

REPORT OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MENTON, FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD AT ST JACUT DE LA MER, 18-21 APRIL 2018

St John's Church, 31 Avenue Carnot, Menton, suffered damage from a nearby building site in October 2010 and the church was closed to the public because of possible danger. Since then we have held a Eucharist at 10h30 on Sunday at the Chapelle St Roch in Menton, by agreement between the Bishop of Nice and the then Archdeacon of France. Work has now begun to repair the damage. We have agreed to sell a small part of the garden to Promoters for them to build forward a wing of their new building. The original building permit was refused by the Architecte des Batiments de France as he found that the building masked the view of St John's to people walking along Avenue Carnot. A second Building Permit with a building further back from the avenue with more garden showing, was approved. Work then began to demolish the damaged part of the church, which contained the foyer, library, meeting room and kitchen. At present two pillars are being reinforced to support the entrance to the church at the west end. When this has been completed, we shall be able to begin the restoration of the interior of the church itself. In exchange for the garden we shall receive property in the new building from which we hope to make a regular income to support St John's. As we all know, a building the size of this church requires considerable upkeep.

Thanks to the generosity of a regular donor the three great stained glass windows behind the high altar have been dismantled, repaired, cleaned and replaced. The great stained glass windows over the west door had to be removed and packed into a wooden chest for safekeeping, as did another stained glass window, as both could have suffered damage from vibration during the demolition. New external grilles are being fitted on all windows of the church. This work is being carried out by Mr J-P Bellion of Castellar, who has been taking care of the windows for a number of years.

Over the last year we have had one baptism and one funeral.

There are presently 30 on the Electoral Roll.

The Mayor of Menton continues to make available to us a room in the Résidence du Louvre on Saturday morning where we are able to hold our coffee mornings and sell bric-à-brac, home produce, and sell or lend books, all towards church funds.

Since Fr David Hart retired to be with his family in April of last year we have been grateful for the Locum Chaplains who have taken good care of us.

We continue to have a Eucharist at the Chapel at the English Cemetery in Bordighera on the second Wednesday of the month, and there is a Remembrance Day Service in the neighbouring Military Cemetery attended by Italian officials and priests of other orders.

Website: <http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com>
Aucouturier, Churchwarden

Valerie