



St Michael's Messenger

APRIL 2026

A prayer for the Easter Season

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead, the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

– *St. Hippolytus of Rome (170-235 AD)*



Diary Dates April 2026

Thursday 2 April 18h00 – Eucharist – Maundy Thursday

Readings: 1. Exodus 12. 1-4 (5-10) 11-14 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2012%3A%201-14&version=NRSVA>

2. 1 Corinthians 11. 23-26 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2011%3A%2023-26%20&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Friday 3 April 14h00 – Eucharist – Good Friday
Liturgy, Veneration of the Cross with
Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Readings: 1. Isaiah 52: 13-53.12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2052.13-53.12%20&version=NRSVA>

2. The Passion according to John

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Saturday 4 April Holy Saturday (no services)
10am - Church cleanup - please come and lend a hand!

Sunday 5 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Easter Day

Readings: 1. Acts 10: 34-43 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2010%3A%2034-43%20&version=NRSVA>

2. Colossians 3: 1-4 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A%201-4&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 12 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Easter 2

Readings: 1. Acts 2 14a, 22-32 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A%2014-32&version=NRSVA>

2. 1 Peter 1 3-9 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A%203-9&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 19 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Easter 3

Readings: 1. Acts 2 14a, 36-41 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A%2036-41%20&version=NRSVA>

2. 1 Peter 1 17-23 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%201%3A%2017-23&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: AD Peter Hooper

ACM - Annual Chaplaincy Meeting

Following the Service; chaired by Archdeacon Peter Hooper.

All members of the Electoral Roll are invited to attend.

Sunday 26 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Easter 4

Readings: 1. Acts 42-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2042-47&version=NRSVA>

2. 1 Peter 2 19-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%202%3A%2019-25%20&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr Patrick Springford

Thursdays at 12h15 Exercise and Relaxation

Fridays at 19h00 Pentecostal Service in French

Palm Sunday at St Michael's

On Sunday 29 March, the congregation gathered in the church garden for the traditional Palm Sunday procession into the church. Each person carried a palm leaf tied into a cross, recalling the day when the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as he entered the city by laying palm branches on the road. The palm is shaped into a cross deliberately, linking the welcome of Palm Sunday with the suffering of Good Friday. It's a reminder that the same crowd that praised Jesus would soon turn against him. During the Eucharist, led by Fr David Houghton, the congregation read out the Passion of Luke, with different voices narrating the story of Jesus' trial and condemnation, with several figures in the narrative declaring that Jesus has done nothing wrong. The Gospel of Luke emphasizes Jesus' mercy even in suffering: *"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23-34).



Beginning with Palm Sunday, **Holy Week**, the last week of Lent, remembers the final week of Christ's earthly life.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper and Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. It is likely the word "Maundy" derives from *mandatum*, meaning "mandate" or "commandment," in reference to Jesus' words: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"* (John 13:34).

On **Good Friday**, we remember the events leading up to and including the Crucifixion.

On **Holy Saturday** and at **the Easter Vigil**, we remember the time that Christ spent in the grave. At the Easter Vigil, we commemorate the entire history of salvation leading up to the Resurrection, saying "Alleluia!" again for the first time since the beginning of Lent. The Resurrection is celebrated in the early hours of Easter morning. Traditionally, this is the service at which people were baptized and welcomed into the Church.

On **Easter Sunday**, we remember and celebrate the triumphal Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter Sunday is the start of the period of 50 days traditionally known as Eastertide – ending with Pentecost Sunday.

Visit of Pope Leo to Monaco

Pope Leo XIV made a one-day visit to Monaco on Saturday, 28 March, the first Pope to visit the Principality since Pope Paul III in 1538. Prince Albert and Princess Charlene greeted the Pope at the Monaco Helipad, where he boarded the open top Popemobile for a drive through town, with crowds lining the streets to get a view. His Holiness visited the royal palace and led a service at the cathedral, followed by a Mass for thousands at the Stade Louis II. In his homily at the Mass and speaking in French, Leo urged the faithful to reject the enslavement of people in cycles of war and injustice, saying today's wars, "stained with blood, are the fruit of the idolatry of power and money." Peace is not merely a balance of power he said, but "it is the work of purified hearts, of those who see others as brothers and sisters to be protected, not enemies to be defeated."



In remembrance

John Kerry Keane, part-time resident of Beaulieu and, along with his wife Leonora, a dedicated member of the congregation, friend and supporter of St Michael's, passed away at home in Dublin on 13 March after a long illness.

The St Michael's community shares the grief of John's passing with Leonora and family and the blessing of his memory.

May John rest in peace in God's loving care.



John and Leonora



Churchwardens' Report: January-December 2025

In the past year we entered our second year of interregnum, with congregation, wardens and church council all adapting to the 'new normal' of how to run a church without a permanent Chaplain.

The vacancy and search for a new chaplain

Working within the very strict guidelines of the Church of England, the Vacancy Committee, continued, guided by Archdeacon Peter Hooper, advertising our vacancy in the Church Times and Diocesan website, as well as informally through our network of locums. The position was advertised as House for Duty, two days per week with accommodation and healthcare. This naturally only attracts candidates with a retirement pension or other independent income. The first round attempt yielded a short list, interviews and one final candidate. Unfortunately, that person dropped out due to health reasons. The second round was launched, again with a short list of promising candidates. The Vacancy Committee was unanimous, after interviews, in selecting one candidate who was offered the position. The candidate visited Beaulieu and agreed to take the position. The Bishop approved the appointment and now the visa and health insurance process is being tackled. We pray for a successful outcome, having got this far...

Worship at St Michaels

In the meantime, we settled into a new routine of visiting locum priests including repeat visits from Fr David Houghton, Fr Chris Wingfield, Rev. Liz Morris, Fr Grant Holmes and Fr Pat Springford, who have all become familiar faces at St Michael's. We also welcomed Rev Margaret Marquardt and Fr Ed Hanson. After sourcing Diocesan approved locums and coordinating dates, an orientation pack on form of worship and liturgy at St Michaels was sent ahead of every Locum's arrival. At each 'changeover' volunteers picked up and delivered locums to airport, prepared the apartment and washed linens.

Eucharistic ministers assisted at every communion service. We also thank Fr Philip Robinson who helped to administer Communion by Extension on two Sundays thus ensuring our congregation did not miss a single Holy Eucharist in the year. From talking to you all it seems that the variety of locums has been an enriching period in worship at St Michael's, keeping us spiritually stimulated by listening to different viewpoints and scriptural interpretation. In return all locums have expressed how they found our church to be particularly friendly and welcoming.

Our regular worship of weekly Holy Eucharist was attended by an average of 34 persons per Sunday, totalling 1955 worship 'visits'. Please note it is never the same 34! Our wider congregation is an itinerant one of around 200, with new people joining all the time. That represents a wide range of nationalities, from varied religious traditions.

In addition, one baptism, one wedding blessing, one renewal of vows and one funeral were held. During Easter week special services were held. In November we had the traditional Act of Remembrance service with the reading of the Honour Roll. In December the traditions continued with the church fully decorated for Christmas and the Ecumenical Advent Carol service, still reasonably well attended by ourselves, the Catholic and Danish churches despite the wind and rain. The mulled wine and mince pies probably helped... Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services totalled 65 persons.

The Danish Lutheran Church and the Pentecostal church continued to worship here regularly.

We still need more volunteers to be come forward and be trained to carry out liturgical preparation, sacristan duties, serving refreshments after service and operating the music system.

Fellowship and the wider community

Fellowship and other catered hospitality events: Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, Pentecost lunch, St Michael's Patronal Feast lunch and of course the Advent service were all celebrated in a true sense of fellowship. These events require considerable work, but members of the congregation pulled together to help. Even so we have found it necessary to bring in some outside helpers. The cost of these events is covered by donations from participants.

Refreshments continue to be offered after every service, served by volunteers.

The church hosts Gentle Fitness classes for congregation members led by Jacqueline. The commune of Beaulieu held four classical concerts during the year at St Michael's. Cedric Constantino held a St Cecilia's Day concert. Cedric and Alain also arranged a special baroque organ recital for St Michael's.

Members of St Michael's attended the VE Day and Armistice Day commemorations held by the Commune of Beaulieu at the Monument des Morts.

The church was opened for visitors on the Journées Européens de Patrimoine with volunteers giving guided tours.

Maintenance

In the background to these more visible activities, maintenance of the church and gardens goes on continuously.

The gardens are kept in beautiful condition by two devoted members of congregation who sadly had to return to spend time in the UK. In their absence they ensured that a professional gardener kept the garden in good shape assisted by volunteers. Larger tree pruning jobs are done by a gardening contractor.

Other maintenance matters:

- All CCC members were made aware of practical issues such as location of light switches, water mains and fire extinguishers, and the many supporting functions
- new fire extinguishers installed
- new light switches installed for both side arches of church
- roof repairs were carried out by STAB Monaco
- vestry window and shutters repaired and repainted
- parquet floor was specially cleaned to remove damage marks
- damaged electric heaters have been repaired four times. One incident almost resulted in a fire.
- survey done of chaplaincy apartment resulting in some painting work and refurbishment of garage door, plumbing repairs and new light fittings. Chaplaincy car maintenance carried out.
- the heating and cooling system project has progressed. The final technical specifications and drawings have been made. After three years of work our architect is preparing the final submission of forms for planning permission. This has been quite complicated as we are a listed building and every stage in the planning has had to be approved by Architectes Bâtiments de France.
- a sound system with direct contact to hearing aids is being researched
- many other small tasks and interventions too numerous to mention....

It has become increasingly clear that a considerable amount of 'wear and tear' to the church results from use of church for events and in particular concerts. Fees charged for events may need to be raised to reflect this. In addition, all events and maintenance interventions MUST be staffed by at least one member of St Michael's.

Communication

St Michael's Messenger continues to be a vital link which keeps our very widespread congregation in touch with life at St Michael's. The Messenger is also sent to the Archdeaconry of France and to the Diocese in Europe keeping them abreast of what we are doing at St Michael's. Similarly, the website continues to be maintained and updated. We also advertise events through the Office de Tourisme. Incoming emails to the chaplaincy are redirected to wardens who ensure that all communications are answered.

CCC and other administrative matters

- ACCM was held in April chaired by the Archdeacon Peter Hooper.
- CCC meetings were held and minuted.
- Association returns were filed with Prefecture.
- Electoral Roll six-yearly revision was carried out.
- All members of CCC are trained and up to date, coordinated by our safeguarding officer. Safeguarding training is understandably taken more and more seriously by the church.

- Accounts are maintained by the Treasurer, banking of collection is carried out by named volunteers.
- Our two representatives attended Archdeaconry Synod meetings and workshops held on Zoom.
- Administrative demands by the Diocese and the French state have increased in recent years.

In summary:

As we are currently in an interregnum, no changes can be made to the operation of worship in our church.

All of the above activities were only possible due to the considerable commitment of volunteers needed just to maintain the functioning of our beloved church. The number of volunteer hours will not be much reduced by the arrival of a new chaplain, who is only contracted to work two days a week. It may be time to revisit the previous model of having a paid caretaker/handyman to carry out on-site duties.

Of course, funding any paid helper would require an increase our funding base. As you know, we do not receive any funding either from French state or Church of England, every centime comes from us, the congregation. A reminder of this situation during 2025 resulted in an increase in giving, so that, as the Treasurers report shows, we covered our costs and even had a surplus. We ask all members to consider speaking to Wardens or Treasurer about the many tax efficient ways to support the ongoing existence of St Michael's by regular giving and legacies.

On behalf of St Michael's Church, thank you to everyone who contributed to St Michael's, by giving money, time and skills. There are too many to mention by name.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Egill Sten Karlsen and Robert Henry, Churchwardens

Jaqueline's Bien-Être course in the Diocese news

Congratulations to Jacqueline - the Diocese in Europe picked up on the piece in last month's Messenger about her weekly gentle relaxation and exercise course and published an article, here:

<https://www.europe.anglican.org/news/latest-news/calm-serenity-and-gratitude-why-church-perfect-place-exercise-class>

Editor's note: this past week saw the enthronement of Dame Sarah Mullally as 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman spiritual leader of the Church of England since its' founding in 1534 under King Henry VIII and the start of the English Reformation. In the following article contributed by our locum, Fr David Houghton explains the key role of another woman from that time who was instrumental in the Christianisation of England and why Canterbury became one of the "foundation stones" of English Christianity.



If you were relaxing on a Beaulieu beach one day 1530 years ago, you may have espied a craft making its way westward along the Mediterranean flying the flag of Pope Gregory. Yes, in late 596 AD the monk Augustine was on mission by the Pope to England, and one of the staging points was the monastery on Ile Saint-Honorat in the Bay of Cannes.

And there was a key person to assist in this undertaking. Earlier in the 6th century, a Christian Frankish princess called Bertha married the pagan King Æthelberht of Kent in the southeast of England.

When the Pope asked Augustine to re-Christianise the English, the monk headed straight for Bertha as one of the few known Christian believers in that godless land. Bertha's own personal chapel still sits just beyond the ancient walls of Canterbury and remains, as the Parish Church of St Martin, the oldest continuously used church anywhere in the English-speaking world.

Æthelberht converted to [Christianity](#), he provided the church with land in [Canterbury](#), thus helping to establish one of the foundation stones of English Christianity. Augustine established an Abbey which spread from its cradle in Canterbury throughout Britain and had a profound impact on English society. Development of literacy, education and scholarship at the Abbey meant that Canterbury became the most important centre of learning in the country. Kent was rich, with strong trade ties to the [Continent](#), ships sailing inland along the Stour River, over which my home looks today.

Later the Cathedral's importance as a pilgrimage centre was transformed by the murder and canonisation of Archbishop Thomas Becket, whose Shrine attracted pilgrims from all over Europe and Canterbury became the seat of the spiritual leader of the Church of England, in a line which now stretches all the way to Archbishop Sarah Mullally, enthroned last week, 25 March 2026.

- Fr David Houghton

Christ is Risen!



“But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him” (Matthew 28: 5-7).

Happy Easter from the Messenger!

Want to get in touch?

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