhood, whereas bifurcation affects our declension."
5. "Pulchritude does not extend beyond the profundity of the epidermis."
6. "Penniless solicitors should not be expressing existential imperatives."



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*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

### June

Friday 13th

Garden Party (18.00—20.30)

### September

Sat 20th—Sat 28th

Festival de Musique de Beaulieu

To be advised

Open day, as part Beaulieu's Journée du Patrimoine

Chaplain	Canon Roger Greenacre DD	04 93 01 45 61
<i>In the Chaplain's absence, emergency calls to:</i>		<i>06 60 42 52 47</i>
Hon Assistant Chaplain	Fr Philip Robinson	
Churchwardens	Vance Johnson	04 93 54 56 25
	Justin Hayward	04 93 21 60 83
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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.