

St John's Church
Menton

English Cemetery Chapel
Bordighera



REPORT TO THE 2017 SYNOD

St John's Church in Menton has been closed since October 2010 when it was damaged by a neighbouring building site and was closed by the Mairie as being unsafe. Since then we have been able to hold a Sunday Eucharist service at the Chapelle St Roch, in the centre of Menton, loaned to us by Notre Dame des Rencontres.

The Mayor has made available to us a room on Saturday mornings in the Résidence du Louvre where we are able to hold our coffee mornings, loan and buy books, purchase homemade produce and sell bric-à-brac, all profit going to St John's church, for while we are unable to use the church we have to meet all the expenses.

The cost (emotional and financial) of being displaced from our place of worship has been considerable. We are now in the final weeks of waiting for permission to demolish a part of the building (the Annex) that has been deemed too damaged and too unsafe to repair, in order that access can be given to the church building which is in desperate need of repair and renovation. The Architect appointed to undertake the work is ready to begin as soon as the paperwork is signed and delivered, and she anticipates that it will take her contractors three to four months to complete the work and have the church in a state where it can be used once again for worship and community gatherings.

We are pleased to report that the three large stained glass windows at the east end of St John's have been completely renovated and replaced while large stained glass windows over the west door have been removed and placed in a wooden chest until the demolition work has been completed, when they will be restored and replaced. This has been necessary as the vibration from demolition work could have caused the glass to move and be damaged. All the windows are to be protected on the outside by new grilles. This work on the windows has been made possible by the generous donation of Mr William Dewhurst and financed from his mother's Trust Fund. Audrey Dewhurst had worshipped in St John's most of her life and was over a hundred when she died. The work has been carried out by Mr J-P Bellion, of Castillon, who has been responsible for the restoration of all other St John's windows.

On the second Wednesday of the month (except August) a Eucharist service is held in the Chapel in the English Cemetery in Bordighera, Italy, and the priest from St John's presides. There is a Remembrance Day Service in the adjoining Military Cemetery in Bordighera which is well attended by representatives of several other orders and local authorities

Since January 2014 Fr David Hart has been our Priest in Charge and the community acknowledges the stability brought about by his long term appointment, in addition to the skills and gifts unique to his vocation. We are grateful to God for the time Fr David has shared ministry with us, and while we are very sad to see him retire, we are supportive of his desire and need to do so in order to devote time to his family, both in South Africa and in England.

SOME DETAILS FOR 2016

Electoral Roll	33
Under 50	0
50-59	1
60-69	13
Over 70	17

Baptisms	1
Marriages	0
Deaths	1

Eucharistic Liturgy Common Worship Order One

Valerie Aucouturier

Valerie Aucouturier
Churchwarden

Carolyn Hanbury

Carolyn Hanbury
Churchwarden

May 2017

The ink sketch at the top of this Report was done by Margaret Turner