



# Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, June 2017

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

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Sunday	4th June	10h00	Eucharist – Pentecost followed by fund-raising Lunch
Sunday	11th June	10h00	Eucharist – Trinity;
		11h45	Danish Lutheran Service
Tuesday	13th June	10h00	CCC Meeting
Thursday	15th June	10h00	Eucharist – Corpus Christi
Sunday	18th June	10h00	Eucharist – Trinity 1
Saturday	24th June	1400	Wedding Blessing;
		16h30	Wedding Blessing
Sunday	25th Jun	10h00	Eucharist – John the Baptist

## **FATHER'S NOTES...**



There is evil...

In the wake of the terrible terrorist attack on young people in Manchester just days ago, national and social media have given voice to those who want to vent their anger and disgust at the perpetrators; the evil that has been done is rightly recognised and justly condemned.

The outrage is made worse not only by the innocence of the victims and the violence they suffered but also by a sense of futility – that because the terrorists have no personal grounds for their hatred, no demands to negotiate and nothing positive or constructive to gain, we are left frustrated and wondering just what can be done?

That lack of justification makes us consider the evil that it represents, and therein perhaps lies the answer to what can be done. There is a passage in the Gospel (Mark 9: 14-29) that tells of the disciples' encounter with

evil. Although they had been having good success in other matters of healing and restoring people, they were not making any headway in this particular case. They began to lose hope and confidence and so turned to Jesus for answers. The Gospel records Jesus saying two important things. He reminds them *All things are possible to him who believes*, and when the disciples asked him *Why could we not drive it out?* Jesus then says, *This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer*. There is no doubt that the disciples had come across an evil that was irrational, inexplicable and destructive towards someone who was completely innocent; they were having difficulties comprehending this and therefore had problems dealing with it. The solution for Jesus was faith and prayer.

Much necessary effort is being taken by Governments to defend us from terrorists; Intelligence services are constantly trying to identify and apprehend them and we have become used to seeing security patrols of police and the army in the streets in order to deter attacks and protect and reassure the public. But will this be sufficient to tackle the underlying evil that preys on weak individuals whose beliefs becomes twisted and their humanity disintegrated?

Faith and prayer are needed as well as security measures and this is something we can all do to contribute to the solution. Faith and prayer will keep us in hope and confidence so we can endure. Faith and prayer will also make sure the evil cannot spread – and that is the biggest threat of all, that we ourselves might perpetuate hatred, revenge and violence through the fear and blanket condemnation of other races or religions.

**Fr Tony**

## **'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...**



Life has still been going at full pelt for us over the past months, and continues to do so. We have been in full visitor mode since the end of March, with no respite until mid October! I'm certainly not complaining as I love the people who have visited and those who are planning their next visit. However, I want to take a brief moment out to reflect on our life here. We will celebrate our second anniversary at St Michael's next Sunday. I feel as though we've lived here much longer than two years, but at the same time it seems like yesterday that we arrived! We've made some really lovely friends; people have been very kind to us, supporting our efforts; the life of the church is continuing to grow.

Despite being here for two years, there is something however, that I continue to struggle with and that's my French. I am rather frustrated by my lack of flair for the language! I haven't let that stop me from getting out and doing things though. I spend my Fridays in Nice at the Little Sisters of the Poor, where I sew, repairing clothes mainly, and I manage to get by with my (very) limited vocabulary and my trusty dictionary! But I had to smile to myself when one of the nuns, refusing to accept my lack of aptitude for the language, commented to someone that I've been "lazy" with my French! I was immediately transported back to school and reminded of my Latin teacher!!!

The thing is, we are all different. We all have different strengths and weaknesses and aptitudes. We all have different interests, skills, passions. We all have different points of view and opinions. We are indeed, all different. But with the current state of the world and in light of the recent atrocities in Manchester, Egypt and countless other places around the globe, it's more important than ever to respect each other's differences, to be tolerant of those around us, to be kind and generous to those less fortunate and to thank God every day for all we have in our lives. Let's not forget though that, as the late Jo Cox so eloquently put it "We are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us". One of the most fundamental things each of us at St Michael's has in common, is our Christian faith. Let's be sure to live by that faith every day, so we can rest assured at the end of each day that we have not negatively impacted those we've encountered.

And it is on that note that I thank all the kind people we have had the good fortune to encounter over the past two years, who have gone out of their way to include us, to support us and to be kind to us. Be assured that we will continue to work hard for St Michael's, always striving to do our very best.

Have a good summer - wherever you are!

**Fiona**

## **WHO'S WHO?**

Apologies from the Editor, last month I said we were delighted to welcome 3 new CCC members, in fact it's 4! Joining Brian Johnstone as Treasurer; David Knight, as Church warden; Hugh Mellor will be joining Sarah Blundred as a Lay member. Each of them has agreed to write a personal profile of their lives and experience at St Michael's.

In this edition we are delighted to welcome Brian Johnstone to the St Michael's CCC as Treasurer. Thank you Brian for sharing part of your story with us this month:

## Brian Johnstone

My wife, Helen and I have been regular visitors to the area since 2007. When we visited Beaulieu-sur-Mer in 2015, it was only our second visit, and we loved it here. We bought our apartment in town later that year and soon discovered that warm welcome at "The hidden gem" of St. Michael's Church, which helped decide our choice of home in France.

I have spent most of my time living in Bramhall, south of Manchester. After studying at Sheffield University and training to be a chartered accountant in Liverpool, Helen and I now operate our modest accountancy and tax business close to our UK home; servicing a range of businesses and professionals. At present, 9-10 months of the year are spent working in UK, with aspirations to reduce this; remotely working here in the sunshine for the rest of the time. Between us we have two sons (one in Hong Kong) and three daughters, plus a lovely granddaughter, Esther born in February 2017 (see photograph). During training, my work included being auditor of a Church of England Diocese, and since then there have been many years involvement as church treasurer. Hopefully that experience will be of benefit since my recent appointment to the CCC as treasurer. I am a trustee of Rowley Projects (<http://www.rowleyprojects.com>), started by our good friends, a charity providing educational and health support in Nyandiywa, a poor district in Western Kenya. Our projects have brought hope and saved lives.

If you ever see somebody crouched over and carefully studying the wonderful succulent garden at the front of church, it is probably me; in my spare time I enjoy growing a variety of cacti and succulents back in UK. There is now a full window box in Beaulieu-sur-Mer too.



**Brian**

We wish you every success in this key role (and as a grandfather!)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Please stay for a **fundraising Lunch** in St Michael's Church garden on **4th June** after Sunday Eucharist.

25 euros per person. Champagne, starter, main course, dessert, coffee, wine and soft drinks all included.

Please let Nicola know by email, [ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr) or sign the list at the back of the church so that we know numbers to cater for.

### Want to get in touch?

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