

***St Michael's Messenger***  
***Winter 2011***

Welcome



Father Peter

Free

Issue No. 31

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

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

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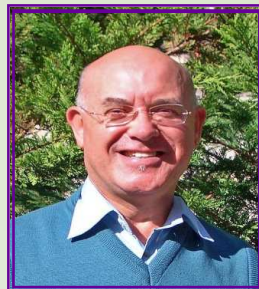
Hugh Mellor

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and New Year. Like me, you are probably thankful the festivities are over! However....

*A New Year is a new beginning.*

A cliché, I know, but one that is particularly relevant now as we welcome Fr Peter Bustin as our new Chaplain at St Michael's. He is hoping to take up residence in Beaulieu at the beginning of February and he will take his first service on 13<sup>th</sup> February. He will be 'Licensed' with a service at 11.00 on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. I know that I can safely say that we are all looking forward to his ministry with us. We welcome him and wish him God's blessings and he can be assured that he is in our prayers. You can read his first 'Chaplain's Letter' in this issue.



A big thank you must go to Fr Philip who has worked hard for us by either taking the services himself or by organizing Fr Chad Coussmaker to take them in his absence. He has been efficient in choosing all the hymns up until the moment Fr Peter arrives as Priest-in-charge and has effectively kept the 'whole thing' going! Within these pages you will be able to read his 'Reflections on the Autumn'.

It has been six months since the last issue of the Messenger and so much has happened in that time. Fr Roger left us in August to live in London. There is a letter from him and a report from Josephine on his state of health. Also included is a report by Barry Coffey on the renovation works being done on the outside of the church.

Sadly our good friend Paul Meakins lost his battle with cancer and died on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010. He will be greatly missed by us both as a friend and as a member of our congregation. We are very pleased to see his wife Sharon, and his daughter Pasha, frequently in church. You can read Che's tribute to his father in these pages and also a beautiful poem by Josephine dedicated to the memory of Paul.

On the back page you will find the Dates for your Diary. (Some of the timings of the services are marked 'TBA' and will be announced when Fr Peter is here.) Big THANK YOU to all the contributors; to Julian and Susanna Noel for their assistance, to Tom Downes - the Postmaster General - to Hugh Mellor for the website and for 'The Friends' and everyone else who has worked on this issue!

**Have a very healthy, prosperous, peaceful and loving**

SB

P.S Don't forget to look at our website: [www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org](http://www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org)

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

My Dear friends in Christ.

It is a great joy to be able to write to you all once again on the eve of my taking up the post in Beaulieu. I am aware of the challenges that face all of us in the days and indeed months ahead. The happy job of getting to know one another, though due to the diversity of our congregation this will take some time, as many of you visit Beaulieu throughout the year, whilst others remain the 'Full-time Community'. I look forward very much to getting to know all of you better.

On my last visit to Beaulieu in the middle of January, our joint challenge was very apparent as the Church is now encased in scaffolding as the much needed restoration work commences on our beautiful building. This, as you are all aware, is the start of work and its completion will necessitate the raising of a further £100,000 - something for all of us to get our teeth into(!) - and allows me to hit the ground running with no time to look back, but with every confidence in our rising to this future challenge. Already much has been achieved through hard work and generosity, our challenge now is to keep up the momentum and I fully pledge myself in joining with you in this task.

I was delighted to see that there is an association of 'Friends of St Michael's'. This is a valued asset to our Church life and I hope that we shall see both resurgence and growth. May I urge all of you to consider this excellent scheme.

Space here does not allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to those who have worked and continue to do so in preparation for my arrival and have held the fort during the interregnum; be assured I shall use a future occasion to do so.

I do hope as many of you as can make it will join in the celebration of my Licensing on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am - a change from the February date to allow a wider group of people to attend. I shall however commence my ministry at St Michael's on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February and am very excited at the prospect of starting to work with you in the proclamation of the Gospel.

May Mary the Mother of the Lord, who fully accepted the call of God through the Angel's message, lend her prayers with ours, St Michael and all the Saints as we journey on together in a new phase of our Christian Pilgrimage.

God Bless you all, with love and Prayers.

Fr Peter

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE AUTUMN AT ST. MICHAEL'S

by

### FATHER PHILIP ROBINSON



Saying goodbye to a priest after a lengthy period of stable and positive ministry is not easy for a congregation. Notably there is the uncertainty about what might happen next and how long the wait might be before the next person will be appointed and arrive. In this, elements of continuity during the vacancy are important. The Churchwardens are responsible for the day-b-day organisation and co-ordination. As far as possible the status quo at the time of the beginning of the vacancy should be maintained until the arrival of a new priest who will bring his own ideas and style of ministry which will, inevitably, be different from those of his predecessor.

My association with St Michael's goes back to the early 1980s when the late Canon Brian Matthews was still Chaplain in Monte Carlo and came along to Beaulieu to take Evening Prayer for a small congregation on Sunday evenings. Thanks be to God that the ministry here has grown and flourished since those days and we all look forward with enthusiasm and, I hope, openness, to the next phase of that ministry.

During the autumn of 2010 it has been my fulfilling privilege to try to provide some spiritual and liturgical continuity for the congregation at St Michael's. When it has not been possible for me to be present on a particular Sunday, Fr Chad Coussmaker (no stranger to St Michael's) has presided and preached at the Eucharist - we are grateful to him and to his wife, Jean, for their on-going support.

It's good to report that attendance at the weekly Eucharist has been encouraging - there was an unusually large influx of people on Sunday mornings who were on short-term visits here during late September and October. During the autumn the usual festivals in the Church's calendar have been observed. In the absence of a permanent priest, it was agreed with our Catholic friends that we would not, this year, have a joint bi-lingual Carol Service. Instead we had the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols at St Michael's on the Sunday morning before Christmas as part of the Eucharist. This seems to have been much appreciated - the excellent mulled wine and mince pies served after the service might, perhaps, have had something to do with that!

We have not 'stood still' in other aspects of life here either. The Chaplaincy Council has met twice during the autumn and agreed at the first of those meetings to move forward with the renovation of the exterior of the building - please read more about this on page 8. We're grateful to Nick Harley who has spearheaded this project and to Barry Coffey who is acting as 'Clerk of Works' during Nick's absence as the work begins.

Thanks to the generosity of Sarah and Harry Blundred we will shortly have in place a board listing the permanent resident Chaplains here. Thanks also to Nicola Karlsen who has researched and liaised with Sarah and Harry and the designer of the board. Finally my personal thanks to all those who have been helping us through this time of vacancy. As Fr Peter wrote in his letter read out to the congregation on the day his appointment was announced, 'We're entering a new year with new beginnings'. May God continue to bless the ministry here and especially Fr Peter as he leads us in our Christian pilgrimage. Greetings and peace to you all. Fr Philip

## FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	12.00	<b>Nicholas POPE and Natasha SAI</b>
		15.00	<b>Andrew McCHESNEY and Jane BEAMAN</b>
<b>FUNERAL</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.30	<b>Paul Ibel MEAKINS</b>



## A TRIBUTE TO PAUL MEAKINS

By  
CHE MEAKINS

Dad swanned into my brother's art exhibition about 25 years ago in a brand new silver Giorgio Armani suit. My brother immediately remarked that it was a 'nice suit'. Dad's immediate rebort was: "Well, you can F-off, I'm getting buried in it!"

Well, we got it half right. He is in his other, even more cherished Giorgio Armani. It just so happens to be the one he specifically told us *not* to put him in.... so as usual we didn't 'listen to him' and in true Paul fashion he'll probably be a little tight-lipped with us this morning.



Dad couldn't necessarily do what I am doing now; something staged and performed. He didn't play board games and never did sports. However, Dad participated in the game of life relentlessly and sometimes ferociously because to him life was no game. He was determined to engage with it and grapple with it, emotionally and physically, on a daily basis. This was the only way for him. If he was in bed it was because he had to be. Maybe the last 5 years is the reason he never had a lie-in the whole 25 years I knew him. Life, he said, was 'too short', so he was up, always looking to be productive, to be useful, to be creative, to be loving, to be protecting....

He possessed a raw energy which often overflowed. All his biggest moves and decisions were made in the heat of passion, whether on a high or low. Pasha noted how spontaneous they all were. Rash, some might say? The temperament of an artist for sure! Someone reminded us in an email that Paul was truly a 'One-off' and so what else could he do but live a unique life full of adventure, adversity, tribulation, change and joy.

Dad loved reminding us that he was a Monarchist and proud to fill in forms with C of E (Church of England). This seemed contradictory and implausible for a long haired socialist, with a love of Rock 'n Roll and a dream that on a simple twist of fate he might have become a speedway motorbike racer. But it is a reminder that we are all a living tension. It is not only what we have done or are doing which defines us but also it is our dreams of future and past.

He didn't do theories or philosophies. He knew what he knew. What he cared about the most were his wife and his 5 children. He was proud of reminding us that in 38 years he'd hardly spent a day away from Mum. This is true and she was with him right until the end. He loved his children. Never a day was spent without thinking of every single one of them and their lives.

This overflowing energy meant he was also known for the clashes it got him into. His spontaneity meant he often made friends fast and lost them fast too. But his essence didn't go unnoticed and as he so desperately wanted, he was able to find a common ground and true peace with those he encountered. Everyone here today is a testament to that. We've joked this week that we'd be surprised if anyone here hadn't at one point or other fallen out with Paul.

This is what we honour here today: the sheer effort he put into life. Even death had to scurry away five years ago after coming for Dad the first time! At times it was hard to believe he was ill and the life he continued to live with Mum was amazing!

Dad is one of those people who will never die. He will continue to resonate in all of us. He would have been embarrassed by the fuss we are making here today. St Michael's church played such a huge role in his life as well as ours in the last 10 years. Not only do I think Mum could not have made it without you all, but also I would like to say how utterly overwhelmed Paul would have been by this and all you have done for him this week. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for him.

## IN BRIEF

### Nadia Nerina

The ashes of the late Nadia Nerina – former Principal Ballerina of the Royal Ballet - were buried in the churchyard in July 2010. Her widower, Charles Gordon, has provided a plaque which has been placed to mark the site. Fr Philip dedicated the plaque, in Charles' presence, after the Euchariston Advent Sunday, 28 November 2010.



### Wrekin Choir

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September we were pleased to welcome Wrekin College Choir to St Michael's. With nearly 40 voices in their number they sang Darke's Mass in 'F'. Their Director of Music, Francis Murton, played the organ while his 'number 2' conducted the choir. They were on a long weekend concert tour of the Cote d'Azur and so we were very pleased they could sing at our 10.00 service.

### A Jolly Christmas Party

On Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> Nick and Stephanie Harley very kindly hosted a party at their home, 'Key Largo', for our regular church congregation and friends. The booze flowed all evening and canapés were supplied not only by our hosts but also by people kindly bringing them to the party. The Christmas themed entertainment was vigorously supplied by the Hinge and Bracket of the Cote d'Azur, also known as Barry Coffey with – as Nick so rightly put it – his accompanist, Stuart Barham. Many thanks must go to Nick and Stephanie and to all who contributed to the success of the evening.

### An Octogenarian's Party

On 17<sup>th</sup> November Fr Roger Greenacre celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. To celebrate the occasion he hosted a party in London, in the historic Great Hall of Charterhouse, his present home. Many of his friends attended the marvellous evening, including friends from 'Clergyland', 'Theatreland' and 'Beaulieuland'. Brian Horn, who has attended St Michael's many times, gave a speech after which a toast was given. Food was eaten and Champagne and wine was drunk. Cake was consumed (although a little burnt on top, as the candles burned down too low before they were blown out!), and 'Happy Birthday' was enthusiastically sung - accompanied on the piano by guess who!

### Chaplaincy Apartment

As our new Chaplain, Fr Peter Bustin, will be arriving very soon and will take up residence in the Chaplaincy apartment in Rue Paul Doumer at the beginning of February, it has been decided that the bathroom needs to be replaced, being in a shabby state after forty years of use. Also the entire apartment is to be repainted. After much discussion with our Landlords at Holy Trinity church, Nice, St Michael's agreed to pay half the cost and work commenced just before Christmas. It is planned to be finished in time for Fr Peter's arrival.

JUST A THOUGHT..... Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

# WE NEED TO FIND 100,000 EUROS URGENTLY!!!

If, in 2011, you have visited StMichael's you will, no doubt, have noticed that the church is surrounded by scaffolding.

## **So what is actually happening?**

With time, the plasterwork on the outside of the building has 'blown' - that is to say it has become detached from the stonework. This is a serious matter as it exposes the building to the possibility of water ingress and various types of rot. **It has to be rectified, and quickly!**



## **THE QUESTIONS:**

1. **What is being done?**
2. **What will it cost?**
3. **How long will it take?**
4. **Where is the money coming from?**

## **THE ANSWERS**

1. First of all the plaster will be removed from the building. This part of the job is proving easier than expected (so far) but only because it is in a worse condition than first thought. The walls will then be treated, rendered and then repainted.
2. The anticipated cost for the entire building in the region of €200,000 which is a realistic figure.
3. The current part of the works which will include the front of the church including the bell tower and portico and a portion of the sides will take place in the region of three or four months.
4. When we embarked on this project several years ago we were led to believe that we would qualify for a grant from **Le Département Patrimoine** (*The department of heritage*). The original dossier was lodged in good time to be considered for a grant in 2008. Unfortunately *Le Département Patrimoine* turned down the application in 2009 and asked us to re-apply in 2010. This we also did in good time but were again refused on the grounds that the world had changed in financial terms. The credit crunch happened and purse strings were tightened and we did not receive the grant of up to €100,000 which was expected. We then had to prepare another dossier for the planning application to do the work we have just started and we must record thanks to our Architect, Robert Capelier who has been extremely helpful in preparing all these dossiers for us.

The good news is that we have in our restoration fund almost €100,000.

Nick Harley, whose work on this project has been invaluable, met with the contractors and worked out a schedule whereby we undertake the most urgent parts of the works using the money we have. Nick's negotiating skills saved us tens of thousands and he is to be congratulated for this.

#### **Where do we go from here?**

Many of you will be aware that a significant part of any building project is the 'Opening of the Site'. This includes planning permission, inspections and of course scaffolding.

**If somehow we can raise the extra €100,000 in the immediate future we may be able to finish the works without removing the scaffolding and then having to have it installed again.**

#### **Can you help and if so, how?**

The mathematics are simple. We need €100,000. Finding that amount in a short period of time may not be so simple.

**Is there someone reading this who would be willing to donate €100,000 to the restoration of St Michael's?**

**Is there someone reading this who would be willing to donate €50,000 to the restoration of St Michael's?**

**Or even perhaps €10,000?**

**Or indeed any amount?**

**Alternatively maybe someone has money in a savings account earning little or no interest and would be willing to lend, yes lend this money or part of it, interest free, for an agreed period.**

There has to be a way and together we must find it.

We need to have in mind that we have inherited the building from previous generations. We are only custodians but it is our duty and privilege to maintain it and pass it on to future generations in good order.

If you think you can help, in any way, please contact the Churchwardens or any member of the Chaplaincy Church Council.

THANK YOU.

Barry Coffey

### **A SIMPLE LOOKING QUIZ!**

*See how many of these you get right! Don't cheat. Write all your answers down before checking them on page*

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get Cat Gut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What colour is a Purple Finch?
9. Where are Chinese Gooseberries from?
10. What colour is the Black Box in a commercial airplane?

**JUST A THOUGHT.....** Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with the vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down again to give the vacuum one more chance?

## Free Spirit

Soft, autumn sunlight streams on young and old  
An elegant, sober mode.  
But, here and there, a certain raffishness in black,  
Restrained, yet lively, paradox of life.  
I come to honour their artist friend,  
A man who understood the life of roses.

Sweet light - pale gold,  
Like the oil pressed from his own Italian trees;  
Simple and splendid,  
Needing nothing more than that which is,  
For beauty needs no artifice -  
Casts out shadows here today.

The artist's work - a magic mirror  
Reflecting joys, so oft unknown  
To those who hurry heedless by -  
A humble iris in a field, an old  
Grey wall where poppies bloom  
And roses, begging you to see.

And large, white roses at his end  
Are laid in love, by many hands,  
For the man who understood roses.  
He took the gift in grateful joy,  
Despite the thorns that tear and bite,  
For pain and bliss are intertwined.

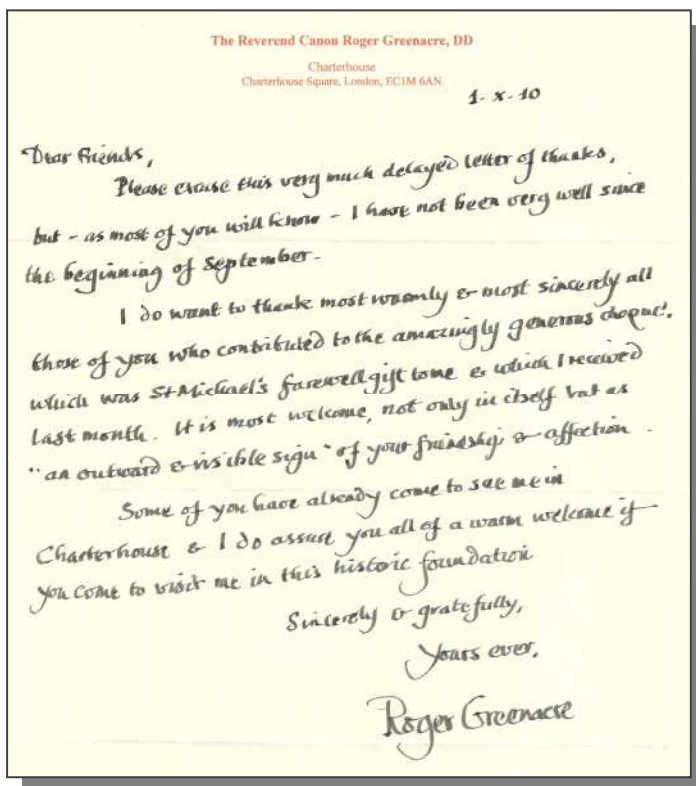


Then, smiling tears for all he was.  
The music, poignant, plays our hearts.  
But spirit cannot leave so sad,  
And so there came a different tune.  
Irreverent, cheeky voice insists - YES!  
Life is life but God dwells here.

Josephine Collins-Attar

## A LETTER FROM FATHER ROGER GREENACRE

Last October Fr Roger sent this letter to St Michael's. He expressed the wish that I print it in the next addition of the Messenger, so here it is:-



Dear Friends,

Please excuse this very much delayed letter of thanks, but – as most of you will know – I have not been very well since the beginning of September.

I do want to thank most warmly and most sincerely all those of you who contributed to the amazingly generous cheque which was St Michael's farewell gift to me and which I received last month (*ed. September*). It is most welcome, not only in itself but as an outward and visible sign of your friendship and affection.

Some of you have already come to see me in Charterhouse and I do assure you all of a warm welcome if you come to visit me in this historic foundation.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Yours ever,

ROGER GREENACRE

## JOSEPH OF NAZARETH AND THE GOLDEN TICKET

*A memory from Josephine Collins-Attar*

So, here I was on a wet Friday night in late November at *Stazione Terminale* in that first global city, Rome the Eternal. The vast station was teeming with hordes of people jostling for taxis, so I decided to wait awhile in a nearby cafe. I ate pizza (made by a smiling Bangladeshi) and observed an elderly African man selling roses – all the while complaining that there were no takers.

Well, there wouldn't be, would there – not there, not in that desolate place for weary cosmopolitan commuters, all silently staring up from their red plastic trays. Ah, the glory that is Rome!

I eventually found a taxi. The Roman taxi driver, who certainly had the nose, chattered away in a mixture of English and Italian. "*Berlusconi! Molto male.... power, sex and money..*" So what's new? From my classical studies I learned that Rome, like all earthly empires, had always been concerned with these things. I stopped listening to the rant but he yammered on and occasionally I said "Si" or "*veramente*" as you do, while peering into the Roman night as we sped down the *Via Nazionale* past all those gorgeous shops!

We flashed by that most amazing and enormous monument to Victor Emmanuel and then came to the Tiber. ('*O yellow Tiber*' – Virgil. I vaguely remember Mother Mary Sebastian droning on.)

And then there was the angel, glorious and floodlit on the Castel S. Angelo and soon I was deposited safely in the heart of Vatican City at the Palazzo Cardinal Cesi. Discreet electric gates opened magically and, with a sigh of relief, I dragged myself and my suitcase into the calm of the cloistered garden where flaming torches and a smiling marble statue of the Sacred Heart welcomed me in from the relentless rain.

The rain did not stop! In fact, next day there was thunder and a cloudburst which made standing in



the Piazza S. Pietro something of an ordeal, but stand there I did. I was drawn to the giant screens which were relaying important events taking place inside the basilica. The Pope was formally appointing 24 new cardinals and this was the first ceremony. It meant that this great building was closed to the public for the day, although it would be opened again after the celebration mass next day. The images were beautiful and fascinating, not only the majestic sea of scarlet, purple and black Roman Catholic clergy but the camera also revealed many wonderful aspects of the basilica, focusing on certain areas which you really just do not see when you visit. I got soaked but was mesmerised.

In the evening I dined at '*Vittoria*', a very friendly restaurant I know. It is near St Peter's, and I was so glad of the delicious bean soup and the '*fritto verde*' – lovely deep-fried courgettes etc. all accompanied by a big glass of *vino rosso*. It must have been about 11 o'clock when I left and walked across the piazza. And that, gentle reader, is where I met him.

The basilica looked particularly splendid and terribly beautiful in the mist and drizzle. There was a different kind of luminosity, lending the famous church an ethereal aspect. I fumbled in my bag for my camera but none of my attempts reflected what I saw. Suddenly, I was aware of someone behind me.



but I did not feel nervous, even though there was no one else around and it was late at night. I turned and there was a small, thin, dark-skinned young man who was also trying to capture the sight on camera. "No visibility," I said.

"No!" he replied. "And it's the first time that I've seen St Peter's at night." Then stretching out his hand he added, "I'm from Nazareth, Joseph from Nazareth. Where are you from?"

He then explained that he was studying medicine in Rome because the situation at home was difficult for him. When I tell you that he was a Palestinian with an Israeli passport and that he was a Christian you might understand why he had decided to study in Europe. He told me that he had studied Italian first of all, in order to be accepted at the university here and be proficient enough to follow the course. What a remarkable example of determination and devotion!

"I will return to Nazareth and work there," he declared. "Too many Christians are leaving. I will be home for Christmas and I will pray for you, Josephine, in the basilica in Nazareth." I was touched.

"And I will pray for you, Joseph, this Christmas," I promised. Blessings from Nazareth!

I left him there gazing at St Peter's in the rain and I wished that he was wearing a coat instead of a thin jacket, or that he had an umbrella at least.

I returned to the hotel in a reflective mood and was rather surprised to hear loud laughter coming from a small crowd in the lounge. (This hotel is renowned for monastic silence!!) The group were American and the men had that air of happy entitlement which comes from sure success and recognition. They were VIP's, part of the official entourage for the two new American cardinals.

"Hi! You here for the Consistory?" One beaming gentleman asked.

"No, not exactly," I replied. "I was supposed to be meeting my sister but she did not make it." So they invited me to join them in a nightcap. And that, dear reader is how I got the golden ticket!

You see, I was a bit disappointed about not being able to go to mass in St Peter's this time because of the Consistory. Rather pig-headed of me really when one considers the endless possibilities for mass in the churches elsewhere in Rome. I happened to mention that I had wanted to go to mass there and so it came to pass that I found myself receiving a golden VIP ticket for the Papal mass from one of the VIP's who was not able to go.

Well, dear reader, I have never attended such an august occasion! White-gloved ushers swept me past the waves of black, purple and scarlet. Past the tomb of St Peter right up to the seats in front of the altar which is dominated by Bernini's famous bronze columns. I could hardly believe that this was happening! I found myself sitting in the midst of an extremely elegant family of Egyptians, and guessed that they were there for the new Cardinal Antonius Naguib of the Coptic Orthodox tradition. I did not speak to them as they were conversing in Arabic and my Arabic these days is very rusty. (I could, at one time, manage a basic conversation and even recite the 'Our Father' in Arabic having been taught this by a nun in North Africa many years ago.)

The mass was beautifully sung by the Sistine Chapel choir accompanied by organ, flute and a brass section. I watched the new cardinals receiving their rings from Pope Benedict and saw the excited families flashing away with their cameras. Afterwards the new cardinals went out onto the piazza (in the rain!) and I took a taxi to Trastevere where I visited an ancient church, Santa Maria di Trastevere, which stands in a small piazza. I enjoyed a quick lunch at Sabatini's, a favourite with the Romans, before setting off for Nice.

It had been an unforgettable weekend and has sustained me ever since!

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND MORE...

Our bilingual Christmas Carol Service was replaced, for this year, by the traditional nine lessons and carols followed by the Eucharist. This took place at 10.00 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December which was, most suitably, the fourth Sunday in Advent. It was a beautiful and spiritually uplifting service and many members of the congregation have told us how well it prepared them for Christmas and how much they appreciated this combination of the readings and music leading us seamlessly into Holy Communion. The church looked very Christmassy, having been lovingly decorated, and this created a special atmosphere. Afterwards the mince pies and hot mulled wine were greatly enjoyed by everyone. It was a truly joyful and memorable occasion.

We are particularly grateful to Father Philip for organizing and conducting this very special Eucharist. He was assisted by Fr Chad and Pastor Carl from the Danish Church. The carols were happily and joyously played by our talented organist, Stuart Barham and despite the absence of a choir and some of our own leading 'choristers', the singing was sufficiently robust!

Many thanks must go to Micky van Tekelenburg who organized the decorating of the church and to all those who helped and who donated the many bright red plants. Thanks also must go to Nicola Karlsen and the capable team who made mince pies and prepared the delicious mulled wine – let alone all those who cleared up afterwards.

Well done and THANK YOU to you all!

JCA

## FATHER ROGER AT CHARTERHOUSE

It was good to see Father Roger at his special, birthday celebration in the gracious setting of the Great Hall at Charterhouse. He was clearly happy and totally at ease there although noticeably slimmer than the last time I saw him, which was in July 2010. The weight loss was not intentional but is the result of illness. Sadly, the cancer, first diagnosed when he was here, has returned. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment and appears to be coping very well with any side effects. He is calm and remains as cheerful and charming as ever but is undeniably grateful for the support he receives at Charterhouse and the prayers, letters and visits from his many friends, including all of us at St. Michael's.

In his birthday speech he expressed his delight at living in that beautiful building which combines both beauty and history, two elements which have always given him great joy. He then indicated two of the pictures which are executed in gold leaf on the enormous, Tudor fireplace. The first depicted the Annunciation while the second showed the Last Supper. "Two events which are very important for me," he said. "Our Blessed Mother and the Eucharist."

Father Roger, despite his illness, is certainly drawing strength from this very special place which is Charterhouse and I was so very glad for him.

Happy New Year Roger and thank you for showing us that life can be good as long as we have faith.

Josephine

JUST A THOUGHT..... In winter why do we keep the house as warm as it was in the summer when we complained about the heat?

### **THE SHOW MUST GO ON!**



In October 2009 St Michael's saw the World Première of 'The Two Most Perfect Things', a show about the lives and careers of Noel Coward and Ivor Novello, written and performed by Adrian Fisher with our organist Stuart Barham, with other cast members - Isabelle Roeland, Dianne Weller and Charles Howell.

It may interest you to know that In August of this year, 2011, the show will be performed in the heart of London's Theatreland, in the Jermyn Street Theatre for seven performances from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August.

If, by any chance, anyone could offer accommodation in central London for one or more cast members from 7<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug, or would like to be a sponsor for the show, please would you let Stuart know. It would be very much appreciated.

### **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, Rex and Sophie Thome.

#### **Friends**

Matthew and Laurence Bate, Fiona Brannon, Professor Richard Cooper, Dr Paul and Mrs Judith Couch, Canon Chad and Mrs Jean Coussmaker, Robin and Janna de Vere Green, Roger Greenacre, Christina Gorna, Nick and Stephanie Harley, Teddy Heywood, Airlie and Aude Holden-Hindley, Robin and Sarah Hutchins, Chris and Rita Jonas, Ian Lawrie, David Masullo, Hugh and Anne Mellor, Jeremy and Susan Nordberg, Susanna Noel, Charles Parsley, Christopher Reddington, John and Vanessa Stone, Heidi Van Arsdell, Anthony Vernon, Dr Demot Ward, Lyndon and Eira Williams.

*As at date of publication*

### **ANSWERS TO 'A SIMPLE LOOKING QUIZ'**

- 1) 116 years 2) Ecuador 3) Sheep and horses 4) November  
5) Squirrel fur 6) Dogs (Canines) 7) Albert 8) Crimson 9) New Zealand 10) Orange

**JUST A THOUGHT.....** The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness.

Think of your three best friends – if they're ok, then it's you!

# ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

**EUCCHARIST EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM**

**Followed by refreshments**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH

Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Licensing of Fr Peter Bustin as Priest-in-Charge.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	18.30	Shrove Tuesday supper.
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>		European Summer Time begins

### APRIL

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	Church Annual General Meeting (following the 10.00 Eucharist)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Palm Sunday Eucharist
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	TBA	Maundy Thursday
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TBA	Good Friday
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Easter Day Eucharist

<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Fr Peter Bustin</b>	<b>04 93 01 45 61</b>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Vance Johnson</b>	<b>04 93 54 56 25</b>
	<b>Justin Hayward</b>	<b>04 93 21 60 83</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Deanne Fox</b>	<b>04 93 22 92 13</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tom Downes</b>	<b>04 93 01 47 53</b>

St Michael's Messenger is printed twice a year.

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