



St Michael's Messenger

OCTOBER 2026

A prayer for the month of October

Almighty God,

*Our refuge and strength, true source of all godliness:
Graciously hear the devout prayers of your Church, and
grant that those things which we ask faithfully, we may obtain effectually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Amen.



Diary Dates October-November 2026

Sunday 4 October 10h00 – Eucharist – St Francis

Readings: 1. Sirach 3:17-24 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Sirach%203%3A17-24&version=NRSVA>
2. Galatians 6:14-18 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%206%3A14-18&version=NRSVA>

Sunday 11 October 10h00 – Eucharist – Trinity 19

Readings: 1. Isaiah 25 1-9 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2025%3A%201-9&version=NRSVA>
2. Philippians 4 1-9 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%204%3A%201-9&version=NRSVA>

Sunday 18 October 10h00 – Eucharist – St Luke

Readings: 1. Acts 16 6-12a <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2016%3A%206-12a&version=NRSVA>
2. 2 Timothy 4 5-17 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%204%3A%205-17&version=NRSVA>

Sunday 25 October 10h00 – Eucharist – Bible Sunday

Readings: 1. Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 8-12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah%208%3A%201-4a%20&version=NRSVA> ; <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah%208%3A%208-12%20&version=NRSVA>
2. Colossians 3: 12-17 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%203%3A%2012-17&version=NRSVA>

Sunday 1 November 10h00 – Eucharist – All Saints'

Readings: 1. Revelation 7 9-end <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%207%3A%209-17&version=NRSVA>
2. 1 John 3 1-3 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A%201-3&version=NRSVA>

Thursdays at 12h15 Bien-Être Exercise and Relaxation

Fridays at 19h00 Pentecostal Service in French



Chaplain's Message



St Michael's Day, our patronal festival, was a special day, an occasion for us to give thanks for Michael and a day to celebrate ourselves, the people of God here in Beaulieu doing our bit along with those of previous generations making Christ known in this beautiful part of France.

As a community we are nourished by Christ the Word, sustained by his presence in the Eucharist, encouraged by each other and strengthened by the prayers of the saints that we may find life and 'life in all its fulness and abundance' which Jesus offers us. Of course we want this church to stand and minister in Christ's name to the people who live and visit this place for many more years to come. That's our joy, it's our privilege and it's our responsibility as the people of God.

We all have a part to play in this and we contribute to our community life through prayer, sharing in liturgy, caring for our wonderful building, arranging our social events, serving on the chaplaincy council, giving our time, energy and financial resources, managing our website, editing the 'Messenger'... our life together is facilitated in many ways by many willing people without which St Michael's would be the poorer and as your chaplain, a position I am delighted to hold. I thank you for all your valuable contributions that make St Michael's what it is.

Our community is however unusual in some respects by the very fact that there is some significant movement within the community, those of you who come for a while and return to a main home elsewhere and worshipping, sharing that time, energy and your lives in that place which in itself adds a unique and positive quality to our community here.

Aware of how important St Michael's is to so many, Nicola has written a lovely piece (see below). Please do make time to read it. It reminded me how important our financial resources are to the church's life and whilst I am uncomfortable talking about finances we have to be aware of this, we can't do much without money and the chaplaincy council are always looking at ways to maximise our income stream.

I'm aware that people give to St Michael's in a variety of ways and I would urge you to ensure that you claim the tax back on any money given to the church by way of donations. Our treasurer John would be happy to speak to you about this. Here in France 66% of your giving can find its way back into your pocket and then back into the collection plate by this means which is not to be sniffed at. And for those for whom Beaulieu isn't your main base, perhaps if you don't already do so you may wish to continue making your financial offering regularly even when not resident here and worshipping among us.

I know that all this can sound a bit tiresome and please forgive me for raising the matter here but without airing the issue of finances every now and then we cannot assure the future of St. Michael's and continue the work of mission and ministry here in Beaulieu as others have done in past years. The reality is that we are totally self-supporting and receive nothing from the church or state yet do have an obligation to finance the wider church.

Giving is a difficult issue to work with but is an important theme in the Gospel and the life of the church.

So once again we have celebrated Michael the archangel, our patron and the greater company of angels and we have celebrated ourselves, our community and our life together and through the many ways that we give, practically with our time, energy and our finances, we share in his work of guarding the church for others who will come after us to uphold the truth of the gospel and reveal the love of God here in Beaulieu and the wider world.

Happy Michaelmas my friends.

- Father Andy

The Feast of St Michael 2026

The annual Patronal Feast was celebrated with a Eucharist on Sunday, 26 September, followed by a continuation of worship with the Fellowship Lunch in the church garden. Before the lunch began, the congregation present stood for a photo outside the church.



After a blessing from Fr Andy, 43 guests, friends old and new, raised a glass of bubbles and sat down to salad caprese with prosciutto, lemon and olive chicken tajine with couscous, fresh fruit with cream, apple tartine and coffee. The wine, water and good cheer flowed freely on a delightfully sunny afternoon in Beaulieu.



To all the volunteers from our congregation who, over four days, did everything from carrying tables and chairs, setting tables, shopping, cooking, serving, pouring drinks, collecting money and finally, emptying the rubbish and cleaning up...

Thank you!

Recipe Lemon and Olive Chicken Tajine

For 4 persons

1 chicken
2 white onions
2 large garlic cloves
1 bunch of coriander
1 handful of thyme sprigs
100 g butter
3 sticks of cassia bark or cinnamon
1 or 2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 or 2 teaspoons ground ginger
A good pinch of saffron
2 or 3 preserved lemons cut in quarters
A cupful of waxy Lebanese cracked olives (not in jars)



Chef's tip: the best place to get these ingredients locally are the Arabic Halal butchers and groceries behind the Basilique Notre Dame on Boulevard Jean Medecin in Nice

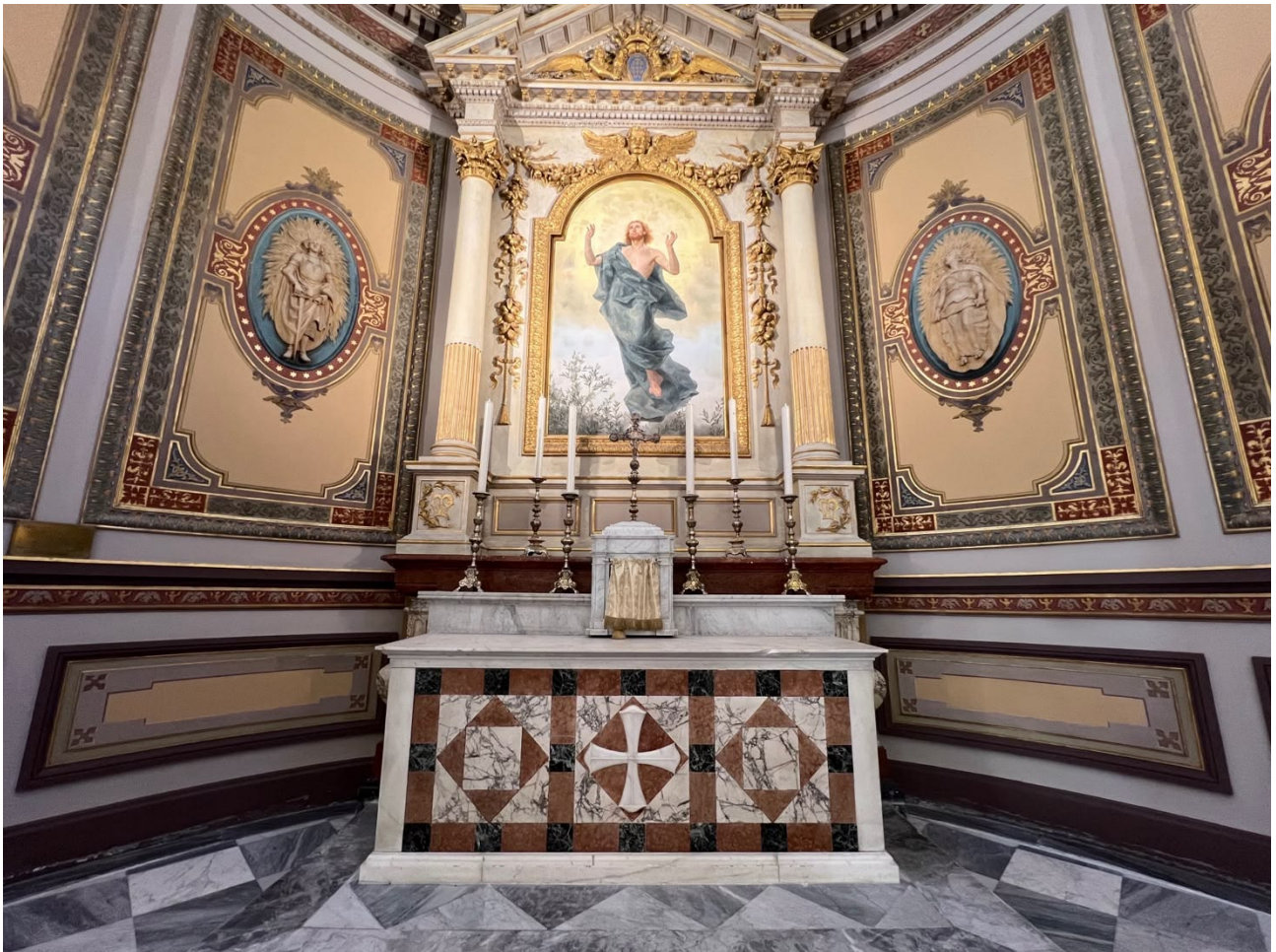
1. Melt butter with thyme sprigs, salt, pepper and very gently simmer for 5 mins. Sieve into a bowl. Let it cool and put in fridge. When it is set, slide it out and remove the white scum from the bottom then let it come back to room temperature
2. Joint the chicken into about 6/8 pieces.
3. Put the remainder of the chicken carcass with onions cut in half, bunch of coriander, salt and pepper cover in water (about 1 litre) and simmer with the lid off until reduced by half. Strain the stock.
4. Put chicken pieces in a shallow metal casserole dish (a bit deeper than a frying pan)
5. Wedge lemon pieces and cassia bark in between the chicken
6. Sprinkle cinnamon, ginger, salt, pepper, saffron
7. Add the stock and the thyme butter, put lid on, and get it just to a gentle simmer. Wedge the lid so steam can escape. Simmer for about one hour
8. Serve with couscous (the boil in the bag type: medium grain is easiest)

(...and OK, you can cheat a little, buying the chicken pieces and make the stock with couple of stock cubes and a bit of coriander, but the correct lemon and olives are non-negotiable!)

- Nicola

Journées Européens du Patrimoine at St Michael's

On the weekend of 19-20 September, St Michael's church, along with thousands of historic and culturally significant buildings across France, opened their doors to the public during the weekend of *Journées Européens du Patrimoine*. While the church is open to all, all year round, this special weekend is an opportunity to learn more about the history of St Michael's and the building, designated as a *Monument historique*. Guided tours in French and English were given free of charge, including historic objects, documents and photographs from St Michael's archive.



A centerpiece of the tour each year is of course the centerpiece of our church itself, the magnificent painting of the Ascension of Christ adorning the altar. The painting was commissioned from the internationally renowned Florentine painter Ernesto Bellandi (1842-1916) and was completed in time for the consecration of the church in 1897.

It miraculously escaped major damage when a bomb fell on the church in World War II. According to Professor Richard Cooper's history of the church* on 5 August 1944, a stray bomb from an unidentified passing aeroplane fell through the ceiling of the sanctuary and did much damage without actually exploding. The church archives include photographs of the gaping hole in the roof, showing the altar in disarray but undamaged. It has since been restored in all its original glory.



Photos: St Michael's Church Archives

Bellandi's skill and vision are clear in his use of olive branches at the base of the painting. It is almost as though it is a window into our church garden with its olive trees and that Jesus is ascending in front of our eyes.

Many of our congregation have commented on how inspirational and uplifting they find this work of art.

As with every artefact in the church, it was paid for by the generous founder members of St Michael's.

* Professor Richard Cooper's history of St Michael's is on our website at:

<https://www.stmichaelsbeaulieu-sur-mer.org/history/>



From the Churchwardens

We are looking for volunteers to run the music system during our Sunday services. It's quite straightforward once you know how to do it. Anyone who wants to pitch in and help out will get the guidance, and also the gratitude of the congregation. Please don't forget to sign up on the sheets at the back of the church for refreshments and readings. As always, we are available to answer your questions. Thank you again for serving St Michael's.

- Egill and Bob

Giving at St Michael's

A parable: give us this day our daily bread... Jack and Jill Taylor had found their dream: a lovely cottage in deepest Provence, in a small village surrounded by lavender fields. They were able to visit twice a year for a few weeks in the holidays. The first day, down to the local baker for fresh baguette and croissants, and then a glass of rosé on the terrasse of the local bar. They always made sure to be there in August for the village patronal feast and party in the village square. Heaven.



Then last year they arrived, went to the baker's and found it closed with a 'For Sale' sign in the window. Dumbfounded, they walked over to the local bar and had a coffee. There was Pierre the baker, having a coffee at the bar.

Jane (who prided herself on speaking a bit of French) went to say hello and asked why he had closed down. Madame Taylor, he replied, it just wasn't making enough money to survive. But Pierre, she said, I have always bought plenty of things from you! Which was true; even pots of local jam to take home as gifts. "Oui, Madame Taylor" he replied, "but you only buy for the few

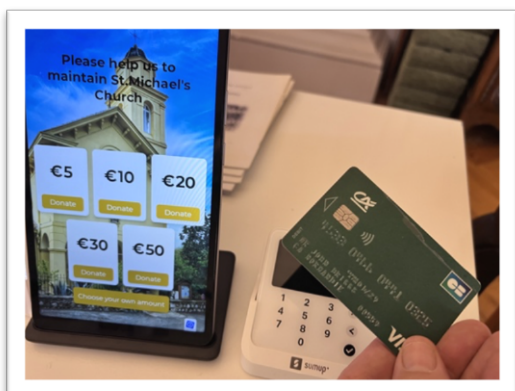
weeks you are here. I still have to pay my bills and live the rest of the year. For that I need steady, regular income."

Madame Taylor pondered these things in her heart as she ordered her glass of rosé...

- Nicola

As Fr Andy noted above in this month's Chaplain's Message, St Michael's is entirely self-sustaining. Our church receives no funding from the Church of England, the Diocese in Europe, the town of Beaulieu-sur-Mer or the Republic of France.

Everything you see at St Michael's and those things less seen, such as keeping our historic church intact and in good repair is entirely due to the work of volunteers and donations from our congregation in Beaulieu and community worldwide. Every donation makes an impact and there are many ways to give to St Michael's.



When you worship at St Michael's, instead of putting cash in the collection plate, you now have the option of **donating by credit or debit card**. A new payment terminal has been set up at the back of the church. The terminal has pre-defined amount buttons, so it is possible simply to select the amount and tap or insert your card. Thanks to our treasurer, John Briggs, for setting this up. If you have any questions, please ask him.

If you have already set up a regular direct debit or have donated in another way and would like to leave a sign you have donated, **giving cards** are available next to the new payment terminal. Simply take one and place it in the collection plate as it comes around during the service.

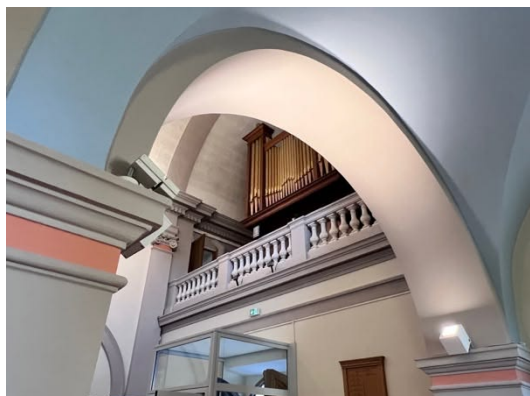


If you are a French tax resident, 66% of your donations to the church can be deducted from your annual tax bill, up to 20% of your total taxable income. Payments need to be either by cheque, bank transfer or if cash in an envelope, clearly identifying the donor. The treasurer then issues a tax receipt for the current year at the beginning of the following year. This can either be passed to an accountant or held as evidence if the person does their own tax return.

Detailed information on the many ways to donate to St Michael's can be found on **our website** at: <https://www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org/giving/>

It is only our congregation and community that keeps St Michael's church thriving.

Thank you for your generosity.





Photos by Eric

Want to get in touch?

Editor Eric: stmichaels-messenger@outlook.com

Webmaster Simon: info@stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Our Website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieusurmer.org

Our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@StMichaelsChurch-Beaulieu>



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Trinity Season 2026