

Diary dates for March and April 2011

9 th March	10.00 Ash Wednesday
16 th March	11.00 Julian Meeting – George Dobinson
17 th March	10.00 Holy Communion - CANCELLED
24 th March	11.00 Start of Lent Bible
31 st March	11.00 Lent Bible Study 2
2 nd April	10.30 Council Meeting
7 th April	11.00 Lent Bible Study 3
14 th April	11.00 Lent Bible Study 4
17 th April	12.00 AGM
20 th April	11.00 Julian Meeting – George Dobinson
21 st April	10.30 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 11.00 Lent Bible Study 5
22 nd April	11.00 Good Friday Service of Meditation
24 th April	11.00 Easter Day

Prayer of the month

Penetrate those murky corners where we hide memories, and tendencies on which we do not care to look, but which we will not disinter and yield freely up to You, that You may purify and transmute them. The persistent buried grudge, the half-acknowledged enmity, which is still smouldering; the bitterness of loss we have not turned into sacrifice, the private comfort we cling to, the secret fear of failure which saps our initiative and is really inverted pride; the pessimism which is an insult to Your joy.

Here Lord, we bring all these things to Thee, and we review them with shame and penitence in Thy steadfast light.

Evelyn Underhill from 'Meditations and Prayers' - 1949

Prayer focus

Honesty this Lent in reviewing who we are and where we are we are.

The Newsletter

St Bartholomew's, Dinard



March, 2011

Services

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion (with hymns)

Thursday 10.00 Holy Communion (said)

A warm welcome to all who worship with us.

During the service there is a Sunday School.

After the service coffee is served.

Priest-in-charge: The Revd Gareth Randall

For further information concerning baptisms, marriages or funerals:

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March, 2011

➤ **Notices**

Dear Friends,

The King James Bible

This year, the Authorised Version of our Bible is celebrating four hundred years since its publication in the Spring of 1611. No other book in English has sold more copies, been read more widely throughout the world or been more influential. We are unlikely to see its like again.

The product of the reign of the first Stuart King of England, the project of a conference to consider the state of the Church of England, translated from the best Hebrew and Greek manuscripts into the contemporary English of Shakespeare, rooted in translations into English from the previous century, not least that by the martyred William Tyndale, the Authorised Version is an embodiment of the ideal that James cherished: the creation of a flourishing, united kingdom at peace in itself where his subjects worshipped in a unified Church.

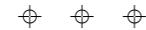
James was a scholar in his own right. He wanted his people to have access to an agreed Word of God in a language they could read for themselves. As King, he was Supreme Governor of the Church of England and as such, he wanted to create an irenicon, a means of peace for those he ruled temporally and spiritually.

What was produced is an enduring monument to his vision and purpose. The fruit of the labour of six teams of Translators from different traditions, their work is a living jewel in the crown of our language and a door to an understanding of our faith as Christians.

Father Gareth



- **Lent Appeal** This year we are supporting an Association in Madagascar working directly with children suffering from malfunction of the bones and waiting for operations.
- **Tournebride Monthly Lunch 5th March** at the Relais de Tournebride - a good opportunity for British and French folk to meet. 14€ includes an aperitif, a four course meal, wine and coffee. **Mike Baber** 02 99 73 56 06/annebabber5050@aol.com
- **Alliance Cordiale Lunch - 15th March** at the Hotel de Bretagne Dol - 12.00. 13.50€ includes a three course meal and coffee. **Ruth Wybrow** 02 99 80 10 58
- **Sunday School** will resume on **27th March**
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the February Newsletter is **midday on Thursday 31st March**
- **Church Finances for January**
Income: 5858€ Expenditure: €7883



Readings in church

March 6 Quinquagesima

Exodus 24 v12 – end

Psalms 2 p1096

2 Peter 1 v16 - end

Matthew 17 v1 – 9

March 13 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2 v15 – 17; 3 v1 - 7

Psalms 32 p1130

Romans 5 v12 – 19

Matthew 4 v1 – 11

March 20 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12 v1 – 4a

Psalms 121 p1264

Romans 4 v1 – 5, 13 - 17

Matthew 8 v1 – 13

March 27 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17 v1 – 7

Psalms 95 p1218

Philippians 2 v5 – 11

John 4 v5 - 42

Quotation of the Month

The following is from the preface written by John Buckeridge to collected sermons of Launcelot Andrews:

‘True religion is in no way a gargalisme only, to wash the tongue and mouth, to speake good words; it must root in the heart, and then fructifie it in the hand; els it will not clense the whole man’.



Kids see things differently

*This is the 3rd of a seven month series kindly sent to me by former my vicar,
Father Peter Bevan*

Ketchup - A woman was trying to get the ketchup out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer it. "Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."



Church Bulletins

The 3rd of a 12 part series from Pam and Chris Rowland

- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



Greetings Cards

There is now a wide range of inexpensive English greeting cards available both from the transept and from the Library priced at **1€**. These have been purchased in England by members of the congregation and are on sale in aid of church funds. Every little helps !

Cathy Saxton-Howes



A Local Hero

Victor Pumfrett has once again demonstrated yet another talent in his considerable arsenal of skills! In our local shop in St Pierre yesterday (Monday 7th February), a customer in the queue in front of him suddenly collapsed and proceeded to swallow his tongue! Seizing a plastic spoon from a nearby rack, Victor deftly prized the man's mouth open and was able to free his tongue which by then was choking him.

The following day, a doctor from St Malo Hospital rang Victor at home to confirm that, but for his prompt action, the man would almost certainly have suffocated and died! As it is, he is recovering comfortably in the hospital.

Well done, our local hero!

Barry Jordan



Grace

The following grace was sent in by the Revd Paul Topham, a former chaplain:

God of goodness, bless this food;
Keep us in a pleasant mood;
Bless the cook and those who serve us;
From indigestion, Lord preserve us.



John Henry Newman

Brought up in the Church of England under Evangelical influence, Newman entered Trinity College, Oxford, in June 1817, became a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, in 1822, and was ordained deacon in 1824. In 1825, he was appointed vice-principal of Alban Hall and in 1828 vicar of St Mary's, Oxford.

In 1832-3, he toured Southern Europe and on returning home, became intimately associated with the Oxford Movement in which he became a leading spirit. It was a reaction to the 18th Century's approach to religion, the mindset being lateral, latitudinarian, not spiritual or liturgical. His sermons in St Mary's, Oxford, published as *Parochial and Plain Sermons* (1834–42) had a profound influence on the religious life not only of Oxford, but also of the whole country. Their spirituality was based on a systematic study of the 4th Century Christian Fathers, published in *The Arians of the Fourth Century* (1833), whereas the Oxford's Movement's *Tracts for the Times* (1833-41), 24 of which Newman was the author, were popular statements of his religious position. Directed 'against Popery and Dissent', they defended the belief that the C of E held an intermediate position between Romanism and Protestantism. He developed this further in his *Lectures on the Prophetical Office of the Church* (1837) and in his *Lectures on Justification* (1838).

In the famous *Tract No. 90* (1841), he interpreted the 39 Articles of Religion as generally conformable with the decrees of the Roman Catholic Council of Trent in the 16th Century. This Tract caused violent controversy and the Bishop of Oxford imposed silence on its author. Meanwhile, from 1839 onwards, Newman developed doubts about the claims of the C of E, and from 1841 onwards he gradually gave up his position in Oxford, living in the neighbouring village of Littlemore, then part of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary's.

Peace be with you

I enjoyed reading Lynette Jarvis's article in the February Newsletter on the Peace. I do, however, sit on the opposite side of the fence on one item in particular. She comments on the 'kissy kissy palaver, germs and all.' The 'kissy' bit is merely the touching of each cheek (or double if you are Breton!) Clearly, this is not the same a heavy snogging session.

I think touching is natural and has an important function. It is simply normal to help someone who has fallen (hands on) or to help an older or disabled person on or off a bus (hands on). When a child is hurt, he/she will automatically run to his/her parent for comfort, normally a big hug (hands on). Courting couples in general will freely spread many germs to each other (all hands on).

Surely, without touching, it would be difficult for doctors and nurses, anyone in the caring professions to do their job. Touching someone is surely what it means to be human. What better way to show that we 'love our neighbours as ourselves'?

Thank you Lynette for an interesting article but like a true Scouser, I beg to differ.

*Bill Hughes,
Church Warden*

If you would like to comment on anything you read in the Newsletter or would like to contribute an article, then let me have a copy and if I can, I will print it. The deadlines for submission each month appears in the notice section.

*Father Gareth
Editor*

The sermon on Angels published in the February Newsletter produced the following two responses:

Angels

My eyes having settled on one at first sight in Paris shortly after the War ended, I knew in my heart and soul that I had seen an angel and have never let her go during some 65 years after the first contact. Angels are apparently allowed to marry with humans 'cos I married my angel and this year will mark the 60th anniversary of that magic event. It's a question of recognition ! I was blessed in being able to recognise an angel at first sight ! Hopefully some of your other readers have been similarly blessed !

Ron Frankel



Nativity plays

The sermon at the Carol Service (published in the February 2011 Newsletter) brought to mind my experiences of Nativity plays in Church and in Schools. On one occasion, the question of what to do with a lot of little girls in the class was solved by giving them the role of angels. All was fine, but gradually the audience began to snigger, this spread and became more and more audible until laughter broke out. The reason: one of the little angels in this primary school kept wriggling; she was struggling to hold up her knickers. Finally, she lost the battle and they fell down. All the hard work by the teachers preparing the children for the sacredness of the occasion was lost. It seemed that none of the audience could remember anything about the Nativity play except the lost knickers!

The Revd Malcolm Cherry

Here he set up a semi-monastic establishment and, during the next year, lived in retirement with a few friends. He resigned the incumbency of St Mary's on 18th September 1843, preaching a few days later a celebrated sermon in Littlemore church on 'The Parting of Friends'. He presided at Holy Communion in the C of E for the last time, standing at the North end of the communion table, like a true Evangelical. On 9th October 1845 he was received into the RC Church. Almost immediately, he issued his *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* defending his charge of allegiance.

I am interested in the psychology of this movement between denominations, particularly by those who leave, as in this case, a strong evangelical background which has nurtured their faith (often with fundamental views of the Bible) and moved to the tightly systemized RC Church. I remember discussing this matter and the attractions of both standpoints with a Jewish Rabbi twenty years ago, as something like it occurs in the Jewish faith. He described it as 'The Lust for Certainty'. Whether this applies to Newman or not, I cannot say, as he was curiously a bit of a rebel in the RC Church. It is interesting to reflect on ex RC priests I have known who have entered the Anglican Ministry, claiming that they have been relieved of a 'straightjacket', one of whom claimed to have had three Vatican doctorates.

Having been ordained in Rome, Newman established a group of Oratorians in Birmingham in 1849, hence the present Pope's Beatification of Newman in Birmingham, 2010. He went as rector of the short-lived RC University of Dublin. Returning to England, he became involved with a periodical which published a disparaging review of a book by Cardinal Manning. This not only caused a rupture between the two men but also meant strained relations with Rome. He then had a controversy with Charles Kingsley in his *Apologia pro vita sua*, which by his frankness and delicacy won him sympathy from RCs and others.

In 1865, he wrote *The Dream of Gerontius* depicting the journey of a soul to God at the hour of death. He was inspired by the Requiem offices of the RC Church. Edward Elgar has made this famous by setting it to music with remarkable sensitivity. The familiar hymn 'Praise to the Holiest in the height' comes from 'The Dream'. In 1870 he published *A Grammar of Assent*. Much of his ripest thought is here. It is particularly remarkable for its differentiation between real and notional assent, its analysis of the function of the conscience in our knowledge of God and of the role of judging from given facts by processes outside the limits of strict logic in reaching religious certitude. In 1877, he was elected an honorary fellow of Trinity College and two years later was made cardinal-deacon of St George in Velabro.

Newman's thought was stimulated by the early Christian Fathers rather than the medieval Schoolmen. His main contribution to the thought of his age is found much more in the area of psychological analysis and acute moral perception than in matters strictly theological. In some ways, he may have been ahead of his time in his attitude to the application of growth in the matter of Christian doctrine as well as his deep insight into the nature and motives of religious faith. He had interesting ideas in the matter of religious education. Although unsuccessful in most of his undertakings in the RC Church during his lifetime, his influence became increasingly recognized after his death, hence the interest in him by the present Pope.

Incidentally, Anglicans do not pray to the saints. Following Biblical teaching, we have only one advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. Some Anglicans suggest it is legitimate to ask God for the prayers of the saints. Such requests for the intercession of the saints has been loosely called Comprecation. We do of course, as a colony of heaven, join in with the prayer of eternity: 'Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven '

The Revd Malcolm Cherry

Recipe of the Month Savoury Cheese Pudding

Nice for a winter night's dish

- ✓ 4 ozs cheddar cheese grated
- ✓ 2 eggs hard boiled
- ✓ 1lb mashed potatoes
- ✓ 1 large onion chopped
- ✓ 1 oz butter
- ✓ 3 tomatoes skinned and sliced
- ✓ seasoning to taste



- Add 2 ozs of cheese and the hard boiled eggs to the potatoes
- Gently fry the onion in the butter until transparent
- Add the tomatoes and fry for a further minute
- Place half potatoes mixture in a greased casserole,
- Cover with onions and tomatoes
- Top with remainder of potatoes mixture
- Scatter with remainder of cheese
- Bake at 220 c gas 7 for 30 minutes

Victor Pumfrett



Déstockage

Sadly, the Olive Tree in Combourg has now closed but the Banque Alimentaire at Dinard is pleased to receive the stock remaining after its closure.



**St Bartholomew's Church, Dinard
Lent Bible Course – 2011
Finding God through . . .**

*Every Thursday at 11.00 following Holy Communion at 10.30 and followed by a
bring-and-share lunch at 12.00*

Session 1	24th March, 2011	Through silence
Text	Psalm 46 v10; 1 Kings 19 v 1 - 13	
Session 2	31st March, 2011	Through music
Text	Psalm 150	
Session 3	7th April, 2011	Through nature
Text	Psalm 19 v1- 6; Genesis 1 v9 - 13	
Session 4	14th April, 2011	Through the Bible
Text	Psalm 119 v9 - 16	
Session 5	21st April, 2011	Through prayer
Text	Mark 1 v35	



Easter Flowers

If you would again like to contribute to the cost of the flowers in church this Easter at the same time remembering the name of a deceased loved one, then please give 3€ per person remembered together with their names to Fr Gareth.



**Film Review of the month
*'The King's Speech' – Tom Hooper, 2010***

Speech is the distinguishing badge of a human being. Being able to communicate one with another is what makes us who we are. Glossolalia, the ability of being able to speak in tongues, is a spiritual gift. How awful, then, it must have been for George VI to have a debilitating stammer which dogged his public life in an age of radio.

'The King's Speech' is an excellent film – one which cannot be too highly recommended. The title is ambiguous referring not only to the central idea that Bertie, Duke of York (who will unexpectedly become king on the abdication of his brother, David - Edward VIII) has a speech impediment but also to the climax of the film, his speech broadcast to the nation on the evening of 3rd September 1939, the day we declared war on Nazi Germany for refusing to withdraw from Poland.

'The King's Speech' is a delight to watch, focusing as it does on the relationship between Bertie (Colin Firth) and Lionel Logue, his speech therapist (Geoffrey Rush). The support and encouragement of his wife, Elizabeth, Duchess of York (Helena Bonham Carter) is heart-warming. There is a parade of cameo parts by the great and good of British acting: Derek Jacobi as the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Gambon as George V; Claire Bloom as his wife, Queen Mary; Anthony Andrews as Stanley Baldwin; Timothy Spall as Winston Churchill.

The dialogue bristles with breath-taking snobbery. The contrast of the evil and articulate Hitler with the good but tongue-tied George VI is glimpsed. There is a real sense that the king is the voice of our nation and the attempt at time of crisis to free that voice is at the heart of the film. Colin Firth will deserve his Oscar ! It made me proud to be British.

Gareth Randall

'Heaven – I'm in heaven' 3

In the last of a series of three articles for our Newsletter, Claude François shares with us a moment in his life when he had surprising insights into the nature of heaven.

My third trip to heaven was a few years later when I spent two years in Palo Alto in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The weather was perfect all throughout the year: never too hot, never too cold. Everything was cheap. I could even afford to ski and run a convertible car on a French government grant.

Everything was working. Almost everything was new. Strikes were unthinkable.

Everybody was nice – ready there to help you.

We played hard and we worked hard. I had no unfulfilled desire and I felt no pressure at all . . . although I was going to a really tough school.

My constraints were mine – self-imposed. They almost felt good!

No traffic problem – space was not a constraint. It did not seem to exist actually.

Summer and winter were almost the same.

Everybody was young. We did not feel the time go by as if it did not exist.

It lasted two years then I couldn't take it any more.

Does that reduce us to insignificance? H G Wells wrote of an astronomer watching the approach of a runaway star as it threatened to annihilate the human race. He looked at it as one might look into the eyes of an enemy. 'You may kill me,' he said after a silence. 'But I can hold you, and all the universe for that matter, in the grip of this little brain. I would not change, even now.'

I could not have said it better.

Donald Pankfurst



Personal Column

Congratulations to:

- Rufus Lambert who was 18 on 3rd February.
- Victor Pumfrett who has just been awarded the prize for the best decorated house front in the commune de Saint Pierre for Christmas 2010.
- Mary Pierpont who has just returned home after 2½ months in hospital having slipped on ice, fallen and broken her femur.

Henry Spenceley

died

6th February, 2011

RIP



Desert Island Books (3)

Robinson Crusoe had a great deal to offer a reader as a multi-layered study full of satisfying echoes and harmonics. The concise Oxford Dictionary offers an even wider spectrum of intellectual stimulation, embracing the entire range of human thought and knowledge.

But standing even higher in my 'higher archy' (sorry) would be an encyclopaedia (any encyclopaedia) of the animal life of the world. Zoology is my second greatest passion. No single volume could include the more than two million animal species on the earth – four thousand mammals, eight thousand birds, twenty thousand fishes, forty thousand arachnids, over a million insects .so I will settle for any comprehensive volume which will offer a good survey: The Larousse Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Animal Life will do.

Why? To immerse oneself in the bottomless ocean of multitudinous facts and figures? Yes. That is the whole fascination of a study which has boundaries that are wider than one man can encompass in a single lifetime.

There has been life on earth for probably over a thousand million years, although the earliest fossils (actual bony skeletons) date back for only about half of that time. The catalogue of animals that are now extinct must number many times the number of living species today. If you draw a diagram of the age of the earth (4700 million years) as a clock face of twelve hours, then every second (over forty thousand of them in twelve hours) stands for more than a hundred thousand years in real time. The dinosaurs flourished, on our clock, between half an hour and ten minutes ago. Man appeared on the earth less than one minute ago. The whole of human history is reduced to a tiny flash in the last few seconds before the present day.

I felt I was enjoying it too much.

I wanted to live.

California was too much like heaven. Relationships were easy, too easy, perhaps a little shallow? So I went back to Europe.

I needed a challenge – the cold and frustrated French.

* * *

So thinking back about these three experiences what is the difference between Heaven and heaven-on-earth ?

Time and space, yes, and people.

We make our life unnecessarily hard when it could be so simple to face the challenges of this world. Yes, I feel I can move mountains when I am surrounded by people I love.

And do you know what's the most delicious thing I've ever done in my life ?

It's dancing cheek to cheek with the one I love.

Because it's heaven.

Claude François



A Chaplain at St Bartholomew's

Having enjoyed reading about the experiences of other priests at St Bartholomew's, the following is by the Revd Paul Topham

Way back in the early 1960's, I was teaching at Colet Court, the Prep School for St. Paul's in London. I was approached by Michael Curran who ran an organisation called British Centre. They organised holiday language courses for youngsters in France. As a result of that meeting I was to lead a course for youngsters between the ages of 10 and 13, spending two weeks in St. Malo during the Easter Holidays. I knew of the existence of Anglican Chaplaincies throughout Europe and it did not take me long to discover there was one in Dinard. The British and American Chaplaincy as it was then called. At that time it was very much a seasonal chaplaincy with no permanent chaplains, only during holiday times. I approached Bishop John Satterthwaite who was then responsible for such chaplaincies and told him I was a Lay Reader and would be glad to offer my services during my stay. I was put in contact with Lord Russell and the wonderful Elizabeth Hannay. I was invited to take Matins when there was no priest available. I spent some of my time in Dinan where subsequent courses were held and I have some very wet memories of riding my velosolex all the way to Dinard to take Matins one Sunday and arriving cold, wet and frozen with enough time to go into the local café and ordering a brandy to thaw me out!

Later I was privileged to meet up with the Reverend Alan Charters who used to bring over choirs from the school where he was teaching at the time to sing at various services and concerts in that area of Brittany. What a joy it was to have such music enhancing our worship at St. Bartholomew's. He continued with his connections with this chaplaincy and finally became priest in charge from 2000 – 2006.

I was ordained priest in 1986. My family and I always went to Provence for our summer holidays but in 1987 my wife put her foot

Words from the King James Bible

*And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me and I did eat.
Genesis 3 v13*

First published in 1611, this year we mark the Quatercentenary of the Authorised Version of our Bible. In a mini-series of articles for our Newsletter, I should like to highlight some of the words and phrases that have particular resonance for me.

'Beguiled' suggests being 'tricked by charm', being 'deceived by cunning'. We know that the serpent, villain of this extract from the story of the Garden of Eden, is pictured as being more cunning than any other beast of the field and it is he who tricks Eve into eating fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. It is the earliest example of transferred guilt. Adam and Eve now know they are naked and uncovered; they are both loath to meet God face-to-face, something that had previously been quite natural for them to do. Knowledge has displaced innocence.

God asks who is responsible and Adam is quick to blame Eve and Eve blames the serpent. All three are duly punished. Eve's excuse is she was 'beguiled' - in Hebrew, 'nasha'. Literally, 'beguile' means to be 'surrounded by guile' – 'betrayed'. The betrayal is insidious: Eve seems unaware of what her act of disobedience will actually entail. Eve has been caught up in the craftiness of the serpent who has persuaded her to do something she knows she should not do, tricking her with the tempting prospect of eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge which for centuries has been depicted as an apple.

In the word 'beguile', there is a real sense of being cheated out of something. What Eve and Adam have been defrauded of is their innocence. Once gone, it is lost forever. East of Eden is not a good place to find yourself naked.

Father Gareth

I have not been back since that time through no fault of my own. However, I should like to say just how much I have appreciated the friendship and fellowship of all those who were there at the time of my ministry and, indeed, for their hospitality. I single out in particular as so many others have done, dear Sybil and I am sorry for her health problems. She is always in my prayers and her name is on the prayer list of my parish where I am honorary assistant curate. Then there is also Elizabeth Hannay of blessed memory, for Julian Thompson and for all others who, sadly in my senior moments, I cannot recall their names.

May God bless you all and may your lovely Chaplaincy continue to thrive under the leadership of Father Gareth. It certainly seems to be flourishing. I wish you all well and may 2011 bring you all the success and happiness you deserve.

Father Paul Topham



Being ill is no joke

The following cracker of a joke was sent to me by Jonathan Banyard:
“Doctor, doctor, every time I go to bed I just can’t sleep!”
“No problem just lie on the edge of the bed and you’ll soon drop off.”



How strange!

2011 has four unusual dates:
1/1/11; 11/1/11; 1/11/11 and 11/11/11
Furthermore if you take the last two digits of the year you were born and add it to the age you will be at the end of this year it will equal 111.

Ian Phillips

down and said she wanted to go somewhere else. So, where else but Dinard? I wrote to Elizabeth Hannay. She was a little bit worried that I wanted to spend a month there because the change over times might be difficult. And she was worried about the washing of the sheets and towels. I assured her we would bring our own and that the flat would be left impeccably. She agreed. Indeed, I think this was taken up with locum priests to follow. We spent a most enjoyable July there although the weather was not quite up to Provence. However, I bought season tickets for the boys at the local swimming pool and that helped a great deal. Of course, knowing the area pretty well I was able to take the family around to see the various sites. As always, I was so impressed and delighted with the warmth, generosity and hospitality of the congregation.

I retired from teaching in 1991 and went to take up the chaplaincy of Toulouse, Cahors, Pau and Biarritz. I left there in 1994 because our grand children were starting to arrive. Then, suddenly, an invitation to cover a period of time at St. Bart’s arrived. Gill and I came over and covered about six weeks up to just before Christmas. I believe Donald Pankhurst was taking over from us and, if I remember correctly, we gave him and his wife lunch before we left. Those were fantastic weeks. We met Sybil Fagg who was a great source of strength and support and she has been such a wonderful person to all the ‘locums’ who have supported the chaplaincy. It was during this stay that I learned that the chaplain who was coming over during Lent the following year was taken ill and had to withdraw. I immediately said I would come back again if that was agreeable. I hadn’t met Julian Thomson at the time and he wondered what I was like? However such were the reports that I was accepted. Again it was a joy to be with you all. I remember Gill and I giving a Shrove Tuesday luncheon party with all kinds of savoury and sweet pancakes. I confess now to chickening out of preparing and cooking my own pancakes. So I rushed out and bought ready made pancakes. Well with a party of more than a dozen people

can you blame me? I had noticed that Elizabeth Hannay had a hostess trolley in her home. I asked if I could borrow it. She agreed but said she would check it before I took it away. When she opened it she discovered sprouts and roast potatoes left over from Christmas, all growing wonderful penicillin! We soon cleaned it up.

I don't know whether or not I introduced it but I celebrated the Eucharis on Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes. It was a moving service and all took part in it including a number of non-Anglicans. But what are all our chaplaincies about in this vast Diocese in Europe? We welcome Christians from all Trinitarian denominations to join us, particularly at the Communion table and, certainly, on this occasion, there were a couple of Methodists who received the Ashing. It was during this time that we had a wonderful family attending – the Savages. The father, George was treasurer and his youngest son, Ben became a server for me. That was a great joy to have someone at the Altar with me. I also had John Marshall whom I persuaded to play for us. It certainly saved the congregation from too much of my attempts at striking the right notes! I arrived in time for the 11th November Remembrance services and went off to the cemetery for the British and American graves. Afterwards we went to the local church where I was invited to take part in the Mass. I read the Epistle and stood by the priest during the Celebration, though I did not concelebrate. I was, however, invited to receive the Sacrament in both kinds and, for me, this gave me a great sense of ecumenism. I am delighted to read in an account of another locum priest that he was invited to concelebrate at a similar Mass.

Our stay would not have been at all enjoyable had it not been for the very warm welcome, hospitality and support we received from the congregation. I must single out in particular Sybil Fagg and I was glad for the part I played in her becoming a Lay Reader. She was well qualified anyway as a Pastoral Assistant and fully deserved this

elevation. I am sure that it was at this time that Father Gareth was beginning his connection with St. Bart's and he supported me in sponsoring Sybil. Elizabeth Hannay was always a great support though a little bit formidable in her ways and insisted that I should say Matins and Evensong in the church, which I must admit I was always happy to do! It was good to have physical company, though I did not forget the Angels and Archangels who would be with me anyway. Elizabeth used to run an art class and Gill and I were asked if we would come and sit. We agreed and it was quite a laugh! We did endure it thinking, how nice, we are to be paid for this. We never received a franc! No matter it was good to move among such lovely people.

As for Pastoral work, apart from the services I conducted, there were always people to visit, particularly to those who wished to receive the Sacrament. Gill nearly always accompanied me and so did Sybil. Sadly there were also other kinds of visits. I was rung up by Ron Frankel, the Honorary British Consul who told me of a lady in the local hospital who was visiting Dinard from Jersey, or was it Guernsey. She was in her eighties. A friend with her said she wished to go to the loo and her companion said I will go and see if you can manage the steps. Sadly the Good Samaritan herself slipped and fell and broke her hip. Gill and I went to visit her in hospital. She was in a bit of a state because all her jewellery had been removed from her. However, I investigated and was able to reassure her that it was all safe and would be returned to her. I asked her where she came from. Oh, you won't know it, a small village. Try me, I said. Sunbury she said. That is the next village to Hampton where I live! Gill and I visited her on our return to find that she was recovering well. I had, unfortunately funerals to take. I used to take Communion to one lady. This was in the company of her daughter. Then her daughter became ill and died pretty quickly. That pernicious disease, cancer. I took her funeral and I think it was shortly after that her mother died and I was able to take that funeral too, just before I returned to the UK.