



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, October, 2015

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

Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 4 October (18 After Trinity) Eucharist 10h00
Evangelical Lutheran Service and visit of Bishop Tine Lindhardt 11h45
- Saturday 10 October Marriage Blessing at 16h00
- Sunday 19 October (19 After Trinity) Eucharist 10h00
- Sunday 18 October (Luke the Evangelist) Eucharist 10h00
- Sunday 25 October (Bible Sunday) Eucharist 10h00

Fr Anthony will be away from 26th to 29th October

Music to our ears

The last few weeks have provided inspiring music at St Michael's with beautiful voices from Les Azuriales Young Artists Singing competition followed by members of the Gonville and Caius choir, Cambridge joining us for a Sunday service. We were also privileged to share in celebrating Jack and Roberta's 57th wedding anniversary on 13th September with a glass of bubbles. Congratulations to you both!



Azuriales Young Artists 2015



Visitors from Gonville and Caius Choir



Roberta and Jack Moore

Fr Anthony continues with Part 3 of his series of articles that explains some of the changes to the Orders of Service which will be introduced at Advent:

Change at St Michael's...

The British fascination with weather has recently been intensified by the apparent disappearance of seasons. Unpredictable temperatures, storms and rain across the UK throughout the year have confused many as to whether there is a recognisable summer or winter any more! The seasons of the Church's year, however, are predictable – they are based on the key festivals of Easter and Christmas and we can still depend on them to bring consistency and continuity into the lives of Christians.

Advent is the season to remember the various events, prophecies and people who were instrumental in preparing for the arrival of the Messiah which we then celebrate at Christmas and during the Epiphany season. Lent is a season of repentance and prayer to prepare for the greatest festival of the year, Easter. The Easter season is one of celebrating the implications of Christ's death and resurrection and then the Trinity season is one that mainly explores the teachings of Jesus and what it means to be his disciples. The Church, carefully and clearly, marks those seasons with special variations in the Liturgy, by the colours of vestments, and with specific Readings from the Lectionary.

Those elements are precisely there so that each single church is united with all others in common worship – a sign of our communion in Christ as his universal Body the Church. The use of authorised services ensures the orthodoxy of theology and the validity of ritual in our worship so that we can confidently continue the shared memory of the Church which connects us to the Apostles and to Christ himself. Without such a discipline, which also guarantees standards, services may become personalised expressions and interpretations of the minister and people rather than a representation of the whole Church.

At St Michael's we will introduce new Orders of Service for the start of Advent. Just eight new Orders will replace the current 64! However, they will enable us to engage with the seasons of the Church

properly and to respond to feast days and festivals with more appropriate and relevant prayers and hymns.

You will notice that throughout each service there will be constants – prayers and responses that belong to every celebration of the Eucharist and with which we are already familiar. This is important because our liturgy, whilst being variable for the seasons, is also meant to reflect the constancy of God, *For I am the Lord: I change not... Malachi 3:6.*

There's not much in the world that doesn't change, and that's how it should be. But if we do wish to find the unchangeable and someone we can totally rely upon, then we must seek only the Lord; and our liturgy at St Michael's is one of the finest ways we can both seek and find him.' **Fr Anthony**

'View from the Presbytère...



... Facebook. Some people love it, some people hate it - or as is the case for my lovely husband - some people simply don't see the point. I use it to see what friends and family are up to and, as one of eight siblings with twenty four nieces and nephews and their innumerable offspring, it's a quick and easy way to communicate. If you're familiar with Facebook, you'll know that there is also some rubbish on it, but every now and again I see something that just strikes a chord. This happened a few weeks ago when someone put a photo they'd taken of a sign on the side of a building:

VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS...

St Michael's Church totally relies on the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who work tirelessly, sometimes discretely behind the scenes, in order to provide the centre of worship and fellowship for the English speaking community in and around Beaulieu. In the few short months I've been here I've been very aware that the church is beautifully maintained, clean and tidy; that each Sunday there's flowers on the altar, milk and wine in the fridge and coffee and biscuits in the cupboard and of course people to serve them; that there are sidesmen, readers, Eucharistic ministers and musical accompaniment; there are those who volunteer their time on the church council and those near and far who volunteer their expertise and donations to help the church function. Each one of those people helps to make St Michael's what it is. Without our volunteers the church would truly be broke.

If anyone reading this has a skill or time to spare then don't be shy about offering to help. And to all those who already volunteer, a huge thank you! Have a good October.' **Fiona**

Who's who? - Andrew McChesney

I have been a regular attendee of St. Michaels since 2008. I was introduced to this beautiful area by my wife, Jane in 2004, and we decided to take early retirement in 2007 so that we could spend more time here. We further strengthened our links with St. Michaels when Jane and I had our marriage blessed here in 2010. I started my working life as a civil engineer during which time I was a cartographer then changed disciplines and became a bridge engineer, which I did for the rest of my working career, working for an American company in the UK. Whilst we spend much of our time here, we also have a home in a small village in Shropshire.

I have been on the church council for the last three years, and remain an enthusiastic and committed member of the congregation, regularly helping out whenever possible. This can entail anything from hospitality, to cleaning the church and assisting with the music at Sunday Eucharist. I am also honoured to carry the Standard of the Royal British Legion on all the commemorative days held in Beaulieu. We have been made very welcome at St. Michaels and have made some lovely friends here. We feel incredibly privileged to spend our retirement in this beautiful area.

A big thank you Andrew for your effort and commitment to St Michael's, especially at coffee time!



Christmas Cards

For the first time, St Michael's will be selling Christmas cards. The card depicts our church crib scene and costs 1.5 euros per card inc envelope. If you would like to pre order or have them sent by post please contact Barry on bcoffey@orange.fr or Nicola on ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr All proceeds go to church funds.



Want to get in touch? Editor Jo: news@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org
Our website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org