

Saint Michael's Messenger



March 2014

March Dates for your calendar

- Eucharist will be celebrated every Sunday at 10.00
- 4th March, Shrove Tuesday supper party with pancakes in church at 18.30 and musical entertainment (see Pancakes! below).
- 5th March, Ash Wednesday Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 10.00.
- Every Saturday, starting 8th March, there will be a Vigil Eucharist at 18.00 (see more below under Lent)
- 7th, 8th and 9th of March, Annual Retreat to Notre Dame de Laghet
- 23rd March, our Annual General Meeting follows the 10.00 Eucharist

Lent

Ash Wednesday on 5th March marks the first day of lent and the Eucharist at 10.00 will include the Imposition of Ashes. Christian Churches observe Ash Wednesday as a day of penitence to cleanse the soul before fasting during the Lenten period. Christians receive the ash in the sign of the cross on the forehead as a symbol of their repentance for wrongdoings in the past year.

Priests in many churches use the ashes from palms which were distributed on Palm Sunday in the previous year and returned to be burned for this purpose. The ashes are mixed with blessed water and this special paste is applied by the priest dipping his or her thumb into it and using the paste to make the sign of the cross on the individual's forehead. In some churches the ash is mixed with anointing oil to remind the congregation of God's blessings and of baptism. Some Christians leave the mark of the cross on their forehead after they leave the church service so that they can carry the sign of the cross into the world. Others may choose to wash the ashes as a sign that they are now spiritually clean and their sins have been wiped away.

The Lenten fast lasts for 40 days prior to Easter, excluding Sundays, and so the date of Ash Wednesday varies, as does Easter, according to the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox.

Every Sunday throughout the Lenten season there is a Eucharist at 10.00. On 23 March we will welcome as our Celebrant and Preacher the Venerable Ian Naylor, Archdeacon of France and Chaplain of Pau. Immediately after the Eucharist the Archdeacon will Chair our AGM.

Additionally during Lent there will be a Vigil Eucharist at 18.00 on each Saturday evening (starting on 8th March). This will provide an opportunity for those who may be unable to attend on a Sunday morning to receive the Sacrament during this important season in the Church's year. The service will be 'said', the readings will be those for the following day (Sunday) and there will be a short 'reflection'. The service should last approximately 30 minutes.

Holy Week and Easter

- Sunday 13 April 10.00, Eucharist for Palm Sunday with the blessing of Palms and procession around the church.
- Thursday 17 April, Maundy Thursday at 18.00. Eucharist of The Lord's Supper
- Friday 18 April, Good Friday at 10.00. Liturgy of The Lord's Passion
- Sunday 20 April, Easter Day at 10.00. Eucharist of the Resurrection of The Lord

Friends of St. Michael's

Just a gentle reminder to those members of the Friends programme who had every intention of contributing in 2013, but for whom the year has slipped away unawares; there is still time! We do so much appreciate – and need – your help, which forms an important support for the running costs of the church. Forms are available in St Michaels or on the website under the 'Support us' page. Thank you in advance.

Pancakes !

On 4th March, Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. The liturgical fasting emphasized eating plainer food and refraining from food that would give pleasure: In many cultures, this means no meat, dairy produce, or eggs. Nicola will be organizing the now popular Pancake evening, at 18.30. There will be a main course, followed by pancakes. Wine and soft drinks are included in the price of 15 Euros. Please speak to Nicola or one of the Church Wardens to reserve a place. Remember that the catering has to be prepared in advance so reservations cannot be accepted on the day.

Accommodation

If you have visitors over the coming weeks, and need to find rented accommodation for them, the chaplaincy apartment in Beaulieu is available for rent during March and April in return for a donation to church funds. Please contact Nicola for details or e-mail mailing@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Help our Garden!

So that Saint Michael's looks at its best for Easter, a 'meet with friends and help weed the gardens' is being planned, please contact the Church Wardens if you are interested in joining the group.

Did you know..

..that this year the month of August will have 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays? This phenomenon occurs only once every 823 years. The last time was 1191 and the next will be 2837.

Jean Cocteau in Menton

A couple of minutes walk away in the old port, the tiny Musée du Bastion is tucked inside a stone wall in the harbour . It was built in the 17th century by Honoré de Grimaldi to protect the area from the Spanish fleet. Whist the new museum is all about whiteness and light, the rooms are dimly lit and intimate, with the added fascination of having been conceived by Cocteau himself (although it opened to the public only in 1966, three years after his death). Black and white pebble mosaics, inspired by the calades (small stones and pebbles decoratively arranged on the pathways) on the route up to the church in the old town, depict a face and an amorous couple on either side of the entrance and a salamander on the floor. While the display focuses on Cocteau's pottery and his *Innamorati* (colourful crayon drawings of a couple in love).



Just a couple of streets back from the sea, you should also visit the Salle des Mariages, the registry office inside the Hôtel de Ville, which Cocteau decorated in 1957-58. It comes as a brilliant surprise after the building's neoclassical exterior and is still very popular for marriages today. Cocteau was given free rein by the mayor and obviously made the most of it, covering walls and ceiling in whimsical murals and designing everything right down to the red velvet neo-Spanish chairs, leopard carpet and spiky iron lamps, so it's difficult to decide whether the effect is poetic, romantic or simply odd. Even the Marianne, symbol of the Republic, is reduced to a squiggle on the mirrors, while the murals are a cheerful mix of mythology and local folklore, with Orpheus and Eurydice on one side, a dead flamingo and the eternal lovers painted on the end wall – the bride in a Mentonnais bonnet, and groom in a French style fisherman's cap.

The Museum has been funded by a generous donation from the Belgian collector, Séverin Wunderman, who bought his first Cocteau drawing at 19 while still an apprentice watchmaker. Since the opening of the new Musée Jean Cocteau - Collection Séverin Wunderman at the end of last year, it has begun to return to the avant-garde spirit that once made it the haunt of a multi national group of writers and artists.

Musée Jean Cocteau Collection Séverin Wunderman (www.museecocteaumenton.fr), tel: 04 92 10 31 - open every day except tuesday 10am-6pm, admission €6, including entry to the Musée du Bastion (same hours). Salle des Mariages open Mon-Fri 8.30am-noon, 2-4.30pm, admission €2.

Want to get in touch?

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