



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, January 2015

The Eucharist will be celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am followed by refreshments

We welcome back Fr Derek Goddard as our locum priest for January and February. He and his wife Pennie were with us in August and February last year. From 2006 to 2009 Fr Derek was the Priest in Charge of the Anglican Church in Palermo-with-Taormina, in Sicily.

Letter from the new editor:

The end of year always acts as a marker for change, blessings to be counted from the previous year and challenges to be met for the oncoming one. Laura, your editor of *The Messenger* in recent years, has retired from this post, having worked tirelessly to bring you news and local comment. I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' on behalf of you, the readers for her seamless, behind the scenes editorship and wish her well in her new married life. Another farewell and particularly moving event has of course been the 'retirement' of Fr Philip. He has kindly written a few words of his time here at St Michael's. Thank you.

Amongst our blessings here at St Michael's Church have been the beautiful new courtyard, a new brochure to encourage visitors to find us- the logo and colour of which have been adopted for the new style of this newsletter and we are benefitting from successful fund raising activities which have all gone towards maintaining the church.



Me? My name is Jo and I have been living with my husband David in Cap Ferrat since March last year. David is likely to be spotted in lycra on his trusty bicycle whilst you will find me smelling the roses. I work in perfumery and am fascinated by all things to do with the sense of smell. I feel privileged to be a part of the warm and friendly community of St Michael's - please feel free to contact me (details below) or approach me after a service with any information and suggestions for *The Messenger* (or for just a chat over coffee!)

God bless and happy reading, Jo

Au Revoir Fr Philip

Fr Philip Robinson has been associated with St Michaels for many years. He has regularly concelebrated the Eucharist with the Chaplain, and more importantly has helped to ensure that throughout two long interregnums we have never had a Sunday without Eucharistic Worship. Fr Philip has performed the duties of a locum priest and much more, ensuring for example the spiritual growth of the congregation by arranging for members to be confirmed and taking Communion to the sick. He has steadfastly refused to take the payment to which he is entitled for his services. His generosity has therefore contributed significantly to the financial viability of St Michaels. Now at the age of 76 he is hoping to enjoy a well earned retirement, while still continuing to be part of St Michael's congregation. After leading a succession of beautiful services over the Christmas period a most deserving celebration and 'au revoir' was given to Fr Philip on Sunday 28 December with chocolates, champagne, cake and gifts from the congregation. We wish him peace and contentment for the coming year(s).

Letter from Fr Philip: Thanks to you all

To start, may I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

Next, my grateful thanks to all who contributed to the gifts presented to me following the Eucharist at St Michael's on 28 December 2014.

Churchwarden, Tom made the presentation on the occasion of me stepping back from my regular commitment of presiding and preaching at the Sunday Eucharist - in particular since our current vacancy for a permanent priest began in May 2013.

I'd rather not use the word 'retirement' as clergy never retire completely - their calling to the priesthood is for life and I hope that occasionally I may still have the opportunity to be at the altar to help lead the people of St Michael's and elsewhere into the presence of Almighty God through the sacrament of the Eucharist.



My association with St Michael's goes back to 1982 when my late wife, Chris and I first came to Beaulieu on holiday. In those days, Fr Brian Matthews was still Chaplain in Monte Carlo but came here on Sunday evenings to lead Evening Prayer. On his 'retirement' from Monte Carlo, he moved to Beaulieu and re-established a service on Sunday mornings: Matins with Holy Communion. It was not until Fr Geoffrey Grant succeeded in 1997 that the Sunday service regularly became a full Eucharist.

During my secular career at the University of London I was ordained to the Non-Stipendiary Ministry in 1991 and subsequently was invited by Fr Brian and Fr Geoffrey to undertake 'locum' duties for them when we were here on holiday. In 1994, I was able to take early retirement from the University and continued in a non-stipendiary capacity to be the parish priest of Ickenham, West London. I was there for 10 years, 6 of which I was, in addition, Area Dean of Hillingdon. Since stepping back from full-time ministry, I have spent part of the year in Beaulieu, continuing my association with St Michael's since 2004. Although I much enjoyed my career with the University, there is no doubt in my mind that my time since ordination has been the most fulfilling in my life.

Sadly Chris died in 1999 and so has not been at my side to share fully in this experience.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be involved in the life of St Michael's and although I will, mostly, be standing and sitting in a different place, it is my hope that my involvement here will continue. If I am here and a 'locum' priest is suddenly unable to lead worship on a Sunday, I will gladly stand in. We are all waiting patiently for the appointment of the next Priest-in-Charge; when that happens I will happily offer occasional help if required. My Permission to Officiate in the Diocese in Europe as in the London Diocese continues for the foreseeable future.

Thank you all once more for your support, kindness and generosity over a lengthy period. I pray that St Michael's will continue to flourish and be a place where residents of this area of the Cote D'Azur and visitors alike will be moved by the grandeur of this part of the world, be inspired by the beauty of the church building and be encouraged in their journey of faith through the dedicated ministry offered by clergy and lay people alike.

Fr Philip

Christmas at St Michael's 2014:

Very many thanks to the Churchwardens who decorated the church and made it so festive and welcoming.



Auction of Promises:

The Auction of Promises proved to be a huge success, raising more than 8,000 Euros - all proceeds go towards the maintenance of this beautiful and historic place of worship. A huge thank you to Jeremy for co-ordinating this fund raising event and to the members of the congregation who provided the lots of promises, talents and experiences. We receive no funding from the Church of England - all the money to run and maintain the church comes from the congregation and friends, so it has proved extremely worthwhile. Watch this space for further initiatives.

Laura and Dennis' Wedding

Our retiring editor has been very busy - here she is with her dashing husband Dennis on THE wedding day of October 22 in Southern England. Some of you may have been here to celebrate their marriage blessing and champagne toast at St Michael's on November 2. Laura said: 'that we were able to celebrate with our friends in France was an important part of our future life together', they were very grateful to Fr Philip who had offered this blessing whilst on a walk in Beaulieu. We wish Laura and Dennis a joyous and peaceful future together.



Simon Goldstein

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death on 18th December of Simon Goldstein. Simon, a retired judge, was a regular visitor to St Michael's over the past 14 years or so but had been suffering from cancer for the past year.

Want to get in touch?

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