



St Michael's Messenger Supplement

LICENSING AND INSTALLATION OF FR ANDREW GRAHAM WALLIS 3 JULY 2026



The licensing and installation of our new chaplain, Fr Andrew Graham Wallis took place in the church on 3 July. The service was led by the Venerable Dr Peter Hooper, Archdeacon of France, Monaco and Switzerland, joined by Fr Jeremy Aude, chaplain of Holy Trinity Nice, Pere Thierry Dassé, the Roman Catholic priest from Notre Dame de l'Espérance, Beaulieu, all robed in red for the Feast of St Thomas. Also present was the Area Dean of South East France, Fr Andrew Brewerton. Six members of the Conseil Municipal represented the town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer.



The Licensing service, which has elements dating back to 1662, is a very interesting one, since it has a legal purpose as well as a spiritual one, it is full of symbolism. First, the new priest is presented by the Churchwardens to the Archdeacon. He then renews his ordination vows. Then he takes the Oath of Allegiance to King Charles III as Supreme Governor of the Church of England; this is followed by the Oath of Canonical Obedience, meaning that he will abide by the laws of the Church of England. Those documents are then signed by the priest. The Archdeacon then proceeds to license the priest, reading the document from the Bishop aloud and delivering it into the hands of the priest. These steps are very important, as a reminder that only forms of worship approved by Canon Law should be used.



The next part of the service is a beautiful choreography of receiving the signs of Ministry. Starting at the door he is presented a key indicating the doors are open to all; moving over to the font, he receives water to symbolise Baptism. He moves down the nave and receives a candle, signifying prayerful leadership. At the altar he is presented with a Bible in order to be a preacher of the Word of God, then a chalice and paten to symbolise his celebration of Holy Eucharist.



Only then does the Archdeacon lead him to his stall (whence the term installation) and present him to the congregation as their new priest. The Archdeacon then retires while representatives of the community come up to greet the new priest. The service ends with the Blessing and the Dismissal Gospel read from the back of the church as the doors are thrown open wide.



It was a joyful and emotional experience for all present as we proceeded into the garden to share delicious refreshments, St Michael's style, with our new chaplain and guests...



Celebrating the Eucharist, Sunday 5 July

Sunday 5 July was another important day in the history of St Michael's as Fr Andrew celebrated his first Holy Eucharist with us. The church was packed, over sixty persons, some attending for the first time and some members of over thirty years standing.



After an apero in the garden for everyone present, we then served lunch for around forty. Fr Andrew and John were able to start to get to know this part of our congregation. As St Michael's is an unusual 'rotating' congregation of around two hundred persons, visiting at different times of year, it could take almost a year for Fr Andrew to meet us all!



Thank you, Archdeacon Peter Hooper

The Licensing of Fr Andrew was sadly the last time we shall see Peter Hooper in his role as our Archdeacon. His duties involved almost constant travel for six years between over seventy chaplaincies that he oversees. He has licensed dozens of priests in that time. He recently married, and this was a factor in deciding to take up ministry in the UK so that he can spend more time with his wife, who is also a priest.

He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on updating and regularising the legal status of all Church of England chaplaincies in France. He was a great source of support to St Michaels during our interregnum and recruitment process.

We raised a glass to thank him after the service and he promised to come back to visit us with his wife, this time as 'ordinary' members of the congregation.

Cheers Fr Peter! Come back soon!



***AD Peter Hooper (on right) with
Fr Jeremy Aude from Holy Trinity, Nice***



***Churchwardens Egill and Bob,
Fr Philip Robinson and Nicola
contributed the text above.***

***Many thanks to Barry, Egill,
Kimberlee and
Simon for photography.***

***To the organizers and to everyone
who showed up, pitched in
and gave their time and energy
for a very important day at
St Michael's - thank you.***

From Fr Andrew - a brief word of introduction...



Bonjour good people at St Michael's. John and I have arrived as those who attended my licensing service and first Mass at the weekend will know, thank you for your warm welcome. We're looking forward to meeting you all very much. Please be patient with me as I start to put names to faces.

I also look forward to sharing the riches of our faith. I came to faith on Easter Day 1975 when the truth of Christ's resurrection claimed me and set me on the adventure of a lifetime.

I'm originally from Nottingham in the UK and was a 'Reader' at St. Peter's Church in the city centre there for 28 years

where I was nurtured in the sacramental tradition and developed a passion for mission. I have shared my life with John for 31 years and in 2012 we both decided to do something crazy by emigrating to New Zealand. That was a turning point for us in so many ways, and it has been a wonderful time adapting to a new life there where I was able to once again to look at the possibility of ordination.

After entering the discernment process in the CofE in the 1980's, I was eventually ordained deacon in 2020 and priest in 2021 by the Bishop of Auckland... it's a long story! I served as assistant priest at St. Luke's church in Auckland until 2023 when I retired from secular work to take up the role of vicar at Christ Church, Coromandel and that's where I thought I would remain, but it seems that God had other ideas!

Until three years ago I worked as a nurse in the NZ health system and have been very proud to be part of the nursing profession for the past 25 years. Prior to that I worked in health service management in the NHS which I wasn't so good at and so trained for the noble profession of nursing which brought me a greater sense of purpose and fulfilment in life.

John is also retired and worked for some years in newspapers and later as a graphic artist. He has a great gift for organising me, booking flights for our trips away, completing tax returns and all that, but has now taken up bowls and like me enjoys travelling and the great outdoors.

But now I am a priest and after meeting my good friend Christopher Harrison (chaplain in Pau) last year before starting the Camino across northern Spain I was made to think about future opportunities for ministry.



God does work in mysterious ways, and it was shortly after our Camino that I saw that St Michael's needed a priest and began to feel called to put my hat in the ring. Having applied for the role of chaplain at St Michael's I was very surprised indeed to find that the 'vicar pickers' wanted me (us)! And there we have it, we're glad to be among you and look forward to sharing the richness and the fun of life and faith with you all.

With my best wishes and prayers.

Father Andy



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