

## St Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer, France - Chaplain's Annual Report 2017

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

St Michael's church was dedicated in 1894 and is considered to be a treasure of Belle Époque style architecture. Initially served by chaplains from Nice and then Monaco, the church was eventually able to support a resident chaplain, albeit non-stipendiary. Today, St Michael's is very much a multi-national and multi-denominational church whose members are for the most part non-residents but attend services when they are visiting this part of the Côte d'Azur.

The main aim of the chaplaincy is to witness to Christ in his Church by providing opportunities for regular worship according to the rites of the Church of England, offering pastoral care and spiritual guidance, and promoting Christian fellowship and charity.

During 2017 we celebrated a total of 87 services of which there were 66 Eucharists, 4 wedding blessings, 1 baptism, 6 memorial services, and 11 other special prayer services. Weekday services included the celebrations of Ascension, Corpus Christi and the Holy Innocents. The total attendance was 2,768 of which 1,778 were communicants. The average Sunday attendance was 40 and the great feasts days of Easter and Christmas had an attendance of 180 and 153 respectively.

Many thanks to all who exercised their lay ministry and volunteered to assist at the services, especially in preparing music, welcoming, providing and serving refreshments and of course for regularly keeping the church neat, clean and fit for worship. There was also excellent and hard work done by members of the congregation to tidy and re-plant the garden in front of the church.

St Michael's continued to be supportive of ecumenical relations, regularly sharing facilities with the Danish Lutheran Church and participating with the Roman Catholic Church in a Christian Unity Service and the annual Advent Carol Service. This past year members also attended a special Creation Day service at St Nicolas, Monaco, joined by representatives of the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Armenian and various Protestant churches and Christian organisations.

During the past year we added Easter, Pentecost and Trinity to our seasonal devotional displays in church and thanks to a donation we were able to purchase a large Advent candle stand which is now the prominent symbol of our Advent liturgy. We also received a Diocesan Faculty to proceed with the project to replace the porch in the church and work should commence early in 2018.

One of the highlights of the year was, of course, our patronal feast of St Michael which was followed by an excellent lunch in the church garden. The Pancake Lunch and Passover Supper were both well attended and thank you to all those who helped prepare, cook, serve and clean up after the events. Thank you to all those who attended and thereby contributed towards the upkeep of our church, chaplaincy and charities.

New faces continued to appear at our Sunday services and we were pleased to welcome back others who had attend in previous years. It seems that our Facebook page, website, Messenger publication and the fliers distributed around Beaulieu and the surrounding towns are having an effect and attracting newcomers to St Michael's.

We were all saddened at the deaths during the year of well-known members of St Michael's including Harry Blundred, Paul Couch, Ursula Schulz, Nerolie de Lavis-Trafford and Ruth Karlsen. Each one is missed and our prayers are offered for them and for the comforting of their family and friends. We also prayed for members who were ill or being treated for serious conditions.

Thank you once again to all who have contributed to Sunday collections and to our fund-raising events. Some people support St Michael's even though they can only attend once or twice a year but their generosity is nevertheless vital in keeping the church running all the time. Thank you to those who support St Michael's through their donations to our UK Diocesan account – a very valuable source that enables us to pay our share of the Diocesan Common Fund. And a special appreciation for those who have provided specific goods or services to St Michael's without any reimbursement and to those who have personally funded improvements to the church such as the new porch.

We have been able to continue our support of local, national and international charities with contributions to the Club Oliviale in Beaulieu, the Red Cross at Villefranche, the Little Sisters of the Poor *Ma Maison* in Nice, *La Fondation Perce Neige* for adults with disabilities, the Bishop's Appeal to support homeless refugees in Rome, and the School of Joy for children with disabilities in Bethlehem. We also had very successful collections of food during Lent and Advent that helped the Red Cross provide food parcels for those in need in Beaulieu.

There are still works to be undertaken at St Michael's and the churchwarden has been compiling a schedule so that we can prioritise them. Funding will eventually be needed to make repairs to the marble in the sanctuary, to parts of the parquet flooring and to plaster and paintwork mainly on the pillars.

Our connections with the community have continued with tours of the church organised by the Tourist Office and veterans and members of the church attending civic events and laying wreaths at the *Monuments des Morts* in Beaulieu.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Chaplaincy Church Council who took an active part in the running of St Michael's; members, in their own way, made a significant contribution of their time and interest to making sure St Michael's continued its mission and remained a viable, safe and valued place of worship in Beaulieu.

My personal thanks to my wife Fiona who has assisted me and the ministry at St Michael's in so many ways and to those who are resident here and who have faithfully attended Sunday and week-day services and whose practical and moral support to both church and chaplain have been very much appreciated.

With reference to Church Representation Rules 9(2A), I confirm that the Chaplaincy Church Council of St Michael's Beaulieu sur Mer has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, with due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Diocese in Europe Safeguarding Policy and Guidance.

Fr Anthony Ingham  
St Michael's, Beaulieu sur Mer  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2018