



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, July 2018

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	1st Jul	10h00	Eucharist – Saint Peter & Saint Paul
Sunday	8th Jul	10h00	Eucharist – Trinity 6
Tuesday	10th Jul	10h00	CCC Meeting
Sunday	15th Jul	10h00	Eucharist – Trinity 7
Sunday	22nd Jul	10h00	Eucharist – St Mary Magdalene
Sunday	29th Jul	10h00	Eucharist – Mary, Martha & Lazarus
Sunday	5th Aug	10h00	Transfiguration
Sunday	12th Aug	10h00	Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday	19th Aug	10h00	Eucharist – 12 After Trinity
Sunday	26th Aug	10h00	Eucharist – 13 After Trinity

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

FATHER'S NOTES...



In the sunshine of summer, people can generally feel good. Anyone who visits Beaulieu, Eze or Villefranche knows the uplifting experience of clear sky, azure sea and the warm colours of the towns. This past month we have also seen flowers bloom and trees blossom. Sunshine also creates shadows but none darker or colder than what a personal tragedy brings. At St Michael's we have been remembering in our prayers people – of varying ages - who have connections with the church and are now facing illness and even the closeness of death. No matter how strong our faith, we cannot help but feel saddened and apprehensive - the sun, sea and sky are still there but they no longer bring the same joy.

This effect, painful as it is, is very important because it reminds us of where we do find lasting joy and true peace of mind. The story of Lazarus (Gospel of St John Chapter 11) has an unusual element in that Jesus deliberately allowed the situation to turn to tragedy – he waited several days until his friend had died before going to see him! The consequence was heart-breaking and the Gospel records the weeping of his sisters, friends and even Jesus.

Jesus allowed his friend to die and he shared everyone's grief so that he could demonstrate that joy and peace came through him and from no-one or nowhere else – *I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,*

and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die (John 11: 25,26). It was Jesus who then brought Lazarus back to life, substantiating his message that the fulfilment and continuation of our life and our happiness depend on him.

This is why our weekly services at St Michael's are so significant. We deliberately enter the shade of the church, away from the sun, sea and sky, in order to concentrate on God, to hear the teachings of Christ, to experience his presence and to receive the grace of his Holy Spirit. With our faith in Jesus strengthened we discover the mystery of hope and comfort even in tragedy.

Fr Anthony Ingham

Happy Anniversary

Thanks to a committed group of members of St Michael's Church, the original *Messenger* newsletter was launched 20 years ago. Sophie Poulain-Thorne, has been a member of this church for 42 years and was originally part of that group. She has kindly written about what times were like at this period and given us a bird's eye view of the people and activities dedicated to the growth of the fellowship of this Church. Thank you Sophie.

NOW WE ARE TWENTY!



Birthdays come and go and this summer celebrates the twentieth anniversary of our *Messenger*. And I, personally, wonder where the years have gone. In our first edition, under the new chaplaincy of Canon Geoffrey Grant - with the help of his wife Janet - we created a hive of activities to develop awareness of our church and raise much needed funds.

In order to put St Michael's firmly on the Beaulieu map we held a good number of events: a jumble sale raised 7 800Frs whilst a Christmas bazaar brought in 7 300Frs; a (standing room only) Carol Service had attracted 480 persons; an Art Exhibition raised 10 000Frs and a superb painting of the Archangel Gabriel was donated to us. Treasurer, Deanne Fox reported a generous legacy of 100 000Frs which became the starting point of the Fabric Fund.

Our Council had several sub committees including a Finance Committee, originally headed by Bob Lloyd, then Rex Thorne and a Publicity & Social Committee, under yours truly - each comprised dedicated members who seemed then indefatigable. The Building and Fabric Committee, under John Sullivan seemed to have a daunting task!

At that time John Simpson (artist and singer - as well as co-founder of The Drama Group of Monaco) was our organist and Derek Goldsmith our Churchwarden. We sometimes received poems and occasionally printed a biography. Some of our members lead or have led interesting lives. As well as Britain, we embraced members from Germany, Holland, France, Austria and Australia.

Due to the nature of our mobile congregation - as indeed it remains today - we were saying goodbye to Meg & Bob Lloyd, Betty d'Andrimont, Jenny & Hamish Muirhead, Lana Vollenhofer, Mr & Mrs Bud Hatch who had all owned homes in the area but were returning to their roots for various reasons. Needless to say, some of them have now died but are fondly remembered.

It was the year when Princess Diana died, the rate of exchange had plummeted to 9Frs to the £, St Michael's acquired a kitchen preparation area, not quite today's kitchen. It was the summer when we held pre-service breakfasts of coffee and croissants. Our now invaluable storage shed was erected and Terry Waite was planning a visit to us.

At the time, our Messenger carried advertising to enable us to post our news to our members far and wide at no cost to the church. Our first edition generated a good number of *Letters to the Editor*, (please feel free to send some now! - Ed) including one from the Bishop of Madagascar! Sadly, I cannot remember how that came about. Our 2nd edition reported a congregation of 29 (from 6 or 7 forty years ago). Twenty years later, we are in a better place and I am delighted the Newsletter continues to reach our members, wherever they might be, through the Internet.

Sophie Poulain-Thorne

MESSENGER MAILING LIST



You have received this issue of the Messenger because you have recently replied to our requests to re-confirm your consent to store your address on our mailing list. A big thank you to all for your continued support – it is much appreciated.

If you know anyone who would like to get the Messenger but has not yet given or renewed this consent please let them know that they can easily do this anytime on our website News page:

<http://www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org/news/>

We hold such a tiny amount of data that you may wonder if these GDPR regulations really apply to us – but it seems they do. Those who are on the CCC or the Electoral Roll can expect other consents to be confirmed in due course.

**Hugh Mellor
Webmaster**



Want to get in touch?

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