

St Michael's Messenger Christmas 2009



Free

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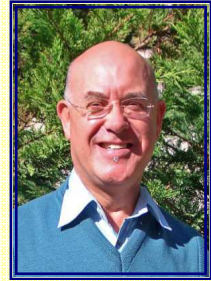
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WEBMASTER

Hugh Mellor

Front cover. Nativity by Giotto in the Cappella Scrovegni, Padua (part)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Once again the Christmas season is upon us. To me it feels like only last month that the last one was here. When I was a child I thought Christmas would never come again, it seemed such a long time between times. Is it just me or do you agree that as the years go on it seems to creep up on us more and more quickly each year? The sad thing is that the commercial side of the season starts so early; even here in France lights were going up all over the towns and villages much earlier than they used to. This year they started before Halloween.

A very sad fact is that it is evident that this will be the last Christmas that Fr Roger will be officiating in St Michael's, Beaulieu. (Fr Roger explains all in the Chaplain's Letter.) We will all be very sorry to see him go. I am hoping however that this edition of *'The Messenger'* will not be the last before his exit, which will be sometime after Easter.

As usual I must thank all the team who help to organise and put the magazine together: Hugh M. Tom D. Fr Roger G. and all the contributors. Without them it would just not happen.

'Thank You' must be said to all of you who supported us at the Dress-Rehearsal of 'The Two Most Perfect Things'. It was a great help to see so many of you there. Not only that, but many of you were good enough to go to the British Association of Monaco's gala evening the next night in the Hotel Hermitage, Monaco, to see us again. You were all very kind with your praise and it is much appreciated. We had London Producers present who liked it and are very interested in the piece and so, when commitments allow, we are sure something will happen with it in the future. A big Thank You must go to Fr Roger and the churchwardens for letting us use St Michael's to rehearse all week. (Something I am afraid that might have annoyed our neighbours as they would have heard the same songs over and over again. They must have been sick of it!)

I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition of *'The Messenger'* which includes all the usual things as well as a Christmas quiz that looks easy on the outset, but be warned – are all the answers as easy as they seem? Look out for more adventures with Ursula, a book review, a critic of a play, lots of news and much more.

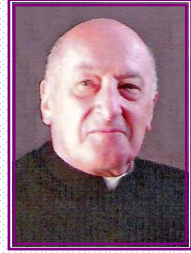
I wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

S.B.

P.S. Don't forget to look at our website www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org and if you would like to be added to the Keeping in Touch mailing list please contact Nicola on ekarsen@wanadoo.fr

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

This issue will reach all of you, I hope, before Christmas. As many of you will know already, this will be my last Christmas as Chaplain of St Michael's, since I learned in October that there would definitely be a vacancy for me in the London Charterhouse in 2010, not before Easter but in late spring or early summer. A definite date will be given to me in January, at which point I will resign formally to the Bishop and the fairly complex machinery provided by the Diocese for a new appointment to be made can begin to grind into operation.



When I came here in November 2000 at the age of 70 after retirement from my last full-time office as a Canon Residentiary of Chichester Cathedral, I committed myself to a retirement ministry in Beaulieu for a minimum period of 2½ years. In fact in November of this year when I celebrate my 79th birthday I will have completed nine years at St Michael's. For some time I have been on the waiting list for the Charterhouse, but only now has a firm promise of a place in 2010 come – and at a timely moment when it is clear (at least to me!) that I cannot really do justice to the responsibilities of this ministry much longer. It is with regret that I will be leaving you, for these nine years have been rich in experience; I have been happy here and made many deep friendships.

There is bound to be a vacancy of many months and, although Fr Philip Robinson will be here most of the time and his wise and experienced ministry as a priest will be at your disposal, it will be a challenging time for the laity and especially for members of the Church Council. We no longer expect (at least, I trust this is the case) that a parish or chaplaincy should be run single-handedly by its priest. In principle at least responsibility is shared, and this principle will have to prove itself in practice. There is an excellent team of lay persons at St Michael's in key positions of responsibility for the Church's life, worship, finances, building, pastoral care and mission to the wider community, but they too will need the support and commitment of all members of the congregation. The word 'laity' comes from the Greek *laos*, people, and designates the People of God, all of whom, lay and ordained, share in the one baptismal priesthood of worship, prayer, mission and a share in the common life of the Church.

As I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas, so I pray that you will all share in the arduous but exciting responsibilities that face the family of St Michael's Church in 2010, that you will pray for a wise appointment to be made to the office of chaplain and that when the time comes you will give my successor the same love, understanding and support that I have been privileged to find here. I will say no more on this subject for the moment, for I do not know whether I will still be here when the next edition of '*The Messenger*' is published. I will close by expressing my deep gratitude to you all; God has been good to me in allowing me to complete my ministerial service in Beaulieu and you have been good to me too. God bless you all.

Roger Greenacre

REST ETERNAL GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

JENNY DUCKWORTH 1947—2009

Jenny Duckworth was forced to retire early in her 50s having been diagnosed with a series of aneurisms in the brain. She came to live briefly in Eze and then moved to St Jean and became a regular member of the congregation of St Michael's. Sadly her medical condition deteriorated and eventually she had to return to England where she underwent a series of gruelling and dangerous operations at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Throughout this time she impressed all with her strength and positive attitude. She was always planning some new business or new venture. Earlier this year though the medical options seemed to be exhausted and she decided to forgo any more intervention.

On 20th August Jenny died suddenly when she was in Sweden with her partner Andrew. She is survived by Andrew, her daughters Nicholla and Lizanne and her grandchildren Amber-Lilly, Finley, Izac and Gabriel. Our sympathy and condolences go to them. Jenny was a very brave woman.

We also assure Professor RICHARD COOPER and Monsieur CLAUDE FRÉSIA of our sympathy and prayers on the death of Richard's father, **ARTHUR CHARLES ("DUFF") COOPER** and of Claude's mother **JACQUELINE FRÉSIA** (both in their 90s).

At the All Souls' Day requiem on 2nd November all those from our community who have died during the year (including **ANNE-COLETTE LANGELIER** and the above-mentioned) were prayed for by name.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

'In any century in which he was born, Luther would have guaranteed a richly memorable night out, whether hilariously entertaining or infuriatingly quarrelsome'.

From Reformation by Diarmaid MacCulloch

IN BRIEF

An MA in Music

Nigel Holdsworth, who was our organist for a short time and still visits us regularly (to tune our organ once a year, for example) and who has been studying part time at the University of York over the last two years, was awarded an MA with distinction at the end of last year. The graduation ceremony was held earlier this year. We offer him our warmest congratulations.

Unité des Chrétiens

A special number of this leading French ecumenical review was published in July, dedicated to '*La Communion anglicane après Lambeth 2008*'. It contained articles by the Archbishop of Canterbury and by a number of people not unknown at St Michael's: Bishop David Hamid, Archdeacon Ken Letts, Dr Colin Podmore and Fr Roger. Fr Roger wrote on '*Les racines d'une tradition catholique dans l'anglicanisme*'.

A Roof for the Christ Child

Our grateful thanks go to Egill Karlsen, who is using one of his many skills to construct a roof for our Christmas Crib. He has promised that it will be ready for Christmas.

A second term in Paris

Congratulations on his new appointment to Father PEARSE WALSH, who has a *pied-à-terre* in Beaulieu and is a great friend of ours at St Michael's (where he has preached during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He was appointed Chaplain of the Irish College in Paris on 1st August 1998 (his 50th birthday) and ministered there until January 2002, being awarded the *Légion d'honneur* for his eminent services. He is currently Parish Priest of the University Church (John Henry Newman's church) in Dublin. Now he has been re-appointed as Chaplain to the '*Centre Culturel Irlandais*' (as the Irish College is now termed) and will be moving there in January. This re-appointment is something that has never happened before, and he is delighted to be moving back to the Fifth arrondissement of Paris. As that inveterate letter writer, Mme de Sévigné, once said or, more probably, wrote: "*on ne guérit pas de Paris*" – Paris is a love affair you can never get over.

Restoration of the Church Exterior

It was disappointing but – in view of the current economic situation – not surprising to hear that our application to the Conseil Général des Alpes Maritimes for a *subvention* towards the necessary work of repairing & redecorating the church exterior has not been granted. However, the letter did encourage us to re-submit our application for the year 2010. This we have now done & wait in hope for a favourable reply this time.

Meanwhile we have had to do some emergency repair work on the roof; we are grateful to a neighbour who telephoned us after spotting a hole in the roof & a number of displaced tiles.

A VISIT FROM OUR FATHER-IN-GOD



It is wonderful for a parish or chaplaincy when the full rite of Christian Initiation can be celebrated in one liturgy. This was the norm for many centuries in the Early Church, but more recently we have come to think of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion as three distinct and separate sacraments. I myself, for example, was baptized as an infant, confirmed in my school chapel and made my first communion about a month later.



On the evening of Wednesday 20th May, Ascension Day Eve, Bishop Geoffrey, our diocesan bishop, came to St Michael's for the full rite of Christian Initiation, although only one of the candidates (see page 5) was baptized and confirmed and made her first communion. After the liturgy was over, a full supper was served in the nave, a happy and festive meal with a very international flavor, for two of the candidates had a French mother and one had a Norwegian father, so at least three languages could be heard. Our two churchwardens then drove the Bishop to Montauroux in the Var, where next morning he celebrated the Feast with the Sisters of the Community of the Glorious Ascension.

We express our gratitude to the Bishop and assure Hannah and Sarah Diamonds and Hannah Karlsen of the continuing support of our prayer.

R.T.G.

ANOTHER GOLDEN WEDDING



Edgar and Joan Harborne are faithful members of our congregation for that part of the year which they spend at their home in Cap d'Ail; Edgar served as churchwarden for four years and is currently a church councillor.

When they were both students they met at Hope Cove (South Devon) doing vacation work in the hotel; some time later they met again in York and got engaged. They were married in Heworth Parish Church (near York) on 25th July 1959 and have two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

The splendid and happy jubilee celebration at St Michael's was in two parts. On the evening of Saturday 25th July there was a concert given by four members of the choir of Caius College, Cambridge (Edgar's college), two young men and two young women who filled the church with glorious sound in a mixed programme of music, sacred and secular, ancient and modern, accompanied on the organ or the piano by Dr Geoffrey Webber, Precentor (i.e. director of music) of the College. The weather was fine and warm, and a glass of wine was served in the garden during the interval, followed by a buffet supper after the recital.



Next day during the Sunday Eucharist (at which the musicians from Cambridge sang parts of the Byrd Four-Part Mass and, just before the Blessing, Stanford's Te Deum in B flat) Edgar and Joan came forward to the sanctuary steps to renew their marriage vows and to receive a special blessing. We were then all able to drink their health in a glass of champagne after the service.

Ad multos annos – Go forward for many more years!

ESCAPE TO PROVENCE

by Maureen Emerson

reviewed by R.T. G.

I returned to Beaulieu on 19th August after a holiday in England, hoping to have missed most of the heatwave. I was wrong, the *canicule* lasted much longer this year and seemed particularly debilitating. So it was with more than my habitual sense of inertia that I waded listlessly through a huge pile of post on my desk. Then I opened a package from Sussex and found a copy of this book, ***Escape to Provence***, by Maureen Emerson with a charming letter from the author explaining why she was “taking the liberty” of sending me a copy of her book. Canon Brian Matthews (my predecessor but one at St Michael’s) had been her husband’s school chaplain at Denstone and now, after living for 22 years near Valbonne, they had moved to West Sussex and her husband was acting as an occasional voluntary guide at Chichester Cathedral, especially for French groups.

Unable in the heatwave (and an attack of bronchitis) to do any serious work, it was with relief that I turned to her book and was soon unable to put it down. I had been spending three to four weeks every other September since the late 1970s with friends at a house outside Montauroux in the Var lent to me by an Australian friend; this before I had ever visited Beaulieu. But, as Maureen Emerson wrote in her initial letter, she and her husband hoped I was “enjoying lovely Beaulieu; the coast is so different from the hills – another country”. Almost literally is this the case, since that part of the Alpes-Maritimes which stretches along the coast eastward from Nice was never part of Provence and, indeed, only finally became part of France under Napoleon III.

Escape to Provence focuses on the lives of two extraordinary but very different women, Elisabeth Parrish Starr, an American who took French nationality and was more attracted to women than to men, and Winifred (Peggy) Fortescue, an Englishwoman happily married to Sir John Fortescue, Royal Librarian at Windsor Castle and historian of the British Army. Both had settled in Provence after the First World War; first of all Elisabeth who converted and restored an old building outside the village of Opio which she called Le Castello, and then the Fortescues who bought a house near Grasse, having moved to France because they felt that in Provence “one can be poor with dignity”. Sir John died in 1933 and it was only after his death that Peggy completed her best-seller, *Perfume in Provence*.

It was in the dark days that followed the death of her beloved husband that she first met Elisabeth and, despite their very different characters and histories, they soon became firm friends. Peggy sold the house near Grasse and converted and restored a little stone house near Le Castello, which she called Fort Escu.

The Second World War destroyed this idyllic existence, shared with many others who had acquired properties in the neighbourhood, and the two women were separated. Lady Fortescue returned to England, but Elisabeth Starr stayed put.

She had volunteered for nursing and ambulance work with the French army during the First World War, and now once again in 1939 and 1940 she devoted herself to her beloved “*poilus*”. She then had to endure the Fall of France, the Vichy régime and serious malnutrition, dying in February 1943 at Le Castello at the age of 54, totally exhausted. Peggy Fortescue returned to Fort Escu, her home in Opio, after the war and died there in 1961, mourned particularly by the children of the village to whom she was known as “Maman Noël”.

Elisabeth and Peggy are the main characters in the book, but there is a supporting cast of many other fascinating personalities, some aristocratic, some artistic and some merely eccentric. I particularly liked the description of Stephen Tennant as “terminally aesthetic”. Of the names entered in the Index I have met about a dozen, but I particularly remember a conversation on the beach at Cannes (when I was doing a holiday locum during my time at St George’s, Paris) with the Jewish writer, Philippe Erlanger, and learning how he made a remarkable escape from arrest (and certain death) at the hands of the Nazis.

If, as I hope, there will be many more future editions I could point out the need for certain minor corrections; General de Gaulle, for example, escaped to England in June 1940 by plane, not by boat. But this is a moving and enchanting book which has given me enormous pleasure and which I recommend unreservedly to all our readers.

ESCAPE TO PROVENCE

Chapter & Verse, Sussex, first published in 2008, reprinted in 2009.

WHAT'S COOKING?



It's Christmas time so here is a traditional Christmas recipe from Germany,

Lebkuchen (German iced gingerbread biscuits) by Anne Mellor

Ingredients:

200g	Honey	350g	Plain flour
80g	Butter	170g	Soft dark brown sugar
50g	Ground almonds or Hazelnuts	1 tsp	Ground nutmeg
	Lemon and lemon zest	1/2 tsp	Bicarbonate of soda
1/2 tsp	Baking powder	1 tsp	Ground allspice
1 tsp	Ground cinnamon	1 tsp	Ground cloves
200g	Icing sugar and about 160 ml of water		
	Chocolate powder		

Method:

Use half the icing sugar and water to make **sugar icing**.

Mix the chocolate powder with the other half of icing sugar and water to make **chocolate icing** and leave until needed.

Heat the honey, butter and sugar then add the lemon juice and zest.

Combine all the dry ingredients in a large bowl and add the heated honey mixture.

Mix well then cover the dough and chill overnight.

Next day: heat the oven to 180 c (Fan assisted 160, Gas mark 4).

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about 6 mm thickness.

Using a round cutter, about 5 cm (or star shaped, or heart shaped), cut as many biscuit shapes as **possible**.

Bake on a lined baking tray for 10 to 15 minutes in preheated oven

Cool and ice the biscuits very lightly.

Store in an airtight container for a few days before eating.

Delicious! Just don't count the calories

A CLARION CALL TO THE CHURCH

A particularly memorable extract from a talk given by Professor Brian Thorne at the Pastoral Conference for the clergy of the Diocese held in September in Cologne:

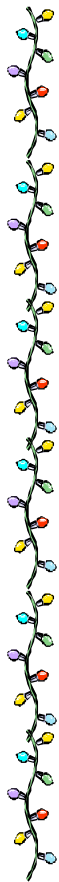
- * Reveal to humankind the God whose nature is infinite love.
- * Cease to speak of the God of judgement,
for the justice of God is part of his infinite love
and is incomprehensible to humankind.
- * Lead us to the holy city within
so that we may find Jesus enthroned in our hearts.
- * Proclaim to men and women that they are infinitely beloved
and show them that they have the capacity to love as God loves.
- * Cease any effort to occupy the moral high ground
for there lies the terrain of the hypocrites and the accusers.
- * Embrace and cherish both the uniqueness of persons
and the mystery of our membership one of another
in the Body of Christ.
- * Honour the mystics and make known their passionate intensity
so that praying becomes a love affair.
- * Cherish those of other faiths
and join with them in the search
for that which gives life in all its abundance.
- * Celebrate the gift of sexuality
and let it permeate the offering of unconditional love in all its
forms.
- * Be at home in the invisible world
so that the whole company of Heaven
can accompany us in this mortal life.
- * Employ the consummate creativity of which human beings are capable
so that through every form of art and liturgical beauty
we may find ourselves repeatedly at the very gate of Heaven.
- * Become a school of love
where laughter is heard
and intelligence is honoured.

Brian Thorne, *Infinitely Beloved, The Challenge of Divine Intimacy*, DLT, 2009



A Christmas Quiz

How much do you really know about Christmas? Test your knowledge with these 14 questions taken from facts in the Bible. There are no trick questions but you might be surprised by some of the answers which you will find on page 26.



1. **On what day was Jesus actually born?**
 - a. December 25th
 - b. March 29th
 - c. April 1st
 - d. We do not know

2. **How many angels spoke to the shepherds?**
 - a. Two
 - b. A multitude
 - c. One
 - d. It cannot be determined

3. **Where was Joseph's family from?**
 - a. Bethlehem
 - b. Nazareth
 - c. Jerusalem
 - d. Galilee

4. **How were the shepherds to find and recognize the Lord?**
 - a. By following a star
 - b. By asking at the Inn
 - c. By looking for a babe in a manger
 - d. By looking for the Magi

5. **How many wise men came to see Jesus in the manger?**
 - a. Two
 - b. The Bible doesn't say
 - c. Three
 - d. None

6. **How did Joseph and Mary get to Bethlehem?**
 - a. Walked
 - b. By cart
 - c. Joseph walked/ Mary rode a donkey
 - d. The Bible doesn't say





- 7. Where did the wise men find Jesus?**
- a. In the manger
 - b. On a donkey with Mary
 - c. In a field
 - d. In a house
- 8. Who saw the star over Bethlehem?**
- a. Joseph and Mary
 - b. The shepherds
 - c. The three Kings
 - d. None of the above
- 9. The Innkeeper told Joseph:**
- a. There is no room
 - b. We don't allow children
 - c. You can use the stable out back
 - d. None of the above
- 10. What is meant by 'heavenly host'?**
- a. An archangel
 - b. Greeting angels
 - c. An army of angels
 - d. An angelic choir or herald
- 11. What is the most accurate definition for 'Magi'?**
- a. Magicians
 - b. Wise men
 - c. Astrologers
 - d. Eastern kings
- 12. How many shepherds were in the fields?**
- a. Three
 - b. Four
 - c. Six
 - d. We are not told



ECUADOR and NORTHERN PERU

Continuing the adventures of Ursula Schulz



Ecuador is a very small country of amazing diversity. It features islands, arid plateaux, fertile valleys, jungles, national parks, ecosystems, endemic flora, fauna and 9 of the world's highest peaks. The highest volcano is 5.872m and still active. There are various indigenous groups who conserve their own language, traditions and beliefs. This was my first visit to the country and unaware of all its diversity I merely planned a 2 or 3 day stop-over in order to travel on the *Panamericana* (Pan American Highway) from the capital of Quito in the North to Peru.

The owner of my *hostale* said I must go to the bus station in the morning because the area wasn't very safe. *Cuidado* (be careful). Next day my walk led me through the colonial part of town past impressive cathedrals, former monasteries and beautifully restored old houses. At the bus station I was plunged into yesterday. A man walked up to me shouting Otavalo, a town in the North. I said 'Riobamba' and was directed to the guy shouting Southern destinations. He knew the schedule and price, but suddenly I was in no hurry to get to Peru. I spent 4 days visiting churches. The woodcarvings, paintings, silver and gold ornaments are overwhelming. One altar is said to be created of 7 tons of gold. I got dizzy. The 5th day was spent in the museum where artifacts and beautiful pottery span 5.000 years of civilization. Quito merits being a World Heritage sight.

Between Quito and Riobamba the *Panamericana* is called *the route of the volcanoes* because during those 230 kms 20 snowcapped peaks are visible. I saw nothing because of rain and fog. Feeling disappointed, wet and cold I spent the night in Riobamba. In the morning the local destination crier/barker put me on an express bus to Cuenca. Whether express or local, all buses seem to offer medium or no comfort. One takes what comes along. The luggage goes on the roof or down below. No receipt! *Cuidado!*

Cuenca, also a World Heritage sight, is famous for its 50 churches, colonial houses, charm and flair. I only visited the main churches in the centre. I lack words for all the gold and artwork. The oldest church, a wooden building dating from 1557, impresses through its simplicity. The colonial houses with wooden or iron balconies, painted or ceramic decorations have all been lovingly restored and confirm the people's pride in their heritage. Some owners showed me their patio complete with a fountain. They reminded me of places in Seville.

On Tuesday I visited a factory where the Panama hats are made. On Wednesday I had my shoes, handbag and umbrella repaired. On Thursday there was a textile market where I met a long row of public tailors behind old Singer sewing-machines. They make new garments as well as altering old ones on request. Each day they sew at a different market. On Saturday it was vegetable-market-day where Indians from surrounding villages offer their goods. The colours of their costumes were a feast for my eyes: hot pink, sky blue, emerald green, bright purple.

Sunday I participated in a religious procession. Dozens of groups from different towns were dancing up and down the streets to the music of their own band. I have not seen such colours or felt such enthusiasm in my entire life. The locals encouraged me to go closer for good pictures. I ended up between two dancing groups and a music truck. A man joined me for an interview for the local paper. A dancer handed me a bamboo tube with a local drink. On Monday little baby Jesus was honoured with prayers and music and then paraded and danced to his home church.

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In the early evenings many housewives put a table and chair out on the sidewalk to signal 'restaurant'. I enjoyed a delicious meal in a different home every day. I loved Cuenca but after a week I had to move on.

Back at the bus station the knowledgeable crier/barker said I should leave the *Panamericana* in Loja and then continue straight down on a small road to Zumba from where it would only be 2 hours to Northern Peru. I enjoyed the drive through green, hilly countryside to Loja where I spent the night.

Zumba is extremely small, quiet, hot, damp, pretty and friendly. The owner of my lovely *hostale* said the bus for Peru would leave at 07:30 in the morning.....weather permitting!! If it rained the 'track' would not be practicable. Oh really?! In the morning it rained and the taxi forgot to pick me up.

When I finally arrived at the bus stop - an open, muddy plaza - there was no bus. What now? A man pointed to an open truck with benches running from side to side:



Ursula Schulz

Restaurant review

Continuing our series in which secret reviewers visit restaurants within easy reach of St Michael's and reports on their recommendations. Don't forget that if you visit the recommended restaurant to mention that you read about it in **'The Messenger'**!

Le Pourquoi Pas
Port de Plaisance
Beaulieu
Tel 04 93 01 32 30
Open every day

The **Pourquoi Pas** opened in January 2008 and is the last in the line of restaurants on the **Port de Plaisance**, at the Petit Afrique end. It is **an unpretentious place** and is **a brasserie** rather than a restaurant. The decor is simple but the **welcome from your host, Noel, is very warm.**

In true brasserie fashion the carte has a **wide range of snack dishes and main courses**, all **straightforward fare**, and a **wide range of prices**. This includes **omelettes, pizza and pasta, a wide range of salads, moules marinières, sea bream, sea bass, prawns, escalope milanaise and steaks.** Noticeably absent is a choice of entrees. These are few and far between and when we went with friends we shared a **very good pizza** as our entree. However you could try the **tapas selection at 8 euros.**

So far it may seem there is little to be excited about but the **quality and presentation** of each dish is **very good** and **compares well with the fancier establishments nearby.** **Prices are fair;** our group tried **chicked tandoori salad at 13 euros, grilled sea bass at 18 euros, escalope milanaise at 17 euros and fillet steak at 22 euros** - all of us left very satisfied - oh, and by the way, the **service is very good.**

The **wine list** is short and is **regularly updated**, each bottle **priced at the mid 20 euro mark.** The wines seem **well chosen** and are **value for money.** A shame there seems to be **no house wine** though.

On most **Saturday evenings** there is **music and dancing from 9** until late (Beaulieu-late that is!). Word has got around and on the Saturday in mid-October we were there **the place was packed.** If you **like to dance**, this is a **fun and inexpensive night out.**

'The Pourquoi Pas' has **no pretensions** to be a destination restaurant. It is exactly what it seems, a **friendly and reliable place for a fair value**, a **well presented lunch or dinner**, with the **added option of dancing on a Saturday night.**

The Gourmet Messenger

A DYING RACE

An occasional series talking about craftsmen working in the back of beyond in our parish. This time Micky van Tekelenburg tells us about a jeweller all you ladies should know about in St Jean-Cap-Ferrat and a clock repairer in Beaulieu.

I would like to tell you about a jewel of a jeweller, one of those old fashioned artists, who for the past 50 years has been totally dedicated to the work he loves. He is one of the few artisans in this area that people turn to for repair of broken or damaged jewellery, but his main talent is to create pieces of art according to your wishes. You can bring him a shell and he'll make it into a stunning pendant. He only makes one of a kind and his prices are very reasonable.

His name is **José Actis** and he has a shop on **11, Quai du Vieux Port in St. Jean-Cap-Ferrat**, where he sits in his little atelier in the back. After three years at the Ecole de la Bijouterie in Nice and six years working for an artisan-jeweller, he and his wife opened their own shop. Unfortunately, since the public in general prefers to wear jewellery of famous marques, people like José Actis are more and more difficult to find. In Nice alone, 60% of the artisans had to close shop last year, so keep this jewel in mind if you want to have a unique piece of jewellery or need something repaired.

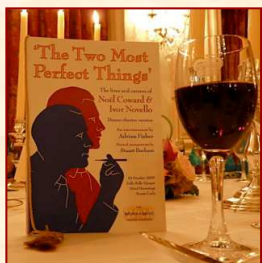
Talking about repairs, if you have a clock or watch that refuses to tick, go and see **Patrick Foltête on 40, Bd. Général Leclerc in Beaulieu**. He is a charming, interesting and talented man, who tries to fix your problem while you wait, which is never boring. Many old clients on holiday still come and see him, often just for a chat.

His great grandfather, Monsieur Bandelier, was the first clock maker in Chaudfont in Switzerland in the 19th century. When his daughter married a Frenchman, the couple moved to Beaulieu sur Mer in 1935 and opened a shop in the Boulevard Marinoni, which was very successful. After the war Henri and Jean Foltête, the two sons who did not want to follow in their father's footsteps, decided to become jewellers. Jean left after two years and Henri continued with his wife until 2001. He was very creative and had magic hands and soon they had the rich and famous as clients. David Niven, Gregory Peck, Maria Pia de Savoie and many others came to them for special orders. Foltête was Simone Cousteau's preferred jeweller and he even made a crown for the King of Togo. Those were the good old days.

Patrick had only one wish and that was to become a teacher and work with children, but his father, Henri, decided that, as the eldest son, he had to take over his grandfather's clock business and that is what happened; first on Bd. Marinoni and from 1987 on Bd. Général Leclerc, two doors away from his father's jewellery shop. In 2006 his shop was destroyed by a fire, but he was lucky enough to find another one across the road at number 40, where he continues making clocks tick and where everybody receives a warm welcome.

M. van T

WORLD PREMIERE AT ST MICHAEL'S



St Michael's Church has hosted many outstanding musical events before now, including the first Beaulieu Festival in 2003, but never before has it hosted a world premiere! The 9th October 2009 saw the much anticipated first performance, albeit in the form of a 'dress-rehearsal', of 'The Two Most Perfect Things' – an entertainment based on the lives and careers of Noel Coward and Ivor Novello. It was written and directed by Adrian Fisher in collaboration with our very own organist, Stuart Barham.

Adrian, an English international opera singer presently based in Antwerp, played Coward. While the English baritone Charles Howell played Novello, Australian soprano Dianne Weller and the Belgian soprano Isabelle Roeland were also strong performers in the cast playing a variety of characters. Stuart was of course the musical director/arranger who provided the accompaniment and also performed as The Narrator. The Choreography was by Tina Rodgers.

That Dress-Rehearsal in St Michael's was followed the following night by a very successful Gala evening's performance, after a 3 course dinner, at the Salle Belle Epoque at the Hotel Hermitage in Monte Carlo organised by the British Association of Monaco.

'But what about the play Mrs Worthington?' Here this reviewer must confess to bias.

Not only do I know the male cast but I am a huge fan of Noel Coward and, more unusually, Ivor Novello. I was raised on 'We'll Gather Lilacs', 'Love Is My Reason' and frequently performed these romantic ballads as a youngster accompanied by my father at the piano.



As Novello died in 1951, just before the pop explosion of Elvis, Bill Hayley and the Beatles, it is amazing that his work and name have survived. It would be fair to say that, in its day, his music would have been on a par with Lloyd Webber, Rogers and Hammerstein and Cole Porter. Noel Coward, who was performing until shortly before his death in the 1970s, not long after he received his knighthood, remains widely remembered today, not only for his music, films, acting and glamorous lifestyle but also for his superb wit. He reached an even wider audience in the 1960s playing at Las Vegas to packed and adoring American audiences.



Despite the existence of many biographical shows and entertainments devoted to Coward, Adrian Fisher has had the inspiration to link together these two giant figures of the early twentieth century English Theatre in a most entertaining and enlightening way. There is so much of this terrific part of musical history to be told and it is bound to be difficult to convey all in a single 70 minute show. However, I have been informed that what we saw in St Michael's is a reduction of a full length show of over 2 hours. Hooray, I can't wait to see that!

The evening was a great success and what was especially lovely was the feast of extra musical numbers performed by the entire cast in a concert at the end. Everyone went away smiling having had a most wonderful and memorable time. We all wish the entire company of 'The Two Most Perfect Things' much success in the future!

Christina Gorna

THAT STRANGE LANGUAGE : ENGLISH

*No wonder foreigners find our language difficult.
What do you think they think of the following?*

We have to **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

A skilled farmer can **produce** a lot of **produce**.

The dump was so full it had to **refuse** **refuse**.

The soldier decided to **desert** his **dessert** in the **desert**.

No time like the **present** to **present** the **present**.

A small-mouthed **bass** was painted on the big **bass** drum.

The actor took his **bow** in his **bow** tie

Let me know if you can think of any other examples.

Fr Roger would like to add that he is content with the content of this magazine



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGE

Jokes:

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

The letter 'D'.

Who deliver's your cat's Christmas presents?

Santa Paws!

Why does Santa go down the chimney?

Because it soots him!

What do you give a train driver for Christmas?

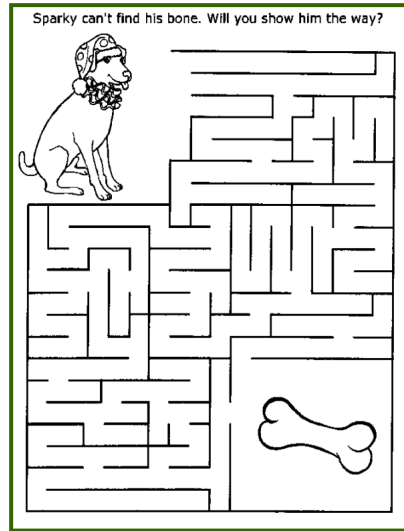
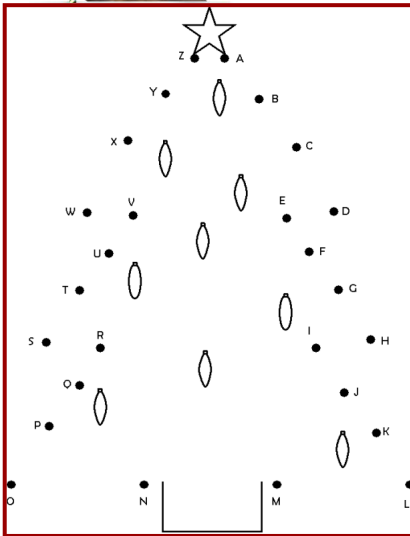
Platform shoes!

What do Snowmen wear on their heads?

Snow caps!



Draw your own tree !



BISHOP GEOFFREY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 2009



It is sometimes said that if you want to know the meaning of Easter you go to the Orthodox churches where at midnight every Easter they proclaim that 'Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!' If you want to know the meaning of Good Friday and the Passion of Christ you go to the churches of

the Reformation, and stand before the Cross and know the cost of the saving love of God in Christ. But if you want to know the meaning of the Incarnation you can do no better than to be with Anglicans as Christmas is celebrated.

Like all generalisations it is far too neat – yet there is a sense in which Christmas is the Christian festival which can still speak powerfully to us and draw in, without their quite knowing why, those who rarely darken the doors of churches even in this secular age. The most widely known Anglican service is perhaps the service of Nine Lessons and Carols broadcast every Christmas Eve from King's College Chapel in Cambridge. It is a service which is not found in the Book of Common Prayer, and was devised, building on an earlier service for Truro Cathedral, by Eric Milner White, Dean of King's in the early part of the last century. The familiar carols and hymns that it uses are often from only a century earlier – such as 'Once in royal David's city', or 'God rest you merry, gentlemen', or Christina Rossetti's 'In the bleak mid-winter' - reminding us that the traditional Christmas, such as Christmas trees and Christmas cards, owes much to what the German Prince Albert brought to England when he married Queen Victoria. But other carols are far older and reach back into the popular piety of the Middle Ages, when Christians delighted to sing of the meaning of Christmas and the mystery of the incarnation.

As so often it is the amazing paradox that is at the heart of the praise and poetry, the paradox that God, the Creator of all, could choose in the freedom of his love and power to come down to where we are, 'to take our nature upon him', as the Christmas collect says, 'and be born of a pure Virgin.' To take one, not very familiar, example by Ben Jonson, a contemporary of Shakespeare:

Bishop Geoffrey's Christmas Message continued

I sing the birth was born tonight,
The author both of life and light,
The angels so did sound it,
And like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid,
Yet searched, and true they found it.

What was that truth? Jonson tells us:

He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,
Was now laid in a manger.
The Word was now made flesh indeed,
And took on Him our nature.

And why? For what end and purpose?

What comfort by him doe we win?
Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory!

From beginning to end this was a work of love, by the God whose very being is love, who created us in love for himself, and who in love stoops down to the very lowest part of our need. As another poet, Christopher Smart, puts it:

God all bounteous, all creative,
Whom no ills from good dissuade,
Is incarnate, and a native,
Of the very world he made!

The God whom we know and worship and adore is not a distant God, not a God of ideas and abstractions, but a God who comes to us as one of us, who comes among us in the fragility of an unborn life, beginning as we begin as those formed in the hiddenness of our mother's wombs – which is why Christians can never be casual about caring for that unborn life, can never treat abortion as no more than a matter of choice. God identifies with us from the very beginning, going, as Bishop Lancelot Andrewes once said, 'to the very ground-sill of our nature.' St Paul wrote to the Christians of Corinth of how for Christians the power of God was know most paradoxically in the weakness of the cross, the crucified God was the one who saved – yet that foolishness of God, that weakness of God, is already there at Bethlehem in the child laid in the pricking straw of the manger, which devout Christians saw as foreshadowing the sharpness of the crown of thorns of the crucified.

Christmas speaks to us of a God who is love totally and completely, a God who loves us so recklessly and in so overwhelming a fashion, that he comes down to the lowest part of our need. He speaks to us as one of us, as our flesh and blood, which is why St John sums up the mystery of the incarnation as 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us'. And St John goes on to say that in that total self-giving of love, 'we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' No wonder the shepherds on the cold hills outside Bethlehem were startled by the angelic armies of heaven singing 'Glory to God in the highest, and one earth peace goodwill towards men!' If that is indeed the truth of the God who made the vastness of the universe, and the richness of creation, and who also made you and me, every human being, in the image and likeness of his love, then to live by and from that love and grace which came to us at Bethlehem to take us by the hand, is to live by that which alone can sustain us and transform us, and transform the whole world, into that new creation which is our end, our purpose, and our very being. This is indeed our story and our song; this is our life and our mission to the world; this is the love we are called to live; and this is the eternal life which here and now we are given, as the Child of Bethlehem feeds us with his own life in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. 'O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!'

It is in that faith and love that I wish you the true and joy and blessing of Christmas.

+Geoffrey Gibraltar

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The contribution of each and every one is gratefully acknowledged

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As at date of publication

Christmas Quiz answers:

1-d	7-d
2-c	8-d**
3-a	9-d***
4-c	10-c
5-d*	11-c
6-d	12-d

* *The Bible says they saw the young child in the house – they were not present at the manger, and no mention is made as to how many Magi there were – we often assume there were three because there were 3 gifts.*

** *Three Kings are not mentioned – all the wise men saw the star.*

*** *No mention of the Innkeeper is made*



I SAW A FAIR MAIDEN

Words : Fifteenth century

**I saw a fair maiden
Sitten and sing:
She lulléd a little child,
A sweeté lording.**

***Lullay my liking,
My dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart,
Mine own dear darling.***

**That eternal lord is he
That made allé thing;
Of allé lordés he is Lord
Of allé kinges King.**

**There was mickle melody
At that childés birth:
Though the songsters were heavenly
They madé mickle mirth.**

**Angels bright they sang that night
And saiden to that child,
"Blessed be thou and so be she
That is both meek and mild."**

**Pray we now to that child,
And to his mother dear,
God grant them all his blessing
That now maken cheer.**

***Lullay my liking,
My dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart,
Mine own dear darling.***



