



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, September, 2018

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday	2nd Sep	10h00	Eucharist – Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday	9th Sep	10h00	Eucharist – 15 After Trinity
Sunday	16th Sep	10h00	Eucharist – Holy Cross & Renewal of Wedding Vows
Sunday	23rd Sep	10h00	Eucharist – 17 After Trinity
Saturday	29 th Sep		<u>Open Day - 1662 Book of Common Prayer</u>
		10h00	Morning Prayer
		12h00	Holy Communion
		16h00	Evening Prayer
Sunday	30th Sep	10h00	Eucharist – St Michael and All Angels followed by Parish Lunch
Sunday	7th Oct	10h00	Eucharist 19 After Trinity
Sunday	14th Oct	10h00	Eucharist St Luke
Sunday	21st Oct	10h00	Eucharist 21 After Trinity
Sunday	28th Oct	10h00	Eucharist SS Simon & Jude and Bible Sunday

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

FATHER'S NOTES...



There is much to be said for the maxim 'If you don't want to be disappointed then don't have high expectations!' It is understandable that people do have high expectations of the Church, after all the Church is the Body of Christ on earth and a holy institution. This premise is based upon the words of Jesus, Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst... (Matthew 18: 20). What makes the Church holy, however, is not the people themselves but Christ who is among them and who guides them with his word and example in the Gospels and fortifies them with the Holy Spirit through the grace of the sacraments.

In the history of the Church some people have not gathered in the name of Christ or behaved in the spirit of the Gospel. The persecutions and killing of women as witches, fellow Christians as heretics, and Jews as enemies of Christ were conducted by those who could never have been acting in the name of Christ or representing his Church. In our recent history terrorists, criminals and murderers have been identified with denominations or faiths but with no thought or understanding that, by their attitudes and actions, they clearly could never have been representing Christianity or other religions.

Today, the news is about the shameful scandals of abuse and betrayals that have been perpetrated by certain priests and religious figures, and as a consequence many people are criticising and blaming the Church for being hypocritical, corrupt and immoral. Did those individuals who were guilty of abuse or a subsequent cover-up gather in the name of Christ? Was their conduct in accord with the teaching of the Gospel? Were they being guided by the Holy Spirit? The answer is No and therefore they did not represent the Church, and their actions should not reflect upon the many, many more Christians who have never, and would never, behave like that.

It is misguided to place the shame of wrong-doers upon the Church which is only truly represented by those who are faithful to the Gospel and the high expectations of Christ, by those who work hard to resist temptation, by those who have empathy for the victims of abuse and seek justice and support for them; it is somehow wrong to include those people, the true Church, in any corporate guilt or general act of atonement.

Members of the Church know that they are not perfect and recall the words of Jesus, I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance... (Luke 5: 32). Our trust and confidence in some bishops, priests and laypeople has been shattered, but our faith should only ever be based upon Christ - just as the Apostles kept their faith and continued their religious practice despite the actions of Judas Iscariot.

Those who come to St Michael's do so in order to be reminded of the standards expected of a follower of Christ and of a representative of his Church; here we are taught with Christ's word, fortified with his Presence and given the encouragement to remain faithful and to do only what is right in his sight.

Fr Anthony Ingham

'THE VIEW FROM THE PRESBYTERE...



Throughout our lives we reach milestones and from time to time we celebrate those milestones - special birthdays, wedding anniversaries, our jobs, our children, our achievements. Celebrating a milestone isn't just about the final achievement, but the journey we made towards it. None of us are islands and whilst we can certainly give ourselves a pat on the back for own efforts in reaching those special moments in life, it's important to reflect on how we got there; the people who supported us along the way, who cheered us on when times were tough encouraging us to keep going, pointing us in the right direction if we were taking a wrong path, and those people who were just quietly by our sides giving a steadying hand when needed.

Life is a journey made up of many moments and many milestones, from the mundane to the extraordinary and everything in between. As we celebrate the feast of St Michael on September 30th, we are also celebrating 125 years since the nave was completed. We should take a moment to remember all those who have contributed to reaching this incredible milestone in our church's history, from those who built it and have looked after it to those who have quietly worshipped at St Michael's over the decades, as after all, a church without a worshipping congregation is just a building.

We are also celebrating another milestone on St Michael's feast day, as this year sees the 40th anniversary since Father Tony was ordained. Those who know him well will know he doesn't like to be made a fuss of, but nevertheless this is quite a milestone and so I'm sure we'll be forgiven for making a tiny fuss! It's been quite a journey that has taken us to lots of different places, meeting lots of incredible people along the way. We've had and some wonderful experiences over the years that have counter balanced the tough times. Tony has ministered to everyone he's met during his 40 years with exactly the same respect, humility and gentleness that he brings to St Michael's. However, I know he never rests on his laurels and as Nelson Mandela once said, "Remember to celebrate milestones ... as you prepare for the road ahead". I for one thank God every day for Tony's priesthood...

Fiona

Celebrating the Feast of St Michael



We will be celebrating our Patronal Feast on Sunday September 30th. During the service Fr Tony will be rededicating the church and in particular giving thanks to our forefathers who built the church 125 years ago. Following the service there will be a parish lunch in the garden.

We will also be celebrating Fr Tony's 40 years of service to the Church, service which has led him to St Michael's.

If you know you are going to be at the lunch please drop an email to either myself or Nicola or if you are in church over the coming weeks just sign up on the list so we can cater correctly.

These lunches are an important part of our fellowship at St Michael's and a great opportunity to get to know one another even better. We hope to see as many of you as possible, and if you can't make it, then of course we will remember you in our prayers on that day.



Fiona

AUCTION OF PROMISES

You may have read about our search for promises to auction in the previous Messenger. The hunt continues and we have set a new deadline has been of mid October, read on...

The funding of our glorious church is an effort of constant energy and ideas, as we must be totally self-sufficient. And so, the Christmas Auction of Promises has become a biennial event for us. It is a chance for the whole church community, wherever you are based, to do your bit to support St Michael's.



We all have gifts, skills or access to services that others would be grateful for, but if like me you are rather shy about your 'talents', it may not be easy to offer them to others. But this is our chance to be bold and to offer what we have - it could be that you are a secret chef and could offer to cook a special dinner in someone else's home, or perhaps you're a dab hand at DIY, or you are a budding singer, pianist, magician, who could provide the entertainment at a dinner party!

I'm sure that there are folk in our church community worldwide that have some wonderful ideas to raise funds to keep this small but vibrant church on the Riviera going. Please don't be shy! If you have something you can offer, I'm sure there is someone who will purchase it.



Please let Jeremy have a very brief description of the promise and the suggested donation value. He can be contacted:

- by email: nordbergjs@aol.com
- by text: 0044 (0)7979 241759
- by mail: Twelfth House, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8NJ, UK

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Want to get in touch?

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