

St Michael's Messenger

Spring & Summer 2009



Free

Issue No. 28

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

www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

For this reason the Church Council has started an **e-mail newsletter** called **'Keeping In Touch'** so that all our far-flung friends can be kept up to date with news of forthcoming events, monthly. We let you know ways in which you can participate in the life of St Michael's even if you are only here part of the time. It has proved to be very popular and more and more email addresses keep being added.

If you have not already received the **'Keeping In Touch'** email, (not to be confused with *'The Messenger'*!) do let us have your email address by contacting Nicola on ekarsen@wanadoo.fr

Your email address will not be disclosed to others on the mailing list.

N.K.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is now 6 months since our last issue of *'The Messenger'*. As those of you who were present at the AGM, which took place after the service on Sunday 19th April will realise, I explained that it has been decided by the Church Council that *'The Messenger'* will be published twice a year instead of 3 times a year. The biggest single reason for this decision is the cost of printing and postage. The magazine cannot pay for itself without advertising (I must, however, say Thank You to the one advertiser that has remained with us in this issue.). We need to reduce cost from the church funds. Although we are perfectly happy to send copies by post around the world to those of you that really need a paper copy, we would like to encourage you to receive *'The Messenger'* via our website



www.stmichaelsbeaulieusumer.org. That would reduce the cost of postage considerably. Please let us know if this is a possibility for you. It has been suggested that we have a nominal charge for *'The Messenger'* but we want to avoid that route if at all possible - but maybe that is the way to go.

As usual there are many who need to be thanked for their contribution. I am greatly indebted to Hugh Mellor, who as always works patiently with me on the computer and to Tom Downes, who tries so hard to keep the cost of the postage as low as possible. I must also thank our Proof reader, Fr Roger, without whom there would be many more mistakes getting through the net than there actually are. Of course, a big 'Thank You' must go to our contributors who write the content of the magazine. Without you there would be no magazine.

In this issue you will find all the usual news and gossip. Look out for the first of a new series - Restaurant Reviews. Anyone can be a secret reviewer of any restaurant they would like to recommend. All you have to do is send your review to me at the email address which you will find on the back cover. AGM reports, Recipes, Mind boggling, a quiz, Travel and much more All are in between the covers in your hand. On a sad note, we have to report on the recent death of our friend Anne-Colette who is greatly missed in our community.

And now - a bit of rare self-indulgence on my part. I would like to bring your attention to a performance of a musical play I have collaborated on with Adrian Fisher (Please see the advert on the inside back cover of this magazine). If for some reason you cannot attend the performance on 10th October but would nevertheless like to see it, we will be performing the Dress Rehearsal in St Michael's on the evening of Friday 9th October. Everyone is welcome to attend at a small charge of 10 euros each, which will go to St Michael's Fabric Fund. If you would like tickets for the Gala Dinner and Performance in Monaco they will be 115 euros each on sale from the British Association in Monaco from July.

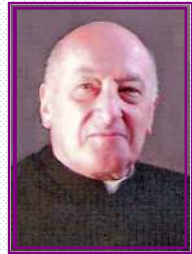
So, until the next issue in November, I will wish you a good summer and Happy Reading of this issue of *'The Messenger'* !

SB

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Christ our Passover

I write this letter during the 50 days of Eastertide. In French and in Italian **Pâques** and **Pasqua** point out, which the English word **Easter** does not, that Easter is the Christian Passover – the celebration of the Jewish Passover fulfilled, as we believe, in the passing over of Jesus from death to life and our own transition from darkness to light. So it was not inappropriate that on the day that preceded the Paschal Triduum (the 3 days from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening) we celebrated in St Michael's the funeral of a much-loved and long-standing worshipper, Anne-Colette Langelier. I have already quoted part of the sermon I gave on that occasion (see page 6), but I would like to quote another extract here:



“The inevitability of death is something we all accept – at least in theory, but the brutal reality of death when it confronts us personally, either for ourselves or for our loved ones, can come as a shock. ***Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped into the next room.***’ So begins a text from Henry Scott Holland which was treasured by Anne-Colette and which she hoped would be quoted at her funeral. I cannot bring myself to read it in its entirety; not only because I find it embarrassingly sentimental, but also, more seriously, because I believe it does not do justice to the complexity of the Christian attitude to death. It is too anodyne; it offers too easy a solution. Death is, as a great 20th century lay Anglican poet, playwright and theologian, Charles Williams, put it, ‘an outrage – a necessary outrage, perhaps, but still an outrage..... to which submission, but not consent, is to be offered; a thing, like sin, that ought not to be and yet is! St Paul puts it more succinctly: *‘The last enemy to be destroyed is death.’* And yet – a mysterious paradox indeed – death, ‘the last enemy’, can be addressed by St Francis of Assisi as ‘Sister Death’ and in his great hymn, **All creatures of our God and King**, he can invite us to sing

‘And thou, most kind and gentle death,
Waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise him

Death. ‘An enemy’? Yes. ‘Kind and gentle’? Well, perhaps. Sometimes. ‘Nothing at all’? No, never.

I refuse, and I hope all thinking Christians will also refuse, to talk of someone ‘passing away’. Passing over (passing over with Christ through

ANNE-COLETTE LANGELIER, R.I.P.



Anne-Colette died in hospital at Monaco on 3rd April after a long illness ; her funeral – attended by 71 people – took place in St Michael's Church on the Wednesday in Holy Week (8th April), followed by the committal of her ashes to the deep on the next day. I quote here from part of my sermon at her funeral.

“We will want first of all to give thanks for Anne-Colette and for the ways in which she touched our lives, remembering especially her great courage and serenity in these last months of great pain and suffering. As we commend her to the love and mercy of God, we give thanks too that in the week that preceded her death and on what was perhaps her last day of total lucidity she was able to talk to me without fear about the death she knew was imminent, to express sorrow towards the people she felt she had offended or let down and to receive the Sacraments of Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick) and *Viaticum* (a Latin word for one's last Holy Communion, which means literally 'food for the journey'). We share too her thankfulness for her reconciliation with her son, Simon which gave her so much joy in recent months and for the fact that he was at her bedside when she died.

We know that her life had been full of problems and she had to fight – not always successfully until these last years – her alcohol addiction. We give thanks for the work of Alcoholics Anonymous which gave her enormous help and support in recent years, and for all the friends (whom I will not try to mention by name) who rallied round her in her time of trial. Among the messages we have received, one of the most touching came from 10 year old Felicity Garvey in England [See opposite]; Anne-Colette was her sponsor when she was confirmed in St Michael's in 2006.

Anne-Colette loved St Michael's Church and all that it stands for and was for many years an assistant Sacristan and Church Councillor. We remember her here today with gratitude and great affection”

R.T.G.

We are grateful too to Simon Langelier for a very generous financial offering to St Michael's.



ANNE-COLETTE ... My very special Godmother

Sometimes when I was on my scooter playing or climbing trees in 'La Place' I would meet Anne-Colette and we would talk and I would give Tag a drink from my water bottle and we would have a great time.

Once, on our way to the grand café, a car parked in the wrong place stopped us from crossing the road easily, so we had to wait and when we finally managed to pass it, she pulled its windscreen wiper up vertically to tell off the owner for parking there!

Anne-Colette was with me at my Confirmation and I will remember her as a very special Godmother

Felicity OXOXOXO

Memorial to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

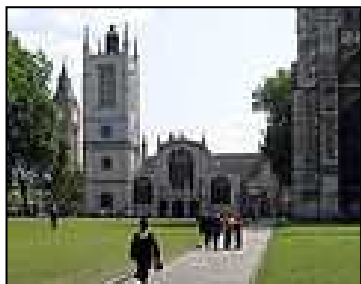
We congratulate our Honourary Architect, Dr Donald Buttress, for his significant contribution to this memorial in the Mall, inaugurated by HM The Queen on 24th February. Donald writes:

“The Memorial has been formed, to my design, by the repositioning of the 1956 statue of George VI to form a group with the new statue of HM Queen Elizabeth, building in relief sculptures left and right of scenes from the Queen Mother’s life by Paul Day, an English sculptor resident in France; The Queen Mother’s statue is by Philip Jackson [who sculpted the statue of St Richard outside the main entrance to Chichester Cathedral]. The setting has been remodelled by new masonry at the base of the 1956 steps from Carlton Gardens down onto the Mall, with an impressive forecourt marked out by two massive new obelisks and paving.”



SWEARING-IN

It was on a dull and drizzly evening at the end of January that we gathered at St Margaret's, Westminster, for the Swearing-in of the new Bishop's Legal Secretary and Diocesan Registrar.



St Margaret's was originally built around 1150 by the monks of Westminster as a parish church for the people of Westminster. It is, however, the third St Margaret's on the same site and in the 17th century became the official church of the House of Commons. It has played a major part in the local history and can be associated with Geoffrey Chaucer, William Caxton, John Milton and Samuel Pepys who all worshipped in it regularly. Sir Walter Raleigh was buried there after his execution in 1618 and Sir Winston Churchill was married at St Margaret's in 1908.

Before the service commenced we were regaled to music by Handel and Charpentier and the visiting Chancellors and Registrars in their splendid wigs were conducted to their seats. The service was presided over by the Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Gibraltar, and concelebrated by the Right Reverend Dr David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in Europe.

After the choir sang Gloria in Excelsis Deo there followed a reading from The Apocrypha by Dr Brian Hanson, Lay Canon of the Diocese in Europe: "...He seeks out the wisdom of all the ancients.... He preserves the sayings of the famous.... He serves among the great and appears before rulers... He will pour forth words of wisdom.... He will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant..."

Aiden Richard Hargreaves-Smith, the nominated Legal Secretary and Diocesan Registrar, was brought forward, declared his faith and swore allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Bishop then read the Deed of Appointment and the new Registrar responded accordingly.

Further hymns by the congregation and the Choir as well as Communion took place and afterwards we all retired to Church House for a reception. We met with many friends of St. Michael's and there were numerous enquiries about Fr Roger's health and both Bishops asked us to send him their warmest love.

Sophie Poulain-Thorne

IN BRIEF

Pastor Henrik honoured



Pastor Henrik Schjoedt Christensen, who first came to Nice in 1974 and who retired as Pastor of the Danish Church on the Cote d'Azur, which he had helped to found, last year, has been appointed by the Queen of Denmark Ridder (Knight) of the Order of Dannebrog in recognition of his many years of service to the Danish Church in the South of France, where he still



lives. We join with the Danish community here in offering him our sincere congratulations.

Au Revoir but not Adieu

We have sadly said farewell to Andrew and Margaret Mercer who have sold their apartment in Beaulieu and moved to Shropshire. They were faithful members of our community and we shall miss them and the many ways in which they contributed to our worship and mission. They have promised to come back on regular visits.

A longer entr'acte

At the beginning of this year the Danes moved their monthly service in St Michael's from 11.15am to 11.45am. This has not only given us a longer and stress-free interval between the two services but allowed us time to take refreshments together and get to know one another better.

Félicitations, M. le Chanoine!

Congratulations, prayers and best wishes to our friend (and former curé), Père Jean-Marie Tschann who has been appointed Rector of the Sanctuary of Notre-Dame de Laghet. Laghet is well known to many of us; among other things, it hosts the annual retreat of the Anglican Churches of the Riviera.

MINI -MINDBOGGLERS

For the lovers of the Mindboggler, here is clutch of 6 fun teasers for all the family. Look up the answers (as a last resort) on page....

1. What is the difference between a north wind and a north road?
2. A deaf man noticed a bather taking an early morning dip. Just then he saw the tell-tale dorsal fin of a shark approach. In what way could he communicate with the swimmer?

WHERE ST PAUL WAS SHIPWRECKED

See Acts of the Apostles, chapters 27 & 28

As well as the Cathedral in Gibraltar (which has a Dean), the Diocese in Europe has two pro-cathedrals, one in Malta and the other in Brussels, each headed by a Chancellor. Fr Simon Godfrey, Rector of Northampton and a great friend of Fr Roger's, has been appointed Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Valletta, and Senior Chaplain of Malta and Gozo and will be installed by Bishop Geoffrey in June. Fr Roger preached at Fr Simon's first Mass in 1982 and again at his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at All Saints', Northampton, in 2007.

All Saints has a fine, cathedral-style choral tradition and their girls' choir gave a concert in St Michael's some summers ago.



The Pro-Cathedral in Malta is a fine historic church, paid for by Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV, who laid the foundation stone in 1839. Two priests who have been helping with the interregnum are Canon Chad Coussmaker (formerly chaplain at Sliema in Malta) and Canon David Skeoch – both well known at St Michael's.

If any of our yacht-owning parishioners are planning a trip to Malta, please let Fr Roger know!

3. Why do English men use more soap than Irish men (without being noticeably cleaner)?
 4. Before Sir Richard Burton attempted to discover the source of the Nile what was the world's longest river?
 5. The Shamans of Central Asia knew of an ancient and ingenious means of passing right through solid walls. What was it?
 6. Which is correct, 'All fish **have** warm blood' or 'All fishes **are** warm-blooded'?
- Answers on page 23*

WHAT'S COOKING

2 for the price of 1 - From **Christina Gorna**

I enjoyed this so much at 'Le Duo' in Nice - the restaurant where Johnny and Michele Clegg's son makes the most delicious pizzas! - that I asked the chef for the recipe. I would very much like to share it with you, so, with his permission, here it is!



1. Fusilli with Asperges and Coquilles St Jacques

Ingredients: (serves 2 people)

Fusilli (or other butterfly shaped pasta)

Fresh asparagus

8. Coquilles St Jacques (scallops or Tiger prawns would also be nice)

1 tbl spoon of Good Olive oil (perhaps from Sharon and Paul Meekins. Olive oil bought in the Church.)

1 small glass of white wine

1 lemon (halved)

1 Small tub of Crème Fraiche

Method:

1. Cook the Pasta and the asparagus.

Lightly sear the Coquilles St Jacques in good olive oil for about 2 minutes

To make the sauce:

Once the asparagus is cooked, keep the Asparagus water and add to it the olive oil, lemon juice of ½ the lemon, a glass of white wine and the tub of crème fraiche and mix together.

(You can very lightly season but remember these tastes are delicate)

4. Add the asparagus, leaving a few stems for garnishing and the Coquilles and mix together with the pasta

Serve with an arrangement of asparagus stems and the other ½ lemon, wedged. Eh Voila!

And here is a recipe of my own!

2. Poulet Tropical

Ingredients: (serves 4 people....or 2 greedy ones!)

4 uncooked Chicken portions (Important – leave the skin on)
Runny local honey
French mustard
Mangoes or Peaches (chunked)

Method:

1. Mix the Honey and Mustard together
 2. Lay the chicken portions in shallow oven proof dish
 3. Cover them with the mixture of Honey and Mustard.
 4. Surround the chicken portions with the Mango or Peach chunks
 5. Bake for 20/30 minutes in a medium oven– about 150 -155 degrees.
 6. When the skin is good and crispy it is done
- Serve with Haricots verts or a Side-Salad

Delicious and yet so simple!

C.G. (Just call me Delia!)

-OLOGIES

How well do you know your ologies? Try this little test. Answers on page....

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | SEMIOLOGY: | Is the study of.....? |
| 2. | CETOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 3. | VEXILLOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 4. | DEONTOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 5. | PHANTOMOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 6. | HISTOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 7. | TRICHOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |
| 8. | DENDROCHRONOLOGY | is the study of.....? |
| 9. | Oology: | is the study of.....? |
| 10. | ESCHATOLOGY: | is the study of.....? |

Answers on page 23

Sharon and Paul's Olive Harvest

Many of us have bought and tasted the wonderful olive oil produced by Sharon and Paul Meakins saying that it is the best olive oil ever. Even other olive oil producers say so as it comes from some of the best olive trees in Italy. It is on sale in St Michael's church for only 10 euros a bottle. Here they tell us about their harvesting.

Our very first harvest was a total shock. We had engaged the help of an English speaking Italian man from the local village. He had been to the UK to work and had ended up in Wales for many years. He had a strong Welsh accent; so, with the characteristic swear word in front of most nouns and verbs, he told us many amusing tales over the weeks of the harvest. Valerio is now one of our best friends.

The 'shock' came on the first day when we realized the overwhelming hard work of using the traditional long stick, called a *rame*, in order to knock the olives off the trees. It was soon followed by the 'crunch' when seeing the olives flying into the universe instead of into the nets which we had painstakingly laid out on our 60 degree, inclined mountainside.



Once upon a time the whole family would have taken part and helped with this procedure. The women and children would have laid out all the cloths or nets under the trees whilst the fathers, grandfathers, husbands, uncles and brothers would have knocked the olives off the trees. The land maintenance was equally shared during the year. To us it was heart and back breaking work! After that first day Paul kept quiet for about 20 minutes and then vowed, very loudly, that he was "... Never doing this again!" Of course he did but only after we had tasted the delicious Oil we had produced. However, never again was it harvested by that exact same method. Over the following months Paul devised and designed a large enclosed net, hoisted up around the tree with pulleys and poles.



Our closest neighbours (the most wonderful neighbours we have ever been blessed with – though I'm not sure whether they are 'blessed' with us, but at least we think we are a constant source of amusement) still harvest in the traditional way with the nets spread out on the mountain side and held in place with canes. The olives are knocked off with that special stick made from hazelnut wood, very strong but flexible at the tip. Paul did invest in one I think, (18 Euros for a stick!) for our second harvest, as a back up to the machine.

MEXICO, ECUADOR, PERU

More tales from our friend, Ursula Schulz, who went on – yet again – another adventurous holiday. This time she traveled for 4 months over Christmas 2008.

Before leaving the South of France I read:

**3000 people murdered in Mexico!
Uncontrollable hordes of pickpockets in Quito!
100 criminal incidents daily in Lima!**



On arrival in Lima I was to hear that all Mexicans are good people. The hoodlums come up from Guatemala. In Ecuador they come across from Colombia and in Peru they come down from Ecuador. Everybody feels insecure and I won't ever forget their constant warning – CUIDADO! (be careful). For safety reasons I chose first class buses because one gets a receipt for the luggage. They also record your name and passport number as well as taking your picture.... just in case!! Often a hostess serves free refreshments and a snack for lunch. One can travel in such comfort on superb highways all over 'modern' Mexico

I have to say I find that quite boring, so I changed to 2nd class and no-class busses and found the 'old' Mexico I remembered.

CUIDADO! No luggage tag, every bundle goes on the roof, many passengers wore their traditional costumes and many only spoke *Mayan*. At every stop food vendors offered everything from mineral water to tamales and deliciously cooked chicken. Although the bus was already crowded, the driver picked up yet more people and dropped them off on request. He also made so called 'comfort stops' on request. He knew and advised on reasonable accommodation at your destination. If one sat next to him and spoke Spanish he'd tell you his views on the corrupt government, the poverty and even the Spanish conquest (which is far from being forgotten in Yucatan).

Once in Yucatan, I was advised to look for '**Hospideja**' instead of hotels. I took the advice and for an average of about 6€ I had a clean room with a private bathroom. However, in one of these rooms, in one little town, I was woken up by strange noises behind the wall next to my bed. I went to report it to the night watchman. He told me not to worry; "They are only little mice who run around the shelves of the store next door." Since he couldn't move the store he'd move me. And he did.



After 2 weeks in Yucatan I went to *Palenque* from where it is now possible to book an excursion to the famous Mayan site of *Bonampak*. After a 3 hour drive through tropical scenery we arrived at the banks of the river *Usumacinta* which runs between Mex-

ico and Guatemala. A small launch took us to *Bonampak* in about 45 minutes.

The site itself is small and the ruins are much deteriorated but the jungle setting, with the invisible birds and the monkeys crying overhead, was a unique experience. Once back in *Palenque*, in the department of *Chiapas* which is supposed to be very dangerous, I took a first class bus to *San Cristobal de las Casas* where a lady from Malta told me an horrific tale of her bus being stopped and plundered only two days earlier.

CUIDADO!

The next highlight was Christmas in Mexico City. I have never seen such huge, colourful and appropriate decorations. I've never felt such Christmas spirit, such happiness as expressed in nightly concerts and folk dancing. Such fervor was also administered by the archbishop of Mexico during the Midnight-Mass. Dozens of women carried little baskets and cradles containing a little Jesus doll to the altar. I dared to ask one lady if these women were asking for pregnancy: "Oh no, it's just for blessing and protection throughout the year", they said.

On my way to *Guadalajara* I stayed in a very modest 'hospedaje' with the plush name *Posada de Academia*. The room was OK but the toilet didn't flush. I called the owner who took the lid off the full water tank, and said: "This is normal. The chain is rotten and keeps falling off its lever. You have to pick it up from the bottom of the tank and hook it up again." In retrospect that was a very funny experience.

It was New Year in *Guadalajara*. The receptionist of the Serena Hotel talked me into taking a full day tour on the 'Tequila Express'. I would do it again today if I could!. The tour is organized by a famous tequila factory. One meets in an old railway station where a 9 man, Mariachis band gets your mind swinging. During the 1 hour ride through tequila country free drinks are served. After the tour of the factory, a Mexican lunch is served. It is of course accompanied by more tequila.

Meanwhile a colourful folk group and some lasso experts are performing. Time flew by much too quickly. Everybody was sad to leave but more tequila on the train quickly restored the fun and I was made to sing with the band! What a day.

From *Guadalajara* I traveled north to *Los Mochis* opposite *Baja California* in order to catch the 'CHEPE'. It is a train that connects the Pacific coast with Chihuahua. The entire 8 hour journey runs through breathtaking scenery, the highlight being the copper canyon said to be 10 times bigger than the Grand Canyon. I got off in *Creel* and traveled through the stunning scenery of the *Sierra Madre* back to *Guadalajara* for my flight to *Quito*..... More about that some other time.

Ursula Schulz





Restaurant review

A new series in which secret reviewer visit restaurants within easy reach of St Michael's and report on their recommendations. Don't forget that if you visit the recommended restaurant to mention that you read about it in 'The Messenger'! This time 'The Gourmet Messengers' secretly visited a restaurant in Eze. Here is their report:

**Blue Sea Restaurant
Basse Corniche
Eze Bord de Mer (by the traffic lights)
Tel 04 93 88 00 29
Open everyday except Wednesday.**

You may remember the building on the Basse Corniche as the Deux Dragons Bleus. The restaurant is now under **new ownership**. We had a **Sunday lunch** recently after several attempts to discover whether the restaurant was actually open or not. It seems they had a bit of a shaky start and were closed for a while in the winter.

The location is pleasant with sea views from the terrace; the decor is rather **Riviera trendy** - black and white with leather sofas, tastefully done. In the summer the 'lounge' concept seems popular and has attracted a local following, including famous Irish residents of Eze. They also, rather strangely, offer a **Sushi takeaway service** which we hear is **very good**.

The menu was sensibly limited, with a **price range from 9 to 25 euros per dish**. There are also set menus on a blackboard. **The chef was trained by Joel Robouchon** and the quality of his food certainly attested to that. We had an **exquisite rack of lamb**, with new potatoes and meat jus originally served in a glass pate jar. Our dessert was a **trio of chocolate confections** which was **extremely skilfully made**. The friendly owners provided **great service** and advised on a **superior but inexpensive local wine**.

We were **amazed at the quality of the cooking** and rather sad that they had yet to build up a critical mass of customers. We sent friends the following week to try it out in order to get a second opinion. They too were very **pleasantly surprised at the quality relative to the price**.

As they say in the Michelin Guide - '**Worth the detour**'.

The Gourmet Messengers

Churchwardens' Report 2009

The past year has been one of sustained attendance with our numbers remaining at a consistent average of 35 worshippers each Sunday. Efforts have been undertaken by members of the Church Council to develop an effective 'Outreach' programme with the intention of attracting new members to St. Michael's from the local communities, either permanent residents or English speaking visitors. These efforts have led to some success, but additional programmes to accomplish this goal are still in the developmental stages.

Our financial status has remained constant over the past few years, but due to normal rising costs of operation of the church and our restoration project, methods to increase our income must be considered and undertaken.

The church has received approval from the Danish Church for a new agreement between our two congregations for their use of St. Michael's during the year. The new agreement will increase our income slightly, but will not have much of an impact on our overall financial status.

The restoration project for the exterior of the church is awaiting a decision by the Conseil General of the Alpes-Maritimes for a possible grant. If the restoration is initiated before a decision is made, then no grant can be given. The grant decision will hopefully be made prior to the summer season. The church will need to raise additional money in order to complete the restoration work and various plans have been discussed as to how this might be accomplished.

The 2008 Ecumenical Christmas Carol service was attended by 128 people followed by a mince pie and mulled wine reception. The evening's events were greatly appreciated, especially by members of the local Catholic community. 67 people attended the 2008 Christmas Day Eucharist.

During the year we have held several annual events with good attendance, including the 2008 Summer Garden Party, the 2009 Ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service held at Sacre Coeur in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, and the 2009 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Several concerts were also held with good attendance, which in some cases, also resulted in additional revenue for the church.

During the past 12 months, four weddings were held in the church, as well as one Baptism. A Golden Wedding celebration, with renewal of marriage vows, was held on 21 September 2008 for church members Jack and Roberta Moore. On 8 April 2009, a funeral service was conducted for a long time member Anne-Colette Langelier, who also served on the Church Council and as assistant Sacristan.

The Ecumenical Good Friday Service 2009, with the Catholic Church communities of Beaulieu-sur-Mer and St. Jean-Cap Ferrat, was especially memorable with a Stations-of-the-Cross walk along the sea between the two communes. There were approximately 100 followers on the walk.

This year, an inspiring Easter Day service was held with over 82 people in attendance, including 11 children. Following the service there was an Easter egg hunt held in the church for the children.

**Vance Johnson
Justin Hayward**

The Speed of Things

A penguin average

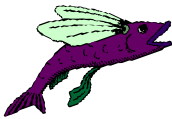


with a six-inch stride can run as fast as an man.

Bear in mind - Columbus travelled at an average speed of 2.8 mph on his first sea crossing.

Water can flow through a plant at 4 mph.

The speed of a roller-coaster increases an average of 10 mph when it's raining.

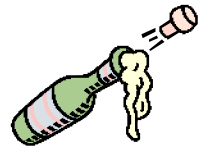


Flying fish 'fly' at 40 mph.

Top speed of a chicken at full gallop: 9 mph

Top speed of a pigeon in flight: 90 mph.

When you pop a champagne cork, it can travel as fast as 100 mph.



Average speed of a golf ball in flight during a world tournament: 160 mph.

Peregrine falcons can dive at speeds up to 240 mph

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID

A new occasional series.

Thoughts on which to ponder:

RELIGION

"When people cease to believe in God, they don't believe in nothing, they believe in anything".

G.K.Chesterton

"An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support."

John Buchan

"As the French say, there are three sexes - men, women and clergymen"

The Revd Sydney Smith

"It is the test of a good religion whether you can joke about it."

G.K. Chesterton

"When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, "Yes, but is it the God of the Catholics or the God of the Protestants in whom you don't believe?"

Quentin Crisp

"People are too apt to treat God as if he were a minor royalty."

Herbert Beerbohm Tree

"I don't believe in astrology. The only stars I can blame for my failures are those that walk about the stage."

Noel Coward

"What would I like the sermon to be about, Vicar? I would like it to be about 10 minutes."

The Duke of Wellington (1769 - 1852)



BISHOP GEOFFREY'S EASTER MESSAGE



Is Easter a noun or a verb? Most of us would, I suspect, say it is a noun. We might also, if we were interested in the origins of words, go on to say that our English word 'Easter' comes from the name of a pagan goddess of spring, Eostre. The old Christian name for this festival was 'the Christian Passover', often called simply the Pasch, from the Hebrew word for the Jewish Passover Festival – hence that mysterious word 'Paschal' in older Easter hymns.

We are used to keeping Holy Week, starting on Palm Sunday and then moving through the great three days – Maundy Thursday, when we commemorate the Last Supper, the Institution of the Eucharist, and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, the new commandment (*mandatum* in Latin which gives the day its name) to love one another, followed by Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his betrayal by Judas; then on Good Friday, the starkest day in the Christian Year, we come to the foot of the Cross to contemplate the three hours of agonising dying, the mockery and the taunts, with the beloved disciple and Mary the Mother of Jesus and the other women at the foot of the Cross; and on Holy Saturday, Easter Eve, there is total nothingness, the life which 'was the light of men' blotted out, engulfed in the darkness of death; and so to the sunburst of the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Although the early Church marked these days and their happenings, in the earliest keeping of Easter it was seen as one great festival and commemoration – the Passover of the Lord. There were echoes of course of the origins of the Jewish Passover Festival in the deliverance of God's people from slavery in Egypt, but the Christian Passover was greater – it was God's deliverance of us all from the burden and chains of sin and death and the powers of evil. The ancient hymns sing of 'the glorious battle', God in Christ in our human nature engaging with all that imprisons us, and routing the spiritual powers of darkness that hold us captive. So on Easter Day we sing 'The fight is o'er, the battle done', and of the victorious Christ binding Satan and bringing to an end the tyranny of sin. He is victorious over death, and it is from the dead that he is raised.

No one of the Gospels dares to describe Easter itself, the moment of resurrection, for this cannot be captured in the description of human words which belong to the old order. At Easter the new creation breaks through the old order of sin and death, and Christ – the same Christ – is raised to a new and transfigured life. He is recognised – but not immediately; the empty tomb points as a sign, and St John gives us the detail of the folded grave-clothes, for St John wants us to see that Jesus is not like Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead, and who then had to be unbound and set free. The resurrection of Jesus is new life itself, an eternal life which is shared with us as St John again makes clear by setting his Pentecost on Easter evening, when the Risen Lord breathes his life-giving Spirit upon the disciples to be their transforming new life.

It is because of this that Easter is present, Easter is active, Easter is not something mysterious shut up in the past, but a new and transforming life given to us. The poet-priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins, was surely right to make Easter a verb, and to speak of the Risen Christ 'eastering in us', and therefore of Christ 'playing in ten thousand places, lovely in eyes and limbs not us, to the Father, through the brightness of men's faces.'

So St Paul, writing to the Christians of Corinth, in the great fifteenth chapter of his first letter, makes a clear and absolute connection between Christ being raised to new life at Easter, and the sharing of that new life with us. Through our baptism we share in that resurrection life, which is why Easter was and is the time for baptism. But Paul also knows that the present reality of Easter looks to a future reality, the completion and fulfilment of Easter in us at the Last Day. What was true of Jesus who truly died and was taken into the nothingness of death will be true for us. 'As we have worn the likeness of the man made of dust, so we shall wear the likeness of the heavenly man.' What is promised is new creation, transformation and change. For Christians death is not the end, it is not the horizon which closes off our life; for Christians our horizon is the living Christ, and the hope that already gives us.

In St Luke's wonderful and moving story of the unrecognised Risen Lord meeting two dejected disciples on the way to the village of Emmaus from Jerusalem, Jesus points them to how the suffering Messiah was already part of Jewish understanding. They ask the stranger to come and eat with them, and he sits at table with them. He takes bread, blesses it, breaks and shares it. 'Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; but he vanished from their sight.'. In the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread, Easter comes to us over and over again. Christ feeds us with his new life, his risen life, that he may 'evermore dwell in us and we in him.

May Christ indeed easter in you, and bring you the joy of his resurrection, his new life, that, like St Paul, writing to the Christians of Rome you may be convinced 'that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of the spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths – nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' 'Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR

ANSWERS

Mini Mind Bogglers

1. The wind is coming from the north but the road is going to the north. 2. Although deaf he was not mute, so he shouted 'Shark!' 3. There are more of them! 4. The Nile. 5. A door. 6. Neither. Fish are cold-blooded!

Ologies

1. Signs and signalling 2. Whales and dolphins 3. Flags 4. Moral responsibilities 5. Supernatural beings 6. Tissues 7. Hair 8. Trees' ages by counting their rings 9. Eggs 10. Final events as recorded in the Bible

Treasurer's note from the AGM on 19th April 2009

The closing bank balances at 31st December 2008 were as follows:

		2008	2007
Credit Lyonnais:			
Current account	(In Euros)	1,656.17	8,854.56
Savings 1		4,938.56	6,210.94
Discretionary a/c		1,578.71	1,518.71
Special Fund		40,848.90	38,013.80
Cash		<u>0.20</u>	<u>1,195.20</u>
		<u>49,022.54</u>	<u>55,793.21</u>
Chaplaincy Account	(In pounds Sterling)	11,558.88	6,043.78
CBF Deposit Fund		117,783.56	18,508.27
Treasury Stock 2009		18,111.75	18,111.75
St. Michael's Church Fabric Trust Fund		<u>10,873.82</u>	<u>10,671.20</u>
		<u>158,328.01</u>	<u>53,335.00</u>

Here is a quick reminder of the purpose/history of each account:

- Current account: - as it suggests, the day-to-day account;
- Savings 1: - an interest bearing account for the surplus from the current account;
- Discretionary: - started by the legacy of a previous Chaplain, it is used at the Chaplain's discretion;
- Special Fund: - a fund started by a previous Church Warden 12 years ago with the intention to buy an apartment for the Chaplain;
- Chaplaincy Account: - held by the Diocesan Office, it holds all donations in sterling, and is used to pay some bills and donations;
- CBF Deposit Fund: - holds the balance from the sale of the original Presbytery;
- Treasury Stock: - a Diocesan investment of some of the funds from the sale of the original Presbytery;
- SMC Fabric Trust: - an account started 12 years ago or so with the purpose of being a fund for major fabric expenses (excluding restoration).

The main thing to note this year is that we have sustained a deficit of €6,770.67 in the everyday running expenses of the Church. The major drop in income is in the Friends' donations in Euros. On the expenses side, the electricity, gas and water bill was quite hefty but this can be put down to a water leak which has now been found and repaired. Other unusual costs included a tree pruning bill for over €2,000, and part of Fr. Roger's medical bill that was not covered by insurance.

Continued over

Treasurers Report—Continued

The major increase on the sterling side was a donation of nearly £100,000 to the Restoration Fund; I only hope that when we need to start paying the bills that the exchange rate will have swung more to our favour, as that will make quite a difference. In the current climate perhaps we should think ourselves lucky that this loss is not greater but I don't think it is a good idea to be complacent about it. Whilst it would be unrealistic of me to ask people to increase their donations, I would ask that you try not to drop them.

This year some of our expenses are already higher and I do not like to contemplate other funds being eaten into because we cannot support the daily costs. St. Michael's means a great deal to most of us and we should look to what we personally get back from our attendance and participation in activities, and the warmth of friendship we find.

Deanne Fox

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S

Donations by you, our Friends and Patrons, continue to be the main income of St Michael's and since we launched the Friends in 2004 you have made a major contribution to enabling the chaplaincy finances keep their head above water. We owe a debt of gratitude to you all.

In 2008 sadly the contribution was down. As a result the Association Cultuelle had a deficit of nearly 7,000 euros. The London accounts had a very generous donation to the restoration fund but, setting that aside (as we must), there was a surplus that just covered the deficit of the Association.

The reasons for the decline is not hard to find; the credit crunch is biting everywhere and the fact that almost all our expenses are in Euros and most of our donations in Sterling hit us when the exchange rate fell. What is not declining is the number of members; this has been steady at around 55 and the numbers who renew each year remain high.

So, at end of 2008 we had a picture of some concern – but no crisis. 2009 may be another story: the credit crunch bites harder and the exchange rate is lower again. There is only so much we can do to lower the costs. I expect an overall deficit, maybe quite a big one. We certainly need to keep those renewals and new members coming in and hope that those of you who can will keep up their contributions in Euro terms.

Hugh Mellor

TOM MERRIFIELD



Friends and Patrons of St Michael's

The contribution of each and every one is gratefully acknowledged

Patrons

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

Friends

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

As at date of publication

'The Two Most Perfect Things'

The lives and careers of
Noël Coward and Ivor Novello

An entertainment

by

Adrian Fisher

and

Stuart Barham

Performed and sung by

Adrian Fisher & Charles Howell

Isabelle Roeland & Dianne Weller

with

Stuart Barham

at the piano



10th October 2009

Salle Belle Epoque, Hotel Hermitage, Monte Carlo

