



Saint Michael's Messenger, Newsletter, December 2018

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

Dates for Your Diary:

Sunday	2 nd December	10h00	Eucharist	Advent Sunday
		11h45		Danish Lutheran service
Sunday	9 th December	10h00	Eucharist	2 nd in Advent
Monday	10 th December	10h00	<i>Church Cleaning</i>	
Sunday	16 th December	10h00	Eucharist	3 rd in Advent
Friday	21 st December	18h30	Ecumenical Advent Carol Service	
Sunday	23 rd December	10h00	Eucharist	4th in Advent
Monday	24 th December	11h00	Danish Lutheran Christmas Service	
		18h30	Eucharist	Christmas Eve
Tuesday	25 th December	10h00	Eucharist	Christmas Day
Friday	28 th December	10h00	Eucharist	Holy Innocents
Sunday	6 th January	10h00	Eucharist	Epiphany
Sunday	13 th January	10h00	Eucharist	Baptism of Christ
Sunday	20 th January	10h00	Eucharist	2 nd in Epiphany
Tuesday	22 nd January	18h30	Christian Unity Service at Saint-Jean, Cap Ferrat	
Sunday	27 th January	10h00	Eucharist	3 rd in Epiphany

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

Father's Notes...



On 24th December there will be some individuals and small groups of people walking purposefully through the streets of Beaulieu. They won't be going to a party or to a restaurant, nor to visit family or friends. It will already be dark and perhaps a little chilly – maybe even raining – but they will leave the glittering street lights behind them and walk up to the edge of town where a single light shines from the top of St Michael's church tower.

A couple of thousand years ago and in a different place, other individuals and small groups of people walked purposefully through the small town of Bethlehem heading for a stable. Shepherds had left their flocks and Magi their palaces in order to enter the place where a baby had been born. They couldn't have gone for their own benefit – after all, what could a baby offer them? They had gone there to honour the child and to praise God – *and they knelt down and paid him homage* (Matthew 2:11); *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God* (Luke 2: 20).

Those first people to visit Jesus were indeed special because they were guided by faith and not by any self-interest. The baby could not expound the Holy Scriptures for them, could not enlighten them with inspired teaching, nor give them any hope through forgiveness and

healing. Instead, people could only marvel at what they saw and believed – the presence of the Messiah who, as a baby was as vulnerable to the world as we are, yet revealed a nature of love, trust, innocence and purity that would lead many to a new and eternal life.

The people who come to St Michael's on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day are also special because faith brings us to this place only so that we may honour Christ and give praise to God. Here we can be in His presence just as surely as the shepherds and the Magi were, for *they shall call his name Emmanuel, which translated means God with us* (Matthew 1:23).

Fr Anthony Ingham

The View from the Presbytère ...



I read the news online umpteen times a day, and a day doesn't go by without the full gambit of news items: bad news, good news, sad news, tragic news, worrying news... and everything in between! I've just read today that a 31 year old PhD student has been jailed for life in the UAE as an alleged spy, that a 96 year old man has been beaten to a pulp by intruders, that people who have fallen victims to the California wildfires have lost absolutely everything and as every day, there are so many innocent victims of war and conflict... It seems that everyday there is someone reported on, whose life has been destroyed by the actions of someone else or by natural disasters. Such terrible news stories can inevitably lead you to believe we live in a terrible world.

As awful as these stories are, and they truly are, we mustn't lose focus of the good things that happen in the world; the many small or random acts of kindness that have the potential to completely change a person's life.

As we are moving towards the end of the year I like to reflect on how my actions have impacted others, and vice versa. With Christmas just around the corner, and as we send out our Christmas wishes, I'm reminded of those wonderful words from the gospel that adorn many a Christmas card, 'PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL MEN!' These words firmly remind me that we really shouldn't pick and choose who we apply that message to. We all have our own personal trials and tribulations, but a good way of gaining some perspective on how good or how difficult our lives are, is to look at the folk in the headlines making the big news stories. Now is the time to set aside any differences we may be harbouring and to fully embrace the gospel message 'peace on earth and goodwill to all men'.

On that note, may I wish everyone who reads this a very Joyous Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Fiona

Church Cleaning



NEXT BIG CLEAN... DECEMBER 10th at 10 o'clock.

Many hands really do make light work! It generally only takes about an hour to do the whole church if enough people come along, so please, if you are here do come along and lend a hand. Thank you.



Christmas Sale of Promises

Mailed out along with this Messenger is the brochure of our Christmas Sale of Promises. We aim to raise much-needed funds for St Michael's and Jeremy has again negotiated some wonderful offers for us:



-  A day trip on a 36-foot sailing boat
-  One week in a luxury flat in Beaulieu
-  A day's cruising for four people on a crewed luxury yacht
-  A meal for two at Rick Stein's restaurant in Barnes, London
-  Opera at Holland Park, London, 2019 Season

Thanks are due to our very generous donors and to Jeremy for organising this. Thanks to them you now have the opportunity to enjoy some great experiences and to benefit Saint Michael's at the same time. Details are in the brochure and note that these Promises will be allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis. Each promise has a suggested donation but, of course, additional donations are always welcome.

If anyone has a further promise that they would like to donate, it's not too late - we can include details in the January Messenger.

All offers and enquiries to sale@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer

Christmas Services

Our Christmas Services are listed above in Dates for your Diary.

Mailed out along with this Messenger is a flyer giving full details of our Ecumenical Carol Service on 21st December. This will be a service conducted jointly with



- ❖ St Michael's Anglican Church
- ❖ The Catholic Parish of Notre Dame de L'Espérance
- ❖ The Danish Lutheran Church and
- ❖ The Assemblée de Dieu

There are links on the News page of the Website to both flyers (Christmas Services and Ecumenical Carol Service).

Croix Rouge Advent Appeal



Thank you to those who have so generously donated Christmas sweets or chocolates, or left money to buy them. We are almost at our target... but there's still time to be part of our church's Christmas charity giving to our neighbours who will be struggling this year. The collection will end on the second Sunday in Advent, 9th December.

Thank you!

In and around Beaulieu...

Readers who are in Beaulieu now will have seen that roadworks have started around the marketplace (Place General de Gaulle). This is the start of a project to renew the rather old services under the roads (drinking water, electricity etc) and to remodel the square itself. This will include widening the pavement in front of the cafes as well as levelling and resurfacing the lower part of the marketplace. The remodelled steps will be wider, shallower and further upwards the bandstand. Meanwhile the daily market continues in the upper part of the square.

This project will be completed by June 2019 and the Service Technique at the Mairie can provide more details on request.

Want to get in touch?

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Our website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org



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