



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, March 2016

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday	4th March	12h00 Lenten Service
Sunday	6th March	10h00 Eucharist 4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
Friday	11th March	12h00 Lenten Service
Sunday	13th March	10h00 5th Sunday of Lent followed by the Annual General Meeting
Friday	18th March	12h00 Lenten Service
Sunday	20th March	10h00 Eucharist Palm Sunday
Tuesday	22nd March	12h00 Chrism mass at Holy Trinity, Nice
Friday	25th March	12h00 Good Friday Service
Sunday	27th March	10h00 Eucharist Easter Sunday
		11h45 Danish Lutheran Service

FATHER'S NOTES...

People attending St Michael's recently will have noticed some changes in the service and these changes are quite normal since we have moved from the Epiphany Season into the special time of Lent. Changes such as a reduction in singing and more time for reflection, no *Gloria*, no *Alleluia* and no flowers to decorate the sanctuary. The liturgical colour is the sombre purple and the readings and hymns are predominantly about repentance and penitence.



The English word *Lent* actually refers to Spring, and the more accurate word is the Latin *Quadragesima*, or Fortieth, making a deliberate connection with the scriptural accounts of the Israelites wandering the desert for forty years and the forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness. These were times of trial for people but also times when God was close to them and strengthening them in their struggles.

This is why Christians of both the Eastern and Latin churches regard Lent as being an opportunity to create their own desert or wilderness. Without distractions and comforts they are better able to confront their sins and weaknesses and turn to God for his mercy and grace to help them. The typical elements of Lent are prayer and meditation, self-denial which includes fasting and abstinence, and good works often expressed as charity to the needy. They are designed to help us become less reliant on earthly and material things and more attuned to the things of heaven and the Spirit. Knowing that what is earthly and material will die or disappear, it makes sense to concentrate on that which can bring us new and eternal life, and for Christians it is Christ and his sacrifice on the cross and resurrection.

Lent culminates in the greatest celebration of those events when, during the Easter Triduum, we participate in the new Passover of Jesus becoming our freedom from sin and death and opening for us the way to eternal life in the Father's kingdom.

But until then we prepare ourselves through the rigours of Lent. St Michael's makes its own contribution through those changes in the liturgy on Sundays, with an extra Lenten service each Friday at midday, and by the small gesture of not serving wine for hospitality!

Another feature of Lent at St Michael's, which anyone with connections to the church can join in, is the recessional prayer said after each service:

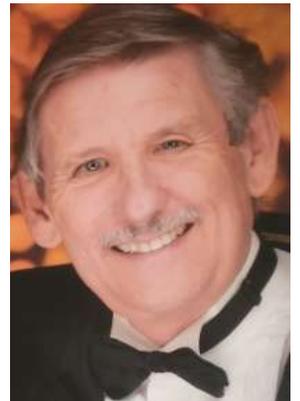
Saint Michael the Archangel, Prince of heavenly hosts,
defend us against the evil influence of Satan
that threatens not our bodies but our very souls.
Safeguard us from all temptations of body, mind and spirit
that we may resist that which leads only to darkness and death
and be strengthened in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which leads to light and life in his heavenly Kingdom.
Amen.

Fr Tony

VANCE JOHNSON OBITUARY

Vance Johnson, well known to many at St Michael's, died peacefully on 9 February 2016 in Dallas, Texas, surrounded by loved ones.

Vance had followed a very distinguished career, first in law enforcement and then with the US Department of Treasury and on special assignment to the US Department of Justice in Washington DC. Upon retirement, he and his wife Linda came to Europe and lived in Villefranche and St Jean Cap Ferat. This brought them into contact with St Michael's and soon they were regular attenders. Vance served on the Chaplaincy Church Council and was elected a Churchwarden and also a Synod Representative for the Archdeaconry.



Vance and Linda loved their time on the Riviera and were members of both the Yacht Club and Automobile Club of Monaco. They also travelled and enjoyed summers in Austria and Christmases in Estonia until they moved back to the United States in 2012 and made their home in Dallas, Texas. They still came on vacation to the South of France and were seen by their friends at St Michael's just months before Vance passed away.

A Requiem Mass for Vance will be held on Saturday 12 March 2016 at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas and a second memorial service will be held later at St. Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer, in May 2016.

'Vance will be deeply missed as husband, father, brother, Grandpapa, and friend.'

ASCENSION DAY CELEBRATION

This is an annual event organised for fellowship of the Anglican Churches on the Riviera. Please let Nicola know if you are interested in going and we may be able to organise a car share.

'Please "save The Date": You are invited to celebrate Ascension Day once again, with a Communion Service, followed with a Bring and Share Lunch on May 5th, 2016, at the Chaplaincy of Lorgues with Fayence, Arc-en-Provence, as guests of Peter and Shirley Massey. This will be the Third anniversary of the ACR, the Eight Anglican Churches of The Riviera meeting to share in Worship and fellowship.



Last year approximately 70 parishioners shared in this Celebration, we hope to have as many or more this year. More information will follow in April and below you will find the directions to Lorgues.

I do look forward to seeing you all on Ascension Day.....'

Yours in Christ, DANI CAREW, Synod Representative of St Paul's Monaco

Directions to Arc-en-Provence in Lorgues, 1801 Chemin des Pailles, 83510 Lorgues:
From Vidauban or Les Arcs: When you reach the Roundabout in Lorgues, turn right towards Draguignan; go about 200 meters to the next roundabout and take the third exit, Route de Draguignan. Go about 1 km until you reach a Building Material yard called "CIFFREO BONA" on your right and turn right into Chemin des Pailles. Follow all the way down for a 1.8 km until you reach the little Chapel, Norte Dame de Florieye and turn left on the gravel road and the House is about 100m back in the trees.
From Carces and Salernes: Follow all the way round Lorgues on to the Route de Draguignan and then as above. From Draguignan: As you approach LORGUE turn left immediately before "CIFFREO BONA"; and then directions as above.

NICOLA’S NOTICES

Please contact Nicola Karlsen on ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr if you have a local item to share with members of the St Michael’s congregation.

COLLECTION OF FOODSTUFFS FOR LOCAL RED CROSS (CROIX ROUGE)

A big thank you from the Red Cross for the generous donations from St Michaels church members. Annie Dulla, the manager of the Croix Rouge in Villefranche, wrote saying:

'On Wednesday, February 11 2016 we were notified to come and collect the food supplies that were so generously donated during Epiphany evening, from your Church in Beaulieu. We would like to thank you warmly for such a sincere gesture of good will and we shall duly undertake to distribute the supplies amongst the aged and needy in our canton.



Nicola and Maguy packing the donations into the Red Cross van

LIFE IN FRANCE:



Cloche volant or flying bells are an important part of the Easter traditions of France. French Catholics believe that on Good Friday, all the church bells in France fly to the Vatican in Rome, carrying with them the grief of those who mourn Jesus' crucifixion on that day. These flying bells return on Easter Sunday morning and bring back chocolate and eggs. In keeping with the tradition, French church bells do not ring from Good Friday to Easter Sunday morning. Often there are processions on Good Friday recognising the path Jesus took.

Joyeuses Paques

Want to get in touch?

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