



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, June 2016

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	5th June	10h00	Eucharist <i>2nd after Trinity</i>
Sunday	12th June	10h00	Eucharist <i>3rd after Trinity</i> followed by fellowship lunch in the garden*
Tuesday	14th June	10h00	CCC Meeting
Sunday	19th June	10h00	Eucharist <i>4th after Trinity</i> & Renewal of Wedding Vows
Friday	24th June	17h30	Wedding Blessing
Sunday	26th June	10h00	Eucharist <i>John the Baptist</i>

*The Fellowship lunch will be 20 Euros per person, children free. Please book your place in advance to help us to cater. If you can help either by setting up, clearing up or bringing drinks or a dessert please contact Nicola on ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr

FATHER'S NOTES...



St Michael's recently held a vigil service when the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist occurred the evening before. Many churches do this, either regularly or for special circumstances, and St Michael's has done this just five times in the past couple of years.

It is part of our inheritance coming from the Jewish roots of the Church, when the Sabbath and other major festivals actually began at sunset the day before. For two thousand years the Church has maintained this practice – the services for Sundays and Festivals starting with First or Solemn Vespers of the night before; and we have become most familiar with starting Easter and Christmas at their respective Vigil services.

The tradition also has its origin in the Scriptures and the injunction to pray at all times:

- ~ *Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray at all times and not lose heart.* (Luke 18:1)
- ~ *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.* (Ephesians 6:18)
- ~ *Rejoice at all times. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

This sanctification of the day, or *sacrifice of praise*, was spread out over the day and eventually included seven distinct services, just as mentioned in Psalm 119, *Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws*. While such services became the daily pattern of worship for those in holy orders and religious orders, they were still recommended for every Christian. To make it simpler though, they have been reduced over time to essentially Morning Prayer, a shorter Prayer During the Day, Evening Prayer (sometimes called Vespers or Evensong) and Night Prayer. Most people can do this, even if they don't follow the authorised services but use personal devotions such as the Jesus Prayer.

The point is that our commitment to prayer and praising God is not just for a Sunday service but actually for each day and throughout the day. Any service we hold at St Michael's, whatever the day or time, is so special because it is our duty to God. We don't come to church for entertainment or for socialising but for common worship; sharing the faith of our baptism and being united with Christ in the Eucharist. By following the Church's liturgical traditions we can also express our union with the universal Church and the Communion of Saints, playing our part in the ceaseless praise of God.

Fr Tony

'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



'Where has the time gone?! I'm writing this on the feast of Corpus Christ and have just got back from the Holy Communion Service, which was quiet but uplifting, and I'm reminded that in complete contrast, on this feast day last year the church was packed. It was the day that Tony and I began our ministry at St Michael's; I know - I'm just the chaplain's wife, but we've always worked as a team and that's what we brought with us to St Michael's.

And so, a year on, I can't help but reflect... For a start, I'm sure I don't need to tell anyone that Tony has worked tirelessly for the church! A feature of his ministry has always been his absolute devotion to his vocation. As his wife, that occasionally means taking second place, which is fine - most of the time anyway! One of his strengths - and weaknesses in equal measure - has been his reluctance to take any time off. I remember our first army posting, the Commanding Officer who was also a good friend, sent for Tony to give him a dressing down for working too hard and not taking any leave. He told me afterwards that it's the first time he's conducted 'an interview without coffee', and been laughed at! Despite his failure to fully command his padre, he went on to achieve a successful career and remains a dear friend!

I mention this because not much has changed. In the year we've been here Tony has taken just one Sunday off. Your Church Warden, as is his duty to do so, has tried to persuade him to take his entitlement, but a bit like when he was spoken to by his Commanding Officer, Tony listened, laughed and took no notice (sorry Church Warden, I know how hard you tried!). However, when our daughter Claire said she was coming to visit for half term with our gorgeous granddaughter, to my astonishment Tony said he'd take time off. In typical Tony fashion however, when there was no-one available to cover, rather than leaving the church without a weekly Eucharist, he arranged to do a vigil service on the Saturday evening before dashing off to the airport.

We have had such a lovely year in Beaulieu and of course at St Michael's - with just a few tricky moments, but that's normal life - and we think we're doing ok for you. But, we're not really best placed to judge. I hope you feel that the church is thriving, that it's growing and that you too feel we're doing ok.

Oh, and if you're chatting to Tony, if you wouldn't mind reminding him that he is allowed to take his time off, I'd really appreciate it. And if he takes any notice, you're a better man/woman than his former Commanding Officer or your Church Warden!'

Fiona

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Table Top Sale/Vide-grenier.

This will take place on **Saturday, 4th June, 2016** at the Parish Hall, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Nice, 11bis rue de la Buffa (near the place Grimaldi) from **10.0 am to 4.00 pm**, Women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes, handbags, books, DVDs, white elephant, etc. Coffee, tea, refreshments **on sale.**

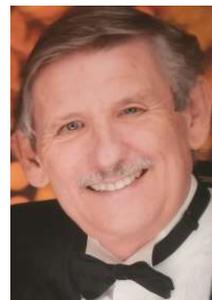


Convenient parking at the Parking de la Méditerranée, rue du Congrès. Should any of your members wish to donate any items we would be very glad to receive these in particular on **Friday 3rd June between 5.00 and 7.00 pm** at our hall in the church courtyard, 11 bis rue de la Buffa, Nice.

Further info: 0493 72 97 08 or 0695 50 86 80

Tribute: Vance JOHNSON

Vance Johnson, well known to many at St Michael's, died peacefully in February in Dallas, Texas, surrounded by loved ones. In memory of his long time service as church warden at St Michael's a beautiful memorial service was held on Ascension Day, 5th May attended by his wife, Linda, family and many friends. Linda especially asked to say 'Many, many thanks for all the tremendous work that went into making this happen, preparing food, washing up and just being here. It felt like an outpouring of love.'



Heidi was asked to give a collection of memories from Vance's life. Specifically requested by his family not to give a eulogy, Heidi managed to capture Vance's spirit of adventure, love of family and his dedication to St Michael's. The service ended with a rendition of music from James Bond 007 to remind us of his colourful life. A part of Heidi's piece is quoted here not only because of its sincerity and warmth about Vance but also how she incorporated a little of our church's history:

"I am so honored to speak about Vance.....a very special friend and one the kindest, most reliable and thoughtful men I have ever known...It is moving and significant that Vance's family has chosen the Day of Ascension to celebrate his life. With that thought, I would like to call your attention to the painting - right IN FRONT OF YOU! It is unusual to find a depiction of the Ascension, prominently placed over the altar and dominating the nave.

Have you ever wondered HOW this painting got here? Painted by a renowned Florentine artist, Ernesto Bellandi, this work of art was given to St Michaels in **1897**. Interestingly, it was commissioned by Mrs. William Atmar Fanning, in memory of her late husband who had died the previous year. I found the parallel - that this painting had been given in memory of a beloved husband - significant. I wanted to make a connection of this special painting with Vance. **Regretfully, however, I uncovered something dismay!**

The husband, in whose honor this painting was commissioned - although a very accomplished, late nineteenth century businessman and also graduate of Eton and Oxford - had a reputation as certifiably mad, or, at the very least, terribly eccentric.

This was NOT our Vance.

After reflection, a connection with Vance became clear: I realized that Winifred Fanning must have *very much* loved her husband because she commissioned this exceptional painting, to honour him, DESPITE his outrageous behaviour. ***This painting thus represents, the profound and unconditional love of a woman for her husband...***as we all know Linda has for Vance. Also, this painting was commissioned in honor of a very colorful man. Vance was in no way mad, but he did live a very colourful life! There was much more to Vance - than the quiet, reserved Church Warden we knew." **R.I.P.**



Heidi and Fr Tony in front of the painting of the Ascension



Vance's wife, Linda



Linda and Brett

'TO BE A PILGRIM' Part 3

Josephine Attar continues her spiritual odyssey from Lourdes to Jerusalem, via Lisieux and Rome: this month focusing on her visit to Rome. Thank you again, Josephine for sharing your journey.

Rome

Rome, and all roads lead to Rome they say. I had been there on school trips but more recently have focused on Christian Rome rather than the glorious ruins of that great empire. Peter was crucified here (upside down) and lies in St. Peter's Basilica as do many other great saints including John Paul II. A visit to the Coliseum and the catacombs where the early Christians met is a forceful reminder of the struggles of our faith and the fact that Christians are being tortured, killed and in hiding today in many parts of the world. The most beautiful basilica where St Paul is buried lies outside the city wall and is my favourite church in Rome as the mosaics are quite wonderful.

Assisi. How that very name is heavenly music! Saint Francis of Assisi is generally recognized as the most popular saint ever and I was curious to visit this place, which is actually a world heritage site. Immediately one arrives in this beautiful Umbrian, hilltop town, a sense of peace descends. I can vouch for it. One could almost say that it is "in the air"!

All is grace! The rose and grey stone, the wide vistas of the pale green Umbrian plain and the sound of the bells of the basilicas chiming constantly. (On a more practical note, Umbrian food and wine is pretty good too!)

The story of Francis and Chiara, his lovely disciple who followed his amazing example and founded the Poor Clare Order is here in these little streets. Francis, "il poverello" lies in the crypt in the large basilica which bears his name. His brothers lie around him and the famous Giotto frescoes, on two floors of the basilica, tell the amazing story of his life in glorious colour and form. My favorite is the one of Francis preaching to the birds who according to an eye witness, listened with bowed heads then flew away in the form of the cross to North and South and East and West. The famous "Giotto blue" is quite something to observe despite the fact that these frescoes were recently restored following earthquake damage. Chiara, has her own basilica. A large, rose stone, church where she too lies in the crypt. Her simple, rough brown habit is on display as is a silver casket bearing the blonde curls that Francis, her friend, cut when she (like him) left her noble family and took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Francis installed Chiara and her sisters in a monastery that he had built with his own hands (while thinking that God had literally meant 'Rebuild my church'). San Damiano, lies just outside the town and is an absolute jewel which must be seen.

Josephine



Josephine in Rome



San Damiano Assisi

Want to get in touch?

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