



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, September 2015

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

Dates for your diary:

- **Sun 6th Sep** Eucharist at 10.00 with members of the Gonville and Caius Choir joining the congregation. This is a very special event as they are a world class choir. There will be an aperitif and canapés after the service kindly provided by Edgar and Joan Harborne. 6th Sep is also the Fete Patronale of Beaulieu Sur Mer, Ceremonies and aperitif in the main square Place Marinoni from 12 noon
- **Tues 8th Sep** at 10.00 CCC Meeting at St Michael's
- **Sun 13th Sep** Eucharist at 10.00 Feast Day of the Holy Cross
- **Fri 18th Sep** Wedding Blessing at 15.00 for Daire O'Reilly and Daisy Ha
- **Sat 19 and Sun 20 Sep** are the Journees de Patrimoine in France. Look out for opportunities to visit buildings and sites which are not normally open to the public. St Michaels is participating in this event this year by being part of a guided tour organised by the Office de Tourisme de Beaulieu
- **Sun 20th Sep** Eucharist at 10.00 Battle of Britain Sunday
- **Sun 27th Sep** Eucharist at 10.00 Feast Day of St Michael and All Angels. We celebrate our patronal feast of St Michael with our traditional Sunday lunch in the garden. 20 euros per person for three courses with wine and soft drinks. Please speak to Nicola or contact her on ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr

Fr Anthony continues with Part 2 of his series of articles that explains some of the changes to the Orders of Service that should be introduced by Advent:

The House of God

'You shall not make my Father's house a house of trade...' (John 2: 16). Jesus said this in the context of throwing out tradesmen from the Temple. For the Jewish people God's presence wasn't only in his heavenly kingdom but also with his people – focused in the Temple where the Commandments were kept. The Temple became the place of meeting with, and therefore of worshipping, God – a place that had to be reserved for God and treated with even greater respect than any other place.

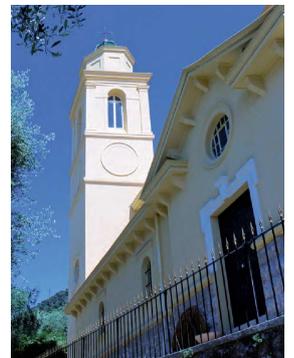
Churches in many respects replaced the Temple as the House of God. Since the days of the Apostles the presence of God has been acknowledged in three special ways – receiving the Holy Spirit through Baptism, hearing the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures and sharing the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. The places where these sacraments are celebrated are therefore sacred. This is why many Christians enter a church and bless themselves with holy water, make the sign of the cross, bow to the altar or genuflect as signs of reverence; they acknowledge that they are in a place like no other; where they have come not to speak with anyone else but with God; where they have come not for any mundane purpose but to worship the Father.

Unfortunately, it's not always like that. I remember going into one church and looking around wondering whether it was meant to be a cinema, café or kindergarten! But fortunately, at St Michael's we have a church where there is a harmony of architecture, meaning and purpose all pointing to the House of God. The sanctuary, font, paintings, statues and memorials are all there to remind us of the heavenly kingdom to which we belong by our baptism and to which we aspire to enter.

And that brings us to the other meaning of the House of God. St Paul wrote *'Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?'* (1 Corinthians 6:19). When we were baptised we became the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and therefore each one of us has also become sacred! Whenever we meet together, not just in church, we are Christ meeting with Christ – which is St Paul's idea of us being *'one body in Christ'*.

As much as we expect St Michael's to evoke the House of God in its appearance and liturgy, we should also be expected to reflect, by our attitudes and conduct, the Presence of God in ourselves.

Fr Anthony



'View from the Presbytère...



...As the scorching weather leaves us, which everyone tells me has been unusually fierce this year, and we sail towards cooler more manageable temperatures, I find myself looking forward to the autumn with great excitement. Our summer visitors have been and gone and we now have our next tranche waiting in the wings ready to come down. When we first arrived, someone kindly loaned me *A Year In Provence* and I giggled as I read the descriptions of friends they never knew they had suddenly planning to pay a visit. You see, when we first told people we were coming to this glorious part of the world to live and work, we were truly amazed to find just how many friends we have! People we hadn't seen or heard from for years suddenly contacted us; people we'd considered no more than acquaintances started inviting us to dinner and back again to say "bon voyage", always with the reassuring promise, "don't worry, we'll be down to see you soon". Even my friend's cleaner whom I met once - on the day we left the UK - gave me a tight hug, filled up with tears and asked if she could come to see us! My reply to all our new found friends was always the same, "we'd love to see you and luckily there's a small hotel opposite the apartment for you to stay in". It remains to be seen just how many of our new 'friends' now decide to book into the hotel... I am not complaining as there must be some who genuinely would like to come to see us in our new life. I love people and love being around people, (even writing this I'm smiling as I can almost hear Tony, and our children, saying "don't be so nosy!"), but I'm genuinely interested in other people's stories. Moving within the army from place to place you learn to quickly get out of the house and join in, otherwise your two years could go by in a very lonely world. I was, let's just say, mature in years when I entered the military environment. A younger but very experienced army wife told me that if you make one true friend each posting you consider yourself lucky. Well, I was very lucky indeed! In fact I have a small group of close friends from each chapter of my life, and for all of us we work hard to maintain our friendship, with distance and time proving to be no obstacles. Once again as I start to add more friends to my life I'm reminded of just how blessed I am. And it's with this blessing in mind that the focus of my prayers this month is going to be on those who may be missing past friendships or finding it hard to make friends; those who may be missing loved ones or just plain lonely - for whatever reason. Perhaps if you have any prayers going spare you could join them with mine. Enjoy your September wherever you are...' **Fiona**

Who's who?

Jenny Kerridge is a new member of the Church Council, but her links with St Michaels go back 40 years. Jenny's husband, David first visited St Michaels with his parents, Stuart and Betty: They were active members of the congregation, and Stuart was Treasurer. We are delighted to have Jenny's experience and vitality on board.

Jenny and David met in 1991; Jenny was a widow with a 10 year-old daughter Alison. Their first family holidays together were visits to Beaulieu. David was Principal Lecturer at the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE). Jenny was a housing manager with charities and housing associations, and later a researcher at UWE. She still works as an independent researcher, focusing on housing and social care for older people and people with disabilities.

Their link with St Michaels was renewed in 2011. Jenny and David love opera. Over in Beaulieu for a week for Les Azuriales festival, they attended church and were impressed with the warm welcome. Next day, disaster struck: David went by ambulance to Nice hospital with cardiac problems. Jenny knew no-one in Beaulieu and called Father Peter. He was very supportive, both spiritually and practically. At the same time, Jenny's 94-year old mother was in hospital in Devon, where she died; sadly, Jenny couldn't be with her.

Jenny inherited an apartment in Exmouth, but there was no competition between Devon and buying a studio in Beaulieu! Unfortunately, after further illness David can no longer come to France. But again, David and Jenny were supported by St Michaels (Council members and the locum chaplain and his wife). Father Derek held a very moving blessing service to celebrate David and Jenny's 20 years of marriage and their connection with St Michaels.



Want to get in touch?

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