

REPORT OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MENTON, FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD OF
FRANCE AND MONACO, 16-18 MAY 2019 AT LYON

St John's Church, Menton, which was built in 1863, was damaged by a neighbouring building site in October 2010 when it, and the adjoining garden, were closed to the public by the Mairie because of possible danger. They have remained closed since then but thanks to an agreement signed between the Bishop of Nice and our then Archdeacon (Ven Ken Letts) we have been able to celebrate our Sunday Eucharist service, and certain other feasts, in the Chapel St Roch in Menton.

There is also a Eucharist Service held on the second Wednesday of the month (except in August) in the Chapel of the English Cemetery in Bordighera, Italy, and the priest from Menton officiates.

The Mayor of Menton continues to make available to us a room in the Résidence du Louvre where we are able to hold our Saturday Coffee Mornings when we also sell books, cards, bric-à-brac and home made produce and have an occasional raffle, all proceeds going to St John's Church for while we are unable to use the church we have to meet all expenses.

We agreed with Promoters to exchange part of our garden at the west end to allow them to build forward a wing of their new building. 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 of the size of this church requires considerable upkeep.

The work of restoring, replacing and protecting with new grilles the beautiful stained glass windows, which can be admired in every wall of the church, is almost complete. The small windows on the north side are still in the atelier of Mr J-P Bellion, the expert in Castillon, where they will remain until the repairs and replacing of the kitchen, toilets, library and meeting room, also on the north side, have been completed. The work on the windows has been possible due to the generous donation made by Mr William Dewhurst from his mother's Trust Fund.

During the last year we celebrated Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Animal Welfare Sunday as well as Easter and Christmas. On Remembrance Sunday, 100 years since the end of the 1914-18 War, we held the usual service in the Chapel of St Roch, and on the following day there was an open-air service in the British & Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, in Bordighera, adjoining the English Cemetery. Fr Neville Griffiths, our Locum Chaplain, officiated, assisted by the Chaplain from the Church of the Holy Ghost, Genoa, Ministers from other churches in the Ecumenical Group, the Mayor of Bordighera and Representatives of the local Police Force.

The good news is that, the exterior work on the church having been completed, work on the interior of the church itself has begun. It is proceeding very fast and our young Italian architect, Ms Roberta Raimondo, and the builders, Toso Edilizia, have said that they expect the work to be completed in the summer. We are hoping that we shall return to St John's towards the end of October.

There are 29 on the Electoral Roll.

Website: <http://www.anglicanchurchmenton.com>

Valerie Aucouturier, Churchwarden