



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, August 2015

The Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10.00 am followed by refreshments

A wonderful, but super hot July has flown by full of fetes, fireworks and fine wine on the Riviera. We even managed to include a birthday party - Fr Anthony celebrated his 60th birthday on July 19 with champagne and strawberries after the service. Congratulations!

Fr Anthony will be writing a series of articles that explains some of the changes to the Orders of Service that should be introduced by Advent:

The Perfect Church Service

Unfortunately, as long as there are clergy and congregation, there will never be a perfect Church Service! There is nothing more guaranteed to sow discord among priests and ministers than to discuss Liturgy - which to purists is restricted to the Eucharist or Holy Communion and to others it embraces all forms of worship or praise. Liturgy, again unfortunately, has become partisan and is frequently used to distinguish the 'churchmanship' of priest and laity alike - the expression of low or high church, of catholic or protestant, of traditional or evangelical in personal preference.

There is another view of Liturgy that is perhaps more orthodox and objective - already some will already be switching off! What I mean is, if our worship of God is to be our main concern as constituting the first and greatest Commandment, then we should make sure it reflects its purpose and nature. I suggest that the guiding principle, therefore, should be the verse from Deuteronomy, *Hear, O Israel, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength...* In other words, we should return to God what he has given to us - the best of our humanity, which includes our heart, mind, soul and body. Any church service that does not include the offering of what is physical as well as spiritual and that does not engage our senses, is less than what we have been given and is likened to the sacrifice of Cain as opposed to that of Abel.

There are other considerations when we think about what we believe happens in our church service. We believe we are linked with one another as being baptised, which means we have a responsibility to reflect the specific forms of worship of the Church of England but also of the *One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church*. We believe we are united with the communion of saints in heaven and also with the spiritual beings God created - the *all things invisible* we proclaim in the Creed and which we refer to as the orders of angels. In the Eucharist we are united with Christ himself, the *Communion*, which is a personal link with our Saviour; and through the form of prayers and rituals which have their origins in the Jewish and Roman roots of the Church we create a link between the past and present on earth.

There is far more wonder and mystery to our church service than simply representing a denomination or personal preference, and what really counts is that we conduct our services with conviction, credibility and celebration. **Fr Anthony**

'View from the Presbytère...

...this month is still bright and sunny! Tony and I have had an extremely busy month. The warm reception we received last month is now translating into new friendships, which has really helped with my, albeit transient, homesickness. Life is all about adapting to circumstances though. We all make plans, but each morning when we wake up we never really know what the day has in store for us - and sometimes that's just as well! Apart from work we've done some exciting and even extraordinary things this month, but like everyone else we've also had some tricky days that have not panned out as we'd hoped or expected. This time last year Tony and I were endlessly talking about his last day



as an army officer – 18th July 2015; it seemed ages away. Well it came and went on Saturday without any fanfare, bells or banners. Nobody would have known. But as we sat by the port with G&T in hand looking out at the glorious view, I did some reflection on how our life has moved in a way neither of us had planned or expected. This time last year we had no idea where our next adventure would take us and I was constantly saying things like, 'this is our last Summer Ball with the regiment', and then 'this is our last summer on Thorney Island', I was making it all sound very scary, and in doing so I was missing the joy of the moment.

I often hear people saying, 'live each day as though it's your last'. I don't like that saying and never have, but never more so than our last year of army life, as it was making me rather sad. I prayed a lot for a way to view things more positively, and it came to me that we should live each day as though it's our first. Coming to St Michael's has strengthened this mantra, as each new experience, each encounter, each new person I meet helps me to see everything with fresh eyes. What a terrible waste it is dwelling on the notion that this may be the last time we do something, because we never really know how each day will unfold.

In his Gospel, St Matthew told us, "***no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows***". So try seeing and embracing each new day as though it's your first - I can thoroughly recommend it...' **Fiona**

Who's who?

Ian Lawrie first visited Beaulieu 20 years ago, and became a regular worshipper at St Michael's since 2005. He is now an active member of the Church Council enjoying his Sunday mornings in our lovely 'bright, light, happy, church'. Thank you Ian for your support and for sharing some of your life adventures. This is his story:

'I *did* school and University in both Scotland and England, but feel my education began when I was 22 years old and had the good fortune to be posted to Lima, Peru. What a wonderful country to explore and lovely people to meet. My first trips around the country, not speaking Spanish and with only an out of date ESSO map, in a 3 ton GMC pick up truck were magic. The wonders of that country were largely unspoilt, and tourists a rare breed. Inevitably it was not just the mountains, deserts, and jungles, which fascinated but also the South American ladies! I managed to stay in Peru, on and off, for 11 years. I married an Argentine lady and we had 3 Peruvian children. I would still be there but my star was beckoning elsewhere.



Back to the U.K. for another short dose of Europe, before heading off to Argentina. Another wonderland, but unfortunately in the middle of a Moscow inspired "dirty" war. It was exciting and challenging and my wife and children were also very happy to reunite with her family and friends. As things calmed down our military governors took the tragic decision to dig up an old bone of contention: the Falkland Islands. General Galtieri had not believed that Mme. Thatcher was "not for turning" and when this became a real shooting war I was obliged to leave.

So back to Europe and France. I continued working in International trade, mostly concerned with the U.S.S.R. and their Comecon allies. Now retired and living in Eze with Marielise, my (very) long term partner, I cannot stop wondering how I have had such a super life, and is it too late for another adventure to come along ?!

What to do in August

Les Azuriales Opera - run by Sarah and Mark Holford, members of our congregation - will be running an exciting programme this year. The season will be 26-30 August including master classes, The Marriage of Figaro and Lucia di Lammermoor at various locations including St Michael's Church and the beautiful Villas Ephrussi de Rothschild and Kerylos. The season is now open for booking on www.azurialopera.com. Les Azuriales Opera focuses on finding truly outstanding young artists and making a significant difference to their early operatic careers. A must see.

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