

Diary dates for June and July 2011

2 nd June	10.00 Ascension Day
12 th June	11.00 Pentecost
26 th June	11.00 Petertide & the celebration of the ordination to the priesthood of The Revd Canon Roger Gilbert 40 years ago
8 th – 10 th July	Flower festival
14 th July	10.30 Council Meeting
17 th July	12.00 Friends AGM

Prayer of the month

Though not a prayer in itself, this poem by Francis Quarles (1592 – 1644) and set to music by John Playford (1623 – 1686) could provide an interesting stimulus for meditation:

Close thine eyes and sleep secure,
Thy soul is safe, thy body sure.:
He that guards thee, He that keeps,
Who never slumbers never sleeps.

A quiet conscience in a quiet breast
Has only peace, has only rest,
The music and the mirth of Kings
Are out of tune unless she sings.

Then close your eyes in peace and rest secure,
No sleep so sweet as thine, no rest so sure.

Prayer focus

On the nature of 'a quiet conscience in a quiet breast'.

Confirmation

Bishop Edward Holland will be coming to St Bartholomew's on 2nd October and will be conducting a service of confirmation here. If you are interested in being confirmed, then speak to Father Gareth.

The Newsletter

St Bartholomew's, Dinard



June, 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:

☎ 02 99 46 77 00

e-mail : gareth.randall@nordnet.fr

Website : www.stbarts-dinard.org.uk



Dear Friends,

Not alone?

On the last Tuesday in May, I was sitting in the chaplaincy kitchen enjoying a cold curried chicken and salad lunch while listening to a Radio 4 phone-in programme on loneliness. One of the issues raised was whether the way we live our lives today with our increasing use of technology makes us more isolated.

I'm not sure. I need my computer to do my job: I would not be able to produce this Newsletter without it; emails keep me in touch; English books, CDs and DVDs are readily available on line. That said, I don't do Face Book: I prefer 'real' to 'virtual' friends and though both kinds have their virtues, someone's actual presence is somehow more tangible, more comforting.

As human beings, we are social isolates. Paradoxically, we need company of others but we need to be alone. The trick is to get the balance right. Coming to church mid-week could offer the chance to be alone with God; coming to church on a Sunday offers the chance to be with others, not least for a coffee and a chat after the service.

The paradox for us as Christians is that we are never truly alone even when we're alone. My sermons at the end of May 2010 focused on one of the names of God - Emmanuel - God with us. God makes himself known to us in the Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we want, we have a way to be with him. The choice is ours; we need never be alone when we want company.

Father Gareth



- **Tournebride Monthly Lunch 4th June** 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
- **Concert in St Bartholomew's on Saturday 25th June at 20.30** by the Alunissons Choir of Saint Lunaire conducted by our organist, Amaury Rosa de Poullouis. Admission free and a collection in aid of our church and the visiting choir.
- **Central Brittany Journal** – June issue includes an interview with the President of the Lord Russell Association, Dinard
- **Vide Grenier 12th June at 10 rue de la Hunaudaye, 22270 St Igneuc**, (next to Jugon les Lacs) for the benefit of S.S.A.F.A. (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association). Large number of good quality English books and interesting bric-a-brac on sale. St Igneuc will also be holding their annual Vide Grenier on the same day.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the July Newsletter is **midday on Thursday 30th June**
- **Church Finances for April**
Income: 4414€ Expenditure: 6299€



Quotation of the Month

From a dear friend in Potters Bar, Lisa Klein, parent and former producer of some of the most spectacular musical theatre at Dame Alice Owen's School:

"My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran"



Readings in church

June 5th Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 1 6 - 14 Psalm 68 v1 - 10
1 Peter 4 v12 – 14; 5 v6 - 11 John 17 v1 - 11

June 12th Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Acts 2 v1- 21 Psalm 104 v26 - end
1 Corinthians 12 v3b - 13 John 7 v37 - 39

June 19th Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40 v12 – 17, 27 – end Psalm 22 v20 – 29
2 Corinthians 13 11 - end Matthew 28 v16 - 20

June 26th First Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 22 v1 - 14 Psalm 13
Romans 6 v12 – 2end Matthew 10 v40 – end



Church Bulletins

The 6th of a 12 part series from Pam and Chris Rowland

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.



Kids see things differently

*This is the 6th of a seven month series kindly sent to me by my former vicar,
Father Peter Bevan*

School - A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she told her mother. "I can't read; I can't write; and they won't let me talk!"

Notes from the Council - May 12th

Council Meetings can produce a sense of déjà vu: finance, fabric, flat but today's had a distinct sense of fun, of laughter, of a shared sense of enjoyment in being the stewards of a place we love and of a heritage of which we are proud.

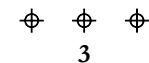
As ever, the meeting was preceded by our regular Thursday morning service of Holy Communion – 13 of us, a scriptural number. The meeting opened in prayer and John Davey was warmly welcomed to his first meeting as a member of Council; Julian was congratulated on his part in the Royal Maundy service; but the presence of Sybil who is now in the Maison de Retraite in Dol continues to be much missed.

Our church finances remain in good heart with plans afoot for the Garden Party in August. One new way of raising funds will be the sale of a limited edition St Barts tea towel to be designed by Diana Wilson and sold by David Morgan. Our Flower Festival in July will make a nominal charge for admission.

The Council spent some time considering the future of our organ. We are unreservedly committed to the use and maintenance of this valuable and valued part of our heritage. Consideration was given to sources of finance, what work should be undertaken and who best to carry it out. Earlier in the meeting, we welcomed the purchase of the electronic keyboard, a fund-raising initiative launched by Bill Hughes with the target achieved in a little over three months.

Draft dates for the meetings in 2012 were circulated for agreement at our next meeting on July 14th! The meeting ended as it began, in prayer.

Father Gareth



Saint of the Month
St Samson (le jeune) - 24th July

From Dinard, on your way to Bill Hughes, you have to pass road-signs for Saint Sansom sur Rance, a challenge to the tongue of any native English speaker!

The opening of the entry for Saint Sansom in my source describes him as ‘un enfant de prières’ – an appropriate epitaph for a man who made communion with God, being and listening and talking to our Lord, as the rock on which his Christian life was built and as bishop, with permission of the French King, he established his cathedral in Dol in 555AD.

Like Brieuç, Sansom was a native Breton. Born in 480 of noble Celtic family, from the age of five he was entrusted to the care of Saint Iltuc under whose tutelage this hard-working and gentle-natured boy flourished. Made a deacon, ordained priest, the life of a hermit drew him into the forest but the needs of running the abbey itself called him back to be first its cellarer then its abbot.

Many miracles are attributed to him. One of the first was the cure of his own father, Ammon, now old and critically ill. As a consequence, the lives of his whole family were transformed, dedicating themselves and their wealth thereafter to the work of the Church.

He was an effective preacher who influenced people by his simple eloquence. After the Synod at Caërleon in 520, he was consecrated bishop but despite his rank, he still lived a humble, austere life, refusing to eat meat, making three day fasts and sometimes spending the whole night standing in prayer.

He dedicated himself to bring the light of Christianity to the land. For example, he spent several years in the Saverne ‘pour en extirper le

Recipe of the month
Never Fail Cake

(One for all those that say "Me I Cannot make a cake ")
That's what I said till I tried this one.

- ✓ 1 lb mixed fruit
- ✓ 4 ozs margarine
- ✓ 8 ozs sugar
- ✓ 8 ozs self raising flour
- ✓ 2 eggs
- ✓ 1 cup of water

(you can add any of these extras if you so wish:
cherries, or sherry, or ground almonds)

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

- Put the fruit, margarine, sugar and water into a pan
- Bring to the boil
- Simmer for 15 minutes
- Leave to cool
- Add eggs and flour
- Cook for 1 ½ hours in the oven at 150c or 300F, Gas 2

Hope you enjoy !

Victor Pumfrett

Yorkshire Grace

The following was sent by our Yorkshire correspondent John Marshall:

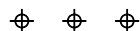
" Lord, bless us all and make us able
to eat all't stuff 'ats on this table. Amen

Call Centre Conversations (3/4)
RAC Motoring Services

Caller 'Does your European Insurance Policy cover me when I'm travelling in Australia?'

Operator 'Does the product name give you a clue sir?'

Ron Frankel



Phrases in French (3/9)

'Une histoire qui n'a ni queue ni tête' C'est une histoire absurde, qui ne veut rien dire, qui 'ne tient pas debout', autre expression qui a le même sens.

An absurd meaningless story, a story one cannot make head nor tail of. We can also say 'une histoire qui ne tient pas debout'(something that literally can't stand up!)

The St Bartholomew's Website

Our website is regularly updated by our Web Master, Charles Marshall. It contains many 'goodies' such as an archive of our Newsletters, Book of Remembrance, Sermons and Bible Studies as well as copies of the church leaflet in six languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian and Dutch.

Why not check it out sometime – a virtual way to be virtuous !



paganisme et l'impiété' and even in his last years as Bishop, he was still active even in the remote areas of his diocese 'pour en chasser le vice et l'erreur'.

In 565 at the age of 85, having received the last rites from the hands of his successor, Saint Magloire, Saint Sansom died in peace.

Gareth Randall



Personal column

Congratulations to:

- Anouska Svehlik and Ian Hickey married in St Bartholomew's on 21st May;
- The Revd Canon Peter and the Revd Aileen Mortimer, grandparents, with the premature but safe delivery of twins, Emily and Beth;
- Geoff Carter who is celebrating his 70th birthday on 9th June.



Thank you

We have a beautiful new Book of Remembrance bound in leather and decorated with cross-stitch, the work and generous gift of Hilary Mengham in memory of her late husband, Peter. If you would like the anniversary of a deceased loved one remembered, you have only to complete a form available in church and give it to Father Gareth.



Words from the King James Bible (4)

I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

Job 19 v20

When did you last have you a narrow escape, a near miss, a close shave? This sense of coming close to melt-down is present in this pithy phrase from the middle of the book of Job – ‘the skin of my teeth’.

I’m not sure when first I heard the phrase but it seems to have been with me for as long as I’ve been going to my dentist to have my teeth filled. With God’s permission, Satan is testing Job’s faith. His considerable material prosperity, the lives of his children and his own health, all have suffered under Satan’s malevolence. And questioned by his friends, Job admits his affliction has brought him low, even to within an inch of his life.

In his book, ‘War’, Sebastian Junger writes authentically about American soldiers fighting in the Korengal Valley in eastern Afghanistan. With bullets flying all around them, there is a very real sense that the difference between life and death is just a matter of inches.

The potential consequence of being in the wrong place at the wrong time is there in the phrase ‘by the skin of my teeth’. The thickness of our skin depends on where it is on our body. I guess ‘by the skin of my teeth’ suggests the narrowest measurement possible.

The Book of Job is an attempt to explain the problem of evil and suffering. Why do bad things happen to good people? In the end, the question ‘why?’ is answered by the statement ‘because it is’. We live in a world where accidents do happen. So let me end this reflection with a question from the film, ‘Dirty Harry’ - ‘Do you feel lucky?’

Father Gareth

St Bartholomew’s Festival of Flowers and Musical Instruments

This year’s Festival will take place in July on Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th and the cost of admission will be 1€. English cream teas will be served on the lawn.

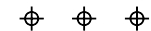
If any church members or anyone else would wish to sponsor a flower arrangement, then contact:

Corrie - 02 96 86 99 58 (stein.corrie@gmail.com) or

David Morgan - 02 99 73 80 14 (dmorgan16@aol.com).

A small arrangement will cost 20€ and a large one 35€. Cards will be placed near each arrangement to show the sponsor and the name of any person in whose memory the arrangement is dedicated.

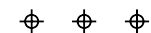
If you would like to help with serving teas then contact David or Corrie. We would also be happy to receive home-made raspberry or strawberry jam and/or the loan of musical instruments for display purposes.



Ever on a Sunday

The following was sent to me by John Marshall

An irate customer telephoned her Newsagent to ask where her Sunday paper was. His reply was short and to the point; ‘I’m sorry but today’s Saturday!’ After a long pause, she replied, ‘So that ‘s why no one was at church today!’



Film Review of the month
'Gran Torino' – Clint Eastwood 2008

Thirteen years on from his success as director and male lead in 'The Bridges of Madison County', Clint Eastwood has, in 'Gran Torino', produced a must-see film in which he plays Walt Kowalski, a recently widowed, retired, Detroit car worker.

Why do British audiences so love grumpy old men? Craggy-faced Clint oozes discontent from every pore as he suffers his wife's funeral taken by a cherubic boy-priest radiating his inexperience of life's hard knocks. Walt is a man-in-pain: a Korean War veteran with uneasy memories; a husband who loved his dead wife; a failure as a father, out-of-sympathy with his two sons' families. Worse still, he is now a foreigner in his own neighbourhood where large numbers of Hmong, refugees from the American War in Vietnam, have been resettled.

Despite the culture and age gap, Walt is befriended and befriends the Hmong family next door, first through the kindness of Sue, a feisty teenager, then through taking a practical interest in her younger brother Thao who, as an initiation rite into a Hmong gang, has reluctantly tried to steal Walt's 1972 Ford Gran Torino, the car which gives the film its title, a car he once helped to make, a car which is still in pristine condition. Walt's practical education of Thao into the ways and values of the American working man is not without humour.

Oddly enough, 'Gran Torino' is also a surprisingly Christian film which is suitably challenging, where the end is not what you'd expect from the man who once played tough guys in Spaghetti Westerns and cops like Dirty Harry but the theme of redemption through love and self-giving is unsentimentally convincing.

Gareth Randall

Archdeaconry Synod at l'Abbaye de St Jacut de la Mer
May 2011

The theme of the Synod was 'Church Music' and we were privileged to have the representative in Europe of the Royal School of Church Music with us as well as the former Precentor of Winchester Cathedral.

Many delegates were surprised when statistics were quoted showing that in spite of an overall decline in Church attendance, services making good use of music noted increased attendance. The different types of music in use in services from the traditional Choral Evensong to modern Praise Songs were illustrated. Canon Charles Stewart took this further with examples from the Psalms sung in many styles from around the world. He said that music is a spiritual gift which can connect the liturgy with the people. Psalms provide songs for all seasons and all aspects of worship and Jesus used them as prayers and in worship. He also encouraged us to be bold and experiment with music in Church services even though many say no to change as "they know what they like". His simple answer was "they like what they know"!

An important part of the general business was that we were told that the Church Commissioners have in principle agreed to the provision of four new Archdeacons in the Diocese of Europe.

Most poignant for us was that during the Eucharist the Archdeacon prayed for Sybil reminding us how she is treasured by everyone she knows and not just by us.

Once again, St Jacut proved to be an ideal location for renewing friendships, for fellowship, worship and quiet contemplation.

Geoff Carter



My Life

I was born in East London. I had two sisters: one 8 years older than me and one 6. I started school at 5, first an Infants then an Elementary School. I loved my parents, my sisters and my school but in 1940, many schools in London closed because of the Blitz. I didn't want to be evacuated so as a family, we remained in London.

In 1943, I joined the RAF on a 5-year-contract. With a couple of RAF friends in 1947, I had leave to cross the English Channel which wasn't so easy in those days. We were on a mission to find the girl I'd briefly met near the Champs Elysées while staying in Paris as a guest of L'Association des Français Libres.

Our mission was a success. The next objective was to meet the parents. During that stay, Laurette chaperoned by a friend and I visited Dinard, 'La plage des Anglais'. The contrast between bomb-damaged London and an elegant seaside resort could not have been sharper. I had found the second great love of my life in the company of my first!

In 1948, I left the RAF. By now Laurette had visited my family several times, no mean feat especially given her then limited command of English. Our marriage in 1951 was a family celebration and with their help we bought a nice house opposite West Ham Park. In 1953, our son, Michael, was born.

My job then involved a lot of travel abroad particularly in North Africa and the Middle East. By 1965, to be able to spend more time with my wife and son, I accepted the offer to establish a Correspondence College in French teaching practical Electronics. Unsurprisingly, we fixed on Dinard as our base with its proximity to the airport and to Laurette's family in Pontorson. With the help of a team, the course was taken world-wide but it required a 24/7 commitment on my part.

This hectic pace lasted 5 years till I took up a post with a factory in St Malo manufacturing electronic goods. My brief was to develop the export side which I did both in the States and Germany and even in the Far East.

During this period, I was first approached by the British Embassy in Paris to help Britons in difficulties in the area. This led to my appointment first as an assistant consul in 1980 then as the Honorary Consul for Great Britain in Brittany. It was a post I was to occupy for 20 years till my retirement at midnight on 30th September 2002.

Life at this period was never dull. From 81 to 93, I had responsibility as a Liaison Officer re Civil Security in the event of another War. In 83, I played a part in establishing the Lord Russell Association named after Edward Langley Russell, Baron of Liverpool who is buried in the Dinard cemetery. In 86, I helped to set up the Town-Twinning with Newquay.

My efforts to help people were recognised in several ways. In June 1990, with Laurette I went to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE (Member of the British Empire) from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In January 1991, I was made an Honorary Citizen of Dinard by the Mayor Monsieur Mallet. In January this year, his successor, Madame Mallet, awarded me the La Médaille D'Honneur de la Ville de Dinard.

Sadly ill health has meant that I have now had to withdraw from public life but I still take a keen interest in what is going on in the town I love which has welcomed me, a foreigner in a foreign land, as one of their own.

Ronald Frankel, M.B.E.

