



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, October 2016

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	2 nd October	10h00	Eucharist – <i>St Michael. Followed by parish lunch</i>
Sunday	9 th October	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Trinity 20</i>
Sunday	16 th October	10h00	Eucharist – <i>St Luke</i>
Sunday	23 rd October	10h00	Eucharist – <i>Bible Sunday</i>
		10h45	Danish Lutheran Service
Sunday	30 th October	10h00	Eucharist – <i>All Saints</i>

FATHER'S NOTES... What is there to be frightened of...?



Most people will have had that terrible experience of fear triggered by phobias, anxieties or shock. Fear is an emotional response that can physically incapacitate us and render us unable to think straight or act sensibly. That common phrase 'frightened to death' perhaps indicates how intense this experience can be.

Have no fear and *Do not be afraid* are two of the most common phrases to be found in the Bible: at least 20 times in the Pentateuch, 24 times in the historical books, 22 times in wisdom literature, 38 times by the prophets, 21 times in the Gospels and 14 times in other New Testament texts. *Do not be afraid* is often a preamble to proclamations by God or his angels because of the unnerving effect they have on people who are frightened by the

unknown and the inexplicable. When it is proclaimed by people, such as the prophets or in the psalms, it is to strengthen their courage and commitment to the faith. When it is pronounced by Christ they are words of comfort and reassurance because he has opened to us, through forgiveness and sacrifice, the gates to eternal life.

However, there remains a small conundrum – that which caused fear in people, such as the presence of God or the appearance of his angels, should really have had the opposite effect! Why were people frightened rather than excited and overwhelmed with joy by such a divine experience? It seems they may not have been prepared for it and were not accustomed to having such an interaction with what for them was strange and supernatural. It may have been that they had an intellectual faith in God but hadn't really got to grips with his reality.

It could be the same for ourselves. Our preoccupation with the life we lead here and now can often distract us from contemplating the reality of God and his kingdom. How often do we imagine Christ to be with us as we go about our daily routine? How often do we think about the saints and the angels actually living in heaven while we worry and get upset about our comparatively trivial concerns on earth?

This is why attending worship is so important to us at St Michael's. The Scriptures we listen to remind us of all those times when the Lord has spoken to his people and continues to speak to us to guide us. The prayers we offer in thanksgiving and petition keep us in a relationship with God and in communion with the saints. The Sacraments we celebrate, especially the Eucharist, accustom us to the real presence of Christ and the effects of his Holy Spirit so that we are no longer unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the mysteries of God and his kingdom. We will not be afraid...

Fr Tony

'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



In my working life I did some tough, some fun, some interesting and some incredibly challenging jobs. I sometimes had to have difficult conversations and occasionally had to make decisions that would have life changing and a lifelong impact on people. I was often saddened by the circumstances some people found themselves in, and I'm not embarrassed to admit I was occasionally moved to tears; after all, when you are working with people at their most vulnerable, if you fail to be touched or moved by their circumstances, then you cannot possibly be giving your best.

As I while away my days here in the sun, I often reflect on the lives of the families I met through my work. Some of them had ridiculous burdens to carry and yet I can count on one hand the number who, in circumstances none of us would wish to face, were rude or aggressive or critical, but do you know what, I absolutely got why they would react like that. I feel blessed to have met these families, because for the most part they demonstrated such strength of character, even in the face of awful news.

One of the most valuable lessons I learnt during my working life, and its a lesson I still draw on today, was that no matter how hard you work, no matter how much you give, there will always be someone ready to point a finger or criticise, sometimes completely unfairly. However, as long as I know I am doing and giving my very best and I'm being honest and gentle in my dealings with people, then I can hold my head high. And after all, as Aristotle wrote, the only way to avoid being criticised is to say nothing, do nothing, be nothing...

Fiona

Wanted for St Michael's – a VOLUNTEER TO UNDERTAKE THE ROLE OF TREASURER

The Chaplaincy Church Council would like to appoint a Treasurer to assist in the management of the church's finances. There are systems in place for all aspects of the role and many functions are devolved to other volunteers e.g. for counting, receipts and cashier.

The Treasurer will be expected to follow the systems in operation for payments, bank reconciliations and data input of the management information system – for which some experience in using an Excel Spreadsheet would be advantageous.

The Treasurer would work alongside members of the Finance Sub-Committee and would be expected to provide interim reports and advice to Chaplaincy Church Council Meetings throughout the year and a Financial Statement and report for the chaplaincy's Annual General Meeting.

If anyone would like to find out more about this role and the responsibilities involved then please contact Fr Tony Ingham: chaplain@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Wanted for St Michael's – A VOLUNTEER TO BE CHARITIES CO-ORDINATOR

This person would be responsible for identifying suitable charities at local, national and international levels to receive donations from St Michael's to support their work. This is an essential part of our chaplaincy mission and we wish to be timely and effective in what we can provide to help others in need.

The Co-ordinator would be responsible for monitoring local and worldwide needs and for providing information on suitable charities to the Chaplaincy Church Council.

It is not essential to be resident in France to fulfil this role.

If anyone would like to find out more about this role and the responsibilities involved then please contact Fr Tony Ingham: chaplain@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

From the Archives - Bomb damage to St Michael's

During the second World War a bomb came through the roof of St. Michael's, directly over the sanctuary. Thankfully the bomb did not explode.

You will see from the enlarged section entitled "Painting detail" that the painting of the "Ascension" came out of its mounting. We were very fortunate that it was not damaged beyond repair.

It is interesting to note that many people assume this beautiful image of the ascending Christ was painted directly on to the wall of the church but the photograph clearly shows this not to be the case.

The main photograph, on the right, shows the sanctuary with its ornate screens that were removed in recent years. These screens have been preserved and are still visible in St. Michael's today.

Included also is a photo taken from the garden showing the roof damage from the outside.

The damage caused that day is still evident in the sanctuary area as the floor is damaged and uneven.

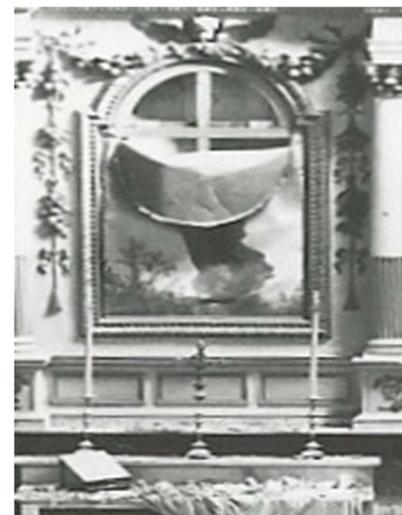
The repair to the marble in this most important area of the church is one of the projects that we would like to address when funds allow.



Roof damage – from the interior



Roof damage – from the garden



Ascension - painting detail

Want to get in touch?

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