



St Michael's Messenger

OCTOBER 2013

HELEN DOWNES R.I.P.

A large congregation gathered in St Michael's Church on Thursday 26th September 2013 for the Requiem Eucharist to give honour to Helen who died on 17th September 2013. Several people travelled from her native Scotland and there were many from outside Beaulieu who had come to know Helen over the years, and especially since she and Tom spent more time in Beaulieu after their retirement. Much of the service content – the music, the hymns and one of the readings – had been discussed with her prior to her death so there was a distinct sense of 'this was how Helen would have wanted it to be'.

Helen's family had roots in France (La Rochelle) going back to the time of the Huguenots. At some stage they headed north to Scotland but perhaps Helen's love of France stemmed from her ancestry.

An analytical chemist by training, Helen worked initially for ICI. It was there that she met Tom and they married in 1961. Later she trained to be a teacher and first taught Science at the same secondary school where she had previously been a pupil. From there she moved to the primary school sector and focused on teaching the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic (which she perceived as being a great need at the time) especially to youngsters who needed extra help to achieve an acceptable standard.

Helen's close association with the Riviera goes back to 1974 when she and Tom came on holiday to Eze. Brought up a Scottish Presbyterian, both she and Tom embraced the Anglicanism of St Michael's once they spent more of their retirement here and we all have reason to be grateful for their work for the church – Helen's role so often in the background and unsung but nonetheless valuable and important to the life of the church community.

Although, naturally, tinged with great sadness, there was a true sense of celebration and thanksgiving for Helen's life at the service on 26th September. The way Helen lived her life was based on her firm faith which manifested itself day by day. Without doubt she knew for herself and served our Lord Jesus Christ who is the resurrection and the life. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

If you wish to make any donation in Helen's memory this can be sent to the Church at 11 Chemin des Myrtes, 06310, Beaulieu sur Mer, France. Cheques should be made payable to St Michael's Anglican Church, and the envelope marked 'In Memory of Helen Downes'.

Please continue to remember Tom in your prayers as he begins to rebuild his life without his marriage partner for over 50 years at his side.

Fr. Philip

Update on the vacancy for a new Chaplain

The bishop is still following up leads to find us a chaplain and the CCC are actively looking at ways to make our vacancy attractive to applicants. This does take time.

Holy Trinity, Nice



A Car Boot sale will take place on Saturday, 12th October 2013 from 10 am to 4 pm at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 11, rue de la Buffa, Nice. Women's clothing, handbags, shoes, men's clothing, linen, children's clothing and toys, CDs, DVDs, white elephant items, books, bric-a-brac, baked goods. Refreshments will be available.

If you have something to donate, items can be left Church Hall, 11 rue de la Buffa on Friday 11th October from 5 pm

Beaujolais run

Places are still available on The Beaujolais Run, a fundraising classic car race which starts from London on November 18. This year it raises money for the Henry Surtees Foundation. For more information visit www.beaujolaisrun.com

October Saints!

We celebrate the feast days of several well-known saints in October including **Saint Therese** of Lisieux (October 1st) one of the great, French saints (1873-1897). **Saint Luke**, the evangelist has his feast day on October 18th but it is **Saint Francis of Assisi** (1181-1226), feast day October 4th, with his message of prayer, poverty and obedience who is the most popular saint, perhaps the most beloved of all the saints. Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology and there are many stories about his amazing affinity with animals (the taming of the wolf of Gubbio and his preaching to the birds) which have been beautifully recorded in the wonderful frescoes of Giotto. Born into a wealthy, noble family, Francis thoroughly enjoyed all the pleasures that money could buy and became a soldier in the crusades. One day, after a time of imprisonment and illness, he had a mystical dream and from then on he changed and began to spend his time in solitude and prayer, refusing to kill in the name of God.

His father was furious and, when Francis gave money away to the poor and gave his own fine clothes away, his father locked him in a cave but Francis escaped and lived in the fields and the woods around Assisi. Many thought he was crazy. "*il poverello*" but, eventually, his genuine desire to live the Gospel literally was recognized and he was joined by other young men, many of them noble like himself. This was the beginning of the Franciscan order. Despite his need for solitude Francis used his strong powers of oratory to spread the message of Christ. He rejoined the crusades as a non-violent participant and went to North Africa where he engaged in peaceful, constructive discussion with an important Sultan. He also wanted to go to Syria! What a great example this saint gave us and how relevant for today's world his prayer, "*Make me an instrument of your peace...*" The beautiful town of Assisi is just a short train journey from Rome. It radiates beauty and peace and is a world heritage site. In the words of the saint, "*Pace et bene*" to you in October.

Josephine Attar

Chaplaincy Apartment

The chaplaincy apartment in Beaulieu is available for use in November, December and January in return for a donation to church funds.

Contact Nicola or e-mail mailing@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org for details

Dates to Remember



Fr. Philip will be presiding and preaching the Eucharist on each Sunday in October at 10.00

Sunday 13th October

Harvest Festival Eucharist

Friday 1st November

All Saints Dinner - details to follow

Want to get in touch?

Editor (Laura): news@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Our website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org