



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, May 2018

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	6th May	10h00	Eucharist – Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation
		11.45	Danish Lutheran Service followed by Organ Recital
Sunday	13th May	10h00	Eucharist – The Ascension
Sunday	20th May	10h00	Eucharist – Pentecost followed by Parish Lunch
Sunday	27th May	10h00	Eucharist – The Holy Trinity
Thursday	31st May	10h00	Eucharist – Corpus Christi
Sunday	3rd Jun	10h00	Eucharist – The Visitation
		11h45	Danish Lutheran Service
Sunday	10th Jun	10h00	Eucharist – 2 nd After Trinity
Sunday	17th Jun	10h00	Eucharist – 3 rd After Trinity
Sunday	24th Jun	10h00	Eucharist – Birth of John the Baptist

Also every Friday 19h00 – Assembly of God Pentecostal Service (in French)

FATHER'S NOTES...



There are different reasons why people like particular churches. For some it is because certain significant moments were spent there – at their wedding or the baptism of their child or a funeral of someone they loved – and such connections can go back several generations. For others it may be that they appreciate the architecture or enjoy the liturgy or find a place of tranquility. Still others may be drawn to a church because of fellowship or support. All are valid reasons and touch on the question of why we have churches.

Churches could be said to have their origin in the synagogues and the Temple in Jerusalem. They were buildings designed and constructed for a specific purpose – the gathering of large numbers of people to hear the word of God and to offer praise and sacrifice to God. Of course, Church really means the gathering or community of the faithful and not any particular building, but as such those communities outgrew the *upper room* and required more space and facilities for their devotion to the breaking of bread, prayers and fellowship (*Acts 2: 42-46*).

During the early persecutions their gatherings had to be kept small and secret, certainly in private homes or perhaps the catacombs, but once Christianity had been legally accepted the Church could be more public. The largest buildings at the time were the court houses and government buildings known as Basilicas, and so that style and name was used for the new churches.

Whether you now find small churches like St Michael's or great Cathedrals, they all have the same purpose which is to provide a sacred space for people to come

together for that original hearing of the word of God and our offering of praise to God - the *Ministry of Word and Sacrament*.

It is, therefore, in this context that St Michael's is delighted to welcome more Christians to share our building. Anglican churches have a great ecumenical and welcoming tradition and for several years St Michael's has been hosting the Danish Lutheran community for their worship. Now we have another local community, the Assembly of God, who will also be using St Michael's for their ministry of word and praise. The Assemblies of God are world-wide evangelical Pentecostal churches that have a recognised partnership with the Church of England. They have several churches in Nice and have already been sharing with St Paul's Anglican Church in Monaco.

By welcoming a new congregation to St Michael's we are helping the church to fulfil its purpose - to provide that special place for Christians to gather for public worship - the first and foremost purpose of churches from the beginning.

Fr Anthony Ingham

CCC SCENE

St Michaels CCC	After AGM 2018	
Chair	Rev Anthony Ingham	Chair
Warden	David Knight	
Warden	Vacant	
Synod rep	Justin Hayward	
Synod rep	Vacant	
Lay member	Hugh Mellor	Webmaster
Lay member	Jeremy Nordberg	Lay Vice Chair
Lay member	Jo Norman	Editor Messenger
Lay member	Ian Lawrie	
Lay member	Andrew McChesney	
Lay member	Monica Cashman	Safeguarding Officer
Lay member	Brian Johnstone	Treasurer
Lay member	Sophie Thorne	Electoral Roll Officer
Lay member	Vacant	

'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



In common with churches the world over, and as has been the tradition at St Michael's for many a long year, we serve refreshments after the service. This is a time when the formal worship is over and the good folk in the congregation have an opportunity to catch up on each other's news, to support one another and to offer a smile and friendly conversation to visitors and newcomers. One of the things I hear regularly from those who visit intermittently, is that there is always the same warm welcome at St Michael's no matter how long they've been away. Refreshments after the service is an important part of our tradition.

Since Tony & I arrived, we have always encouraged folk to sign up to the rota in advance if they know they're going to be available to help. This has worked well and its lovely to see the variety of faces behind the counter from Sunday to Sunday. And even on the odd occasion when no one is on the rota and I've set coffee up ready, there's always people willing to serve.

There are a number of things you can volunteer to do as part of your service to the church and everyone who volunteers their time, whatever they do, is equally important to us. But hosting the refreshments isn't just about pouring a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, it's about fellowship and offering the hand of friendship. None of us knows what worries or troubles we each have to deal with during the week. But we can place these firmly into God's hands; during our Sunday Eucharist we are uplifted in prayer and song, and afterwards we cherish one another over a glass of wine or a coffee.

It's really very simple to host refreshments and not an onerous task at all, you just need a willing heart, a friendly smile and a generosity of spirit. (There's a poster with some helpful pointers at the end of The Messenger). I know for a fact that there are people whose weeks have been changed simply by their encounter near the counter! If you would like to volunteer to host but you've never done it before, please step forward... it can be very rewarding! If you know of anyone in our congregation who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary or special occasion, encourage them to share their celebration perhaps by bringing some special refreshments along. That regular act of fellowship after the service is an important part of a very long church tradition, practised the world over.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributes in any way to making this part of our church work.

Fiona

Upcoming Events



Pentecost Fellowship Lunch - Sunday 20th May
after the Eucharist

Suggested donation 25 euros. All are welcome
regardless of donation.

Sign up list at the back of the church or by email to
Nicola (ekarlsen@wanadoo.fr)

Want to get in touch?

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Our website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

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Thank you to everyone who volunteers to host refreshments and to all the folk who will volunteer to host in the future.

Just a few pointers to make it easy for you...

- You should find everything you need in the cupboards and fridge:
 - Tea bags
 - Coffee - fresh to use in the cafetière , or if you prefer there is instant
 - Biscuits
 - Milk & sugar
 - Wine
 - Fruit juice
- Cups are in the cupboard, kettles in the bottom draw.
- We don't charge for refreshments; the church council has agreed on a suggested donation - we simply put out the sign and a collection bowl and people give as they wish. Everyone is welcome to join us.
- We try to serve it in the garden through the summer, but it's up to you where you host.
- There is no set format, no right way and no wrong way of serving refreshments. Everyone has their own way of doing things, and that's great - it adds interest and variety! So please feel free to do things exactly as you wish.

If you need any help, if you can't find something or are just unsure, please do ask! If you are short of anything, shout! If you have any concerns or suggestions on how to make things better, then please do talk to me about them.

**Renewed thanks for your kind support
Fiona**