



St Michael's Messenger

MARCH 2026

The Collect for the Season of Lent

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent;
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

Amen.



Messenger Diary Dates March-April 2026

Sunday 1 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 2

Readings: 1. Genesis 12 1-4a <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2012%3A%201-4a&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 4 1-5, 13-17 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%204%3A%201-5%2C%2013-17&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Rev Liz Morris

Sunday 8 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 3

Readings: 1. Exodus 17 1-7 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2017%3A%201-7&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 5 1-11 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%205%3A%201-11&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Rev Liz Morris

Sunday 15 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)

Readings: 1. Samuel 16 1-13 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%2016%3A%201-13&version=NRSVA>
2. Ephesians 5 8-14 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%205%3A%208-14&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Rev Liz Morris

Sunday 22 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Lent 5

Readings: 1. Ezekiel 37 1-14 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2037%3A%201-14&version=NRSVA>
2. Romans 8 6-11 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%204%3A%201-5%2C%2013-17&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 29 March 10h00 – Eucharist – Palm Sunday

Readings: 1. *To be arranged*
2. *To be arranged*

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Thursday 2 April Time TBA – Eucharist – Maundy Thursday
Remembrance of the Last Supper

Readings: 1. Exodus 12 1-4, 11-14 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2012%3A%201-4%2C%2011-14&version=NRSVA>
2. I Corinthians 11 23-26 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I%20Corinthians%2011%3A%2023-26&version=NRSVA>

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Friday 3 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Good Friday
Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross and
Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Readings: 1. *To be arranged*
2. *To be arranged*

Celebrant Priest: Fr David Houghton

Sunday 5 April 10h00 – Eucharist – Easter Day

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

Thursdays at 12h15 Exercise and Relaxation

Fridays at 19h00 Pentecostal Service in French

Getting to know your church

St Michael's Church has a wonderfully eclectic congregation – different nationalities, backgrounds and, especially, religious traditions. Here are a few frequently asked questions to help us explore the (sometimes quirky) history and traditions of our church. We hope you find it both educational and entertaining!

Who is the highest authority in the Church of England?

King Charles III. This dates back to the 1530's with Henry VIII taking control of the English church from the Pope in Rome. That is why it is known as the Established Church, as it is linked to the state; other Protestant churches are known as Reformed churches. The executive head is the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed by the King, Currently, this is Dame Sarah Mullally.

What about Martin Luther?

Luther's desire for reform of the Catholic church led to a split from which the Protestant church came into being and new churches were called 'reformed' churches. Henry VIII was happy to adopt the Protestant view (as long as he could be Head of the church) and to use this reformation to strip the Catholic church of much of its wealth and power.

How is St Michael's connected to the Church of England?

One can think of it as a sort of franchise. We are authorised by the Diocese in Europe to operate as a chaplaincy in France. The C of E does not fund us - we pay the C of E an annual 'quota'. In return we benefit from the legal and spiritual structure and oversight of the C of E. We can vote in Synod.

How is St Michael's connected to the French state?

France became a secular state in 1905. After that, Protestant churches were allowed to become Associations *Cultuelles* 1905 (*culte* means religion in French) and also Associations *Culturelles* 1901 (covering the charitable and cultural aspect). Therefore, it is the law of associations that defines our existence and we report to the Prefecture, submit accounts, ACCM minutes etc in rather the same way as the local boules club.

What is the role of the churchwardens?

They are responsible directly to the bishop for ensuring orderly continuity of worship, and maintaining the fabric and contents of the church.

What does a Chaplaincy Church Council do?

Normally chaired by the priest, it manages most of the day to day aspects of the church and, in particular, the finances.

And finally: what was a churchwarden's wand (or "virge", from the Latin word for rod or staff) used for historically?

- a) Ceremonial processions down the aisle
- b) Beating unruly congregation members
- c) Blessing the congregation

Answer on the last page...

- Nicola (Lay Vice Chair)



Churchwardens Egill and Bob with the warden's wands

NEWS ABOUT ST. MICHAEL'S ELECTORAL ROLL

Every year the Electoral Roll is updated, and members are added or removed. If you are not of the Roll and think you would like to apply here are answers to common questions.

Do I need to be on the Roll?

If you wish to attend the Annual Chaplaincy Meeting (this year it's 19th April) and wish to vote, you must be on the Electoral Roll.

When's the deadline?

28th March 2026.

If I only live in Beaulieu for part of the year can I be on the Roll?

Yes, if you are a regular worshipper at St Michael's when you are here.

Will I still get the St Michael's Messenger if I am NOT on the Roll?

Yes of course!

How do I apply?

Either pick up a physical form at church, sign and hand to Electoral Roll officer or Warden
or

Download, print out, sign and scan the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/u3fc9hkj>

and email it to nicolakarlsen@gmail.com

or

Print out, sign and post to:

Electoral Roll Officer

St Michael's Church

11 Chemin des Myrtes

06310 Beaulieu sur Mer

Spring is in the air...

...and sunny days mean more work around the church garden! Many thanks to the **St Michael's volunteer garden team** - Heidi, Luisa, Nancy and Suzanne - for pulling the weeds, sweeping the leaves, watering the plants and raking the gravel. And thanks as always to David and Barbara who tend the garden when they are visiting Beaulieu.



Photos by Suzanne

Concert de musique française

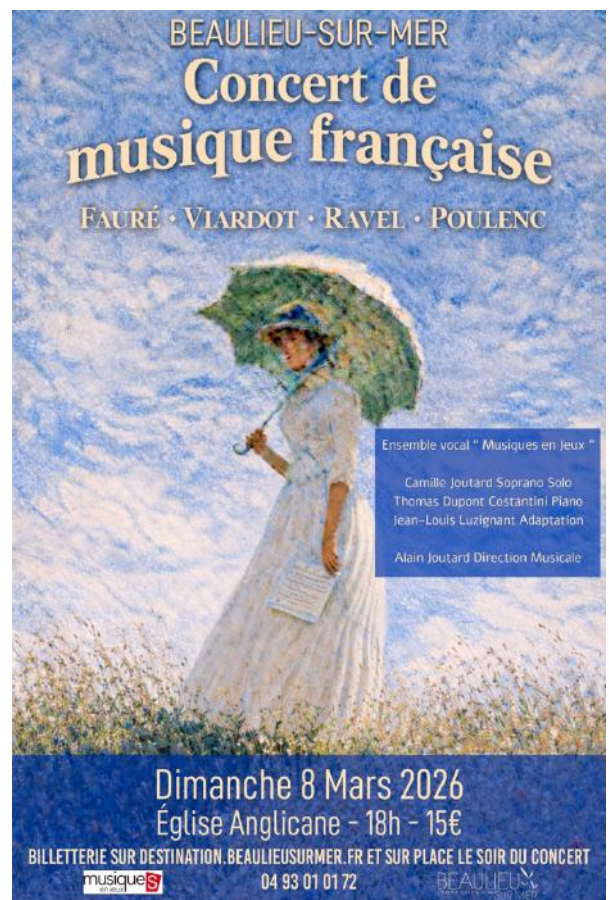
On Sunday 8 March at 18h, a concert of French music sponsored by the Mairie will be given in the church.

The vocal ensemble "*Musiques en jeux*" under the direction of Alain Joutard will perform around twenty French melodies from Fauré, Viardot, Ravel and Poulenc, accompanied on piano by Thomas Dupont-Costantini.

Tickets are €15 and can be purchased online at

<https://destination.beaulieusurmer.fr/billetterie/>

or at the door.



Bien-être in the church every Thursday at 12h15

Everyone can enjoy Jacqueline's gentle exercise class. She adapts the exercises to those attending, with a gentle warm-up, a head-to-toe workout either standing, chair or floor, and finishing with calm relaxation, a moment to find peace, meditation or private prayer, connecting body and heart in our beautiful church.

The fee is €14 per class, with 20% of the total donated to St Michael's. For those with a prescription (*ordonnance*) to do exercise, Jacqueline can provide a receipt (*facture*) which will enable them to partially or fully claim a refund on their 10-class payment, depending on your health insurance (*Mutuelle*).



In her classes, Jacqueline helps raise awareness of the connections between exercise, mental and physical well-being and spirituality.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, NSVRA

The Messenger received some very nice **drone shots of the church** contributed by Danny Parhad. You can see the video on our YouTube page here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFCOIHKnpaU>



Gentle reminder...

Please take a look at the sign-up sheets at the back of the church to volunteer for readings and refreshments...

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered... and those who will do!

- Your churchwardens



And finally...

What was a churchwarden's wand used for historically?

- a) Ceremonial processions down the aisle
- b) Beating unruly congregation members***
- c) Blessing the congregation

Answer: in the early church, wardens used their wands to keep the congregation in order, poked them if they fell asleep in sermons, made sure they sat quietly in their pews and barred or threw them out if they were drunk and rowdy.

"You have been warned..."

- Nicola



Want to get in touch?

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