

Diary dates December 2011

11 th December	11.00 Celebration of the ordination to the Priesthood of the Revd Dr John Marvell 30 years ago
17 th December	17.00 Carol Service
21 st December	14.00 – 19.00 St Malo Christmas Market
24 th December	17.00 Crib Service
25 th December	11.00 Christmas Day

Prayer of the month

God our rock and our salvation,
So much of faith is waiting,
Like a pregnant woman waiting in hope
Like a people under siege, holding out till relief comes
Like the soul lost in darkness, unable to see even a glimmer of light,
Yet stumbling through the night, because somewhere,
out ahead, day will surely break.
We pray for people who are waiting for the birth of a child
under the shadow of poverty or the uncertainty of displacement.
We pray for people holding out till relief comes
from disaster, conflict or blockade,
We pray for souls lost in the darkness
of bereavement or sickness or despair.
May we work and watch and wait with them
till the light of your day breaks through.

Courtesy of Bishop David Hamid's Blog – Advent 2010

Prayer focus

During Advent this month, may we reflect on what it might mean to us as Christians to live with the expectation that Jesus whose birth we remember each Christmas is one day to come again to judge the world in which we live and are a part.

The Newsletter St Bartholomew's, Dinard 1871 - 2011



Christmas, 2011

Services

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion (with hymns)

Thursday 10.00 Holy Communion (said)

A warm welcome to all who worship with us.
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



December, 2011

Dear Friends,

Expect

Understandably, words and how words are used fascinate me. I recently saw 'Attack the Block', a film set in South London in which the main characters spoke a form of South London 'Cockney'. Their use of imperatives like 'Believe' and 'Admit' was a curious mixture of command and earnest appeal, using familiar words in an unfamiliar way. As I reflected on what to write in this month's letter from me to you, the word 'Expect' hit me.

'Expect'. Expect what? Well, aren't we all looking forward to Christmas? We know what to expect. We've been there before. Presents; colourful decorations; good food; good drink; good company; the cold and dark outside; the light and warmth inside. Presence; the story of the nativity; the crib; the baby Jesus in a manger surrounded by straw, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and the animals; the Word made flesh; God made Man.

'Expect'. What else? The Second Coming! We're now in Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'advenire' – to come to, to arrive. In Advent, we have the expectation not only of celebrating the past, the Incarnation of Jesus, but also of contemplating the future, the Second Coming of Christ. In many ways, 2011 has been a bad year with natural disasters, man-made disasters, financial crises, wars and revolts, unrest and unease. Each age must seem as if it's the last age. And because we are all mortal, we know all life must end.

But as Christians who believe in a God of love and a God who knows and loves us, whatever, whenever, we expect to be true the inspired words of Mother Julian of Norwich - 'All will be well'.

Father Gareth

➤ Notices

- **Advent Appeal 2012** – will be for the *Banque Alimentaire*. The money donated will be used over the next 12 months by Helen Morgan to supplement your regular gifts.
- **Hedley Court £295** was sent from money raised at Tournebride, from 2000+ copper coins and the collection at the Remembrance Sunday service.
- **Royal British Legion £255** sent from the sale of poppies.
- **Children in Need** John and Karen Pearson raised **195€** for Children in Need on Friday 18th November at the home in Dinan by organising a Pudsey Bear tea party. Why not be a Smartie and join them there next year?
- **Tournebride Monthly Lunch 3rd December** 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
- **'Cakes - Gateaux'** The new bilingual edition of the St Barts Book of Cakes is ready for you to buy as Christmas present for the crummy but tasty price of just **10€**!
- **English Greeting Cards** are now on sale in the church in the coffee area. They are still only **1€** each and all proceeds go towards our funds. In addition on Sundays (till 24th Dec) there are also packs of six Christmas Cards (mixed designs) for just **5€**. Please leave your money in the box provided or the wall safe next to the main entrance.
- **Council Meeting** the Report of the November Meeting will appear in the January Newsletter.
- **For your 2012 diary** August 4th – Garden Party at Les Trauchandières.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the January Newsletter is *midday on Thursday 28th December*
- **Church Finances for October**
Income: 3870€ Expenditure: 2671€

Readings in church

December 4th **2nd Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 40 v1 – 11 Psalm 85 v8 - end
2 Peter 3 v8 – 15a Mark 1 v1 - 8

December 11th **3rd Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 61 v1 – 4, 8 - end Psalm 126 v1 - 8
1 Thessalonians 5 v16 – 24 John 1 v6 – 8, 19 - 28

December 18th **4th Sunday of Advent**
2 Samuel 7 v1 -11, 16 Magnificat
Romans 16 v25 - end Luke 1 v26 - 38

December 25th **Christmas Day**
Isaiah 9 v2 – 7 Psalm 96
Titus 2 v11 - 14 Luke 2 v1 - 14



Personal Column

Congratulations

to Bishop James Johnson who while staying on holiday here at Diana Wilson's celebrated the 26th anniversary of his consecration as bishop by presiding at our service of Holy Communion on Thursday 3rd November – the exact date of the occasion.

to Beverley and Christopher McHale, daughter and son-in-law of Pam and Peter Campbell, who, on their 25th Wedding Anniversary, renewed their wedding vows here in St Barts on Advent Sunday.

Our sympathy to Geoff and Sheila Hook on the death of Geoff's mum, Mabs, on 13th November.

A memorial service was held in church for Vanessa Hastings, Tania Lambert's mother on 24th November. Our thoughts continue to be with Tania and Eric, Rufus, Natasha and Amy.

The Friends & the Chaplaincy

Who are 'The Friends', as we are generally known? Or, more correctly, what exactly is the Association of the Friends of St Bartholomew's?

To put the answer in rather commercial terms, 'The Friends' under French law are **the owners of the church premises**, responsible for the property tax, structural repairs of the building and ancillary expenses. This Association is funded by its members (currently about 90 strong) through an annual subscription (now standing at 16€ or £12 sterling), together with certain investments.

There is an annual AGM (usually in July) where this association's particular responsibilities and its finances are reported on, and its officials routinely elected (e.g. President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon Secretary etc.). All worshippers at St Bartholomew's are welcome to come along to this meeting, though only subscribing Friends may vote.

At the same time there is a separate and parallel association – the *Association Cultuelle*, as there must be under French law. This association – generally known as 'the Chaplaincy' - is **responsible for all activities of the church**: appointment and remuneration of Chaplains, income and expenditure, repairs, fund-raising, etc. It was following an application from this association that we became an 'official' Anglican Chaplaincy in the Diocese of Europe and, happily, went on to appoint our present permanent Chaplain. In so doing much of the significant authority of the *Association Cultuelle* rightly passed into his hands.

The *Association Cultuelle* – the Chaplaincy – also has an elected Council that meets regularly and is chaired by the Chaplain. Here day-to-day matters are discussed, advice given, work undertaken, arrangements

made and decisions taken – all to keep the church functioning efficiently. While those serving on the Council do not have an individual ‘constituency’ as such, any member of the congregation is entitled and very welcome to communicate with any member of the Council to seek an explanation, express a view or to offer an observation in the area of normal Council business.

Again, every three years the (honorary) members and officers of the Chaplaincy Church Council come up for election or re-election at an Annual General Meeting (usually in April). All members of St Bartholomew’s Church – all worshippers, that is - are welcome to take part in this AGM though, once again, only those on the Parish Roll may actually vote.

Membership of ‘The Friends’ is a voluntary responsibility as well as something of a privilege. It brings with it, one hopes, a sense of special care for our English parish church in France – in its proper maintenance and in assuring its future, both as a well-kept historic landmark in the town of Dinard and a well-loved place of worship in the Kingdom of God.

Membership of ‘the Chaplaincy’ - whether or not you are registered on the Roll - is a title you are invested with when you come and join us – on Sunday mornings, on Thursday mornings – and on every other day, too. In this way you can become part of the wide congregation of Christians, British and French, here or away, all centred on the life and worship of St Bartholomew’s Church, Dinard.

David Norris
Hon. Secretary, Chaplaincy Church Council
Hon. Secretary, Association of the Friends of St Bartholomew’s

Uncommon Sense - 2/4

Wisdom is not simply the preserve of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs. The following were sent to me by Ron Kirk:

Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.

It's OK to let your children see you cry.

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.

Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.

Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.

Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.

It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.

When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

Over prepare, then go with the flow.

Ron Kirk



Church Bulletins

The last of a 12 part series from Pam and Chris Rowland

- The Associate Minister unveiled the church’s new campaign slogan last Sunday: ‘I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.’

Christmas Word Search - 26 Words to find

ADVENT	ANGELS
AUGUSTUS	BETHLEHEM
CAROLSINGERS	CELEBRATIONS
CENSUS	CHRISTMASPUDDING
DECORATIONS	DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE	GABRIEL
GIFTS	GOLD
INNKEEPER	JESUS
JOSEPH	LIGHTS
MAGI	MARY
MISTLETOE	MYRRH
NATIVITY	NAZARETH
SHEPHERDS	STABLE

O Y I K M E O T E L T S I M H U I Y Q S
O T A D V E N T I S N J Q V M M G Z M R
Y I E L S C L D G S N L I R Q B M Y B E
Z V F H O D Z A E J H W D N X G A E Y G
O I D E C O R A T I O N S T T U S V N N
K T N C J D I E R S R U Q C G K M G Y I
P A Q A O P R Y H E D O U O A H F V S
G N F N T K T M P P O B S O G T N R Q L
A Y K J U H D E B G E T H I M S A A P O
X E H B G S E P O E U H F V E U Z N F R
Y I M H W K B L B S A D S O H S A K S A
V L R R N Z D B C Y K S O G E N R I H C
X Y J N X Z G E W D P P D H L E E N R S
G N I D D U P S A M T S I R H C T C R U
C E L E B R A T I O N S N C T L H E Y S
B N W J W C Z L E I R B A G E I Z N M E
S T A B L E L D A N G E L S B I L S A J
G I F T S J P X F J J J O S E P H E R O
A X M N D G Q U P F C C E X A E M Y Z
Z H C D Z L I G H T S M A Q O F A K F B



What is the difference between God and Professor Richard Dawkins?
 God knows Dawkins exists.

Words from the King James Bible (10)

*for love is strong as death . . .
 Many waters cannot quench love'
 The Song of Solomon 8 v6/7*

Probably the most famous biblical passage on love is the 13th chapter of St Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. Interestingly, the word that the Authorised Version uses there to translate the Greek word *αγαπη* ('agape') is 'charity'. To our modern ear, the word 'charity' suggests the work of NGOs or worthy institutions like the RSPCA. The word 'love', however, on which I would like to focus is a translation of the Hebrew 'ahabah' found in that great love poem, 'The Song of Solomon'.

There was some doubt as to whether this book should be included in the canon of scripture. Nowhere does it mention God. But this love poem, which alternates from the point of view of the man and the woman, is considered to be an allegory of the love of God for Man and Man's response to Him. Several of the couples whom I have married here in Dinard have chosen a passage which includes the verses quoted above as one of the readings at their wedding. It does seem odd to mention death in the context of a wedding but not so if it is to make the point that love is stronger than death, implying that the love the bride and groom have for each other will outlast the grave. Given the powerful floods we have witnessed this year courtesy of the ubiquitous media, it is comforting to believe that even floodwater cannot quench the fire of love.

Perhaps the capacity to love and to be loved is what it means to be human, to be made in the image of God. If I were to try to express the essence of our faith, it would be in just three words: 'God is love'.

Father Gareth

Christmas

This article is taken from Bishop David Hamid's blog from Christmas 2010 and is reprinted with his permission

Christmas is not the most ancient of Christian feasts. There is little evidence of 25th December as a day to celebrate Christ's birth before the mid 4th century. According to the Revd Dr Paul Bradshaw, an eminent liturgical scholar (and the Liturgical Advisor of this Diocese in Europe) the earliest reference to 25th December as the Feast of the Nativity appeared around 354 in Rome. (However in other parts of the Church such as in Egypt, 6th January was observed from the late 2nd century as both the commemoration of the birth of Jesus as well as his baptism. The latter continues to be a theme of the 6th January feast of the Epiphany).

Why the slow start to dedicate a feast to the birth of Jesus? The hesitancy might stem from the Church's theological debate with the Arians about the relationship of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. 'Were they equal or not?' was the question. The Arians would be in favour of marking the Son's beginning or birth in time as they were unsure about the equality of Father and Son. They argued that there was a time when the Son was not. On the other hand, the orthodox argued for the theological position which became enshrined in the Creed, that the Son was 'God of God, light of Light, very God of very God' and 'of one substance with the Father'.

Interestingly, traces of this early debate can be detected liturgically. For instance, although a feast of the birth of Jesus the oldest Gospel reading associated with Christmas is the start of St John's Gospel which proclaims that 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God'. Even today in the Church of England, St Luke's story of the birth in Bethlehem can be read at one

Recipe of the month White Christmas Cake. *Try this for Christmas Day*

- ✓ 4ozs glace cherries
- ✓ 4ozs pineapple
- ✓ 4ozs shelled Brazil nuts
- ✓ 12ozs butter or margarine
- ✓ 12ozs caster sugar
- ✓ 4 large eggs
- ✓ 12ozs plain flour
- ✓ 6ozs ground almonds
- ✓ 1 level teaspoon baking powder



- Mix all ingredients together
- Set oven at 150°C
- Double line a 9" cake tin
- Bake for 3 hours until nice and golden and firm to touch.
- Leave to cool for 30 minutes before turning out

Victor Pumfrett



Shake spear ?

This curious snippet may be found in a 1920's free monthly journal published in Birmingham. 'Where do you find Shakespeare in the Bible ? William Shakespeare was 46 years old when the Bible was revised. If we read the 46th Psalm and count the words from the beginning, we find the 46th word is SHAKE. If we count the words from the end of the psalm the 46th word is SPEAR.

Roger Saxton-Howes

It's a small world

The announcement of a gift of books from the Revd Claude Guilloteau revived memories for both Judy Richeux and me. As a Roman Catholic priest, Claude had worked in the Vatican Library before converting to Anglicanism. He began his ministry in the Diocese of Sheffield at Goole (E. Yorks). While there he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. After the operation, he was transferred to Hatfield (S. Yorks) as Curate. Judy Richeux and her family were members of the congregation and became close friends with Claude. In the early nineties, he moved to Ecclesall, Sheffield as a team minister. Claude was a frequent visitor to Pauline Eyre, one of his parishioners, especially after her mother's death. His arrival on his motor-bike wearing his crash helmet or on foot in his deer-stalker with the ear-flaps down was guaranteed to provoke comment among the neighbours. He retired to Mazamet (Tarn) where Judy and Guy Richeux visited him while on holiday in the area. They found him happy in his retirement living in a small flat crammed to the ceiling with his library. By pure coincidence, his nephew contacted us, the nearest Anglican church. There is now a selection of Claude's books in the side chapel and the Elizabeth Hannay room. They are available on loan.

Doreen Collier and Judy Richeux



Sermons

Two church wardens were comparing the sermons of the vicar and the curate.

'I prefer the curate, myself,' said the first.

'Why's that?'

'Well, he says "In conclusion" and concludes, and the vicar says

"Lastly" and lasts.'

John Marshall

of the Christmas services, (and is customary at Midnight Mass), but the Church states that the reading from the beginning of St John's gospel should be read at some celebration during the feast.

The mystery of Christmas is that the Eternal Word, the Son who is consubstantial with the Father, was made flesh and entered into the world, born as the babe of Bethlehem. A hymn from the Eastern Church enshrines this faith: *Today the Virgin gives birth to him who is above all being, and the earth offers the cave to him whom no one can approach; Angels with Shepherds give glory, while Magi journey with a star, for to us there has been born a little Child, God before the ages.*

Happy Christmas - **Bishop David**



Quotation of the Month

Given the School where I was once an Assistant Head, Dame Alice Owen's in Potters Bar, has the Worshipful Company of Brewers as the Trustees, the following quotation from Benjamin Franklin seems particularly apposite this Christmastide:

'Beer is the proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy'



Now I know !

Now I know winter's on its way:
It's cold enough and dark enough
To make me dormouse-like enough
To want to stay in bed,
To linger where it's warm,
And not to have to do.

Toast

In the following article, our Church Warden, Bill, reveals a latent talent

I am a gourmet chef ! I make egg on toast, beans on toast, cheese on toast, jam on toast etc. These and other toasted delicacies require careful preparation and skilful cooking. Clearly opening a tin of baked beans can be a work of art. So let us consider the preparation and cooking of just a few.

First cheese on toast. In all cases the toast must be well done, usually black and crisp. Using the cheese grater, prepare the cheese. Be careful when the cheese is small. Grated fingers tend to discolour the cheese ! Place the cheese in the pan and heat at a high temperature until it boils and forms a burnt layer on the base of the pan. Then transfer it to the toast while still hot. The overall effect is striking. What could be more appetising ? When chewing, do take care not to let this gourmet dish clog your teeth.

Beans on toast are prepared and cooked in a similar way. Open the tin and place the contents in a saucepan. Heat at a high temperature until a good proportion of the beans are stuck to the bottom of your pan. Transfer the beans to the toast (see above) taking care to scrape all burnt blackened to form an interesting mix, the flavour enhanced by their a 'woody' taste.

Egg on toast is slightly more demanding. Crack the egg into a hot, lightly oiled frying pan then fry until the white is brown and crispy. Note the BEautiful contrast between the yellow yoke and blackened toast.

Once you feel confident then jam on toast can be a tasty dessert.

Film Review of the month *'Oranges and Sunshine' – Jim Loach, 2010*

Christmas is a family time but 'Oranges and Sunshine' is not strictly a family film though there is an implicit sense of the value of the being a cherished part of a family and the potential damage to dislocated individuals whose family ties have been broken .

The film featured in the 22nd British Film Festival in Dinard this October and was recommended to me at the time by David Norris. Sadly, I was not free to catch it then but thanks to Amazon, I saw it last month and understood why David drew the film to my attention.

Firstly, it is based on a true story: the shipping of British orphans to Australia to what was then purported to be a better life: the oranges and the sunshine of the title. The reality was somewhat different for the majority of children involved. The drama comes in part from the refusal of the authorities, the British and Australian governments and the care and adoption agencies, that something untoward had happened and that an admission of responsibility was required. In part, the tension comes from the search to uncover where the children, now adults, had come from and for their families left behind in Britain. Similar cases of child abuse, physical and sexual, are all too familiar. There is too the problem of judging the standards of the day by the standards of today.

What makes the film for me is Emily Watson's performance as Margaret Humphreys, a conscientious social worker who devotes herself unstintedly to reconnecting these adults with their past.

Though not your usual diet for Christmas viewing, 'Oranges and Sunshine' affirms Christian values of home and family in the face of a world where children can be the victims of thoughtless, careless adults.

Gareth Randall

Christmas Is Never Far From Our Thoughts

At any time a Keyword can do it,
Like *Census* or *Fold*.
And immediately We Think
Of *The Greatest Story Ever Told*.

Stable and *Gifts*,
In Our Memory so deep.
Camels and *Kings*,
Shepherds and *Sheep*.

All of these keywords
Plus many, many more,
From Our Sunday School Teachers,
Deep in Our Memory We store.

Now Advent is here,
The Story of a Birth,
We still Love to hear it,
And appreciate its worth.

With All of these Keywords together,
The Mystery unfolds.
Thoughts to stimulate Us,
In The Greatest Story Ever Told.

***Love, God Bless and Seasons Greetings To All Our Friends at St. Bart's
Chris and Pam Rowlands
Nov'2011***

In all the above recipes, a sharp knife is required to cut through these delicate, delightful dishes. Though the toast breaks easily, the carbonisation of the bread is good for the digestion.

I have invited many friends and parishioners home to sample my culinary skills. Unfortunately, everyone has had a previous engagement! Pity!

Bill Hughes



Paraprosdokian (5/5)

You may recall that a Paraprosdokian is a figure of speech which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

A diplomat is someone who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home even when you wish they were.

I always take life with a grain of salt. Plus a slice of lemon, and a shot of tequila.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

Plus this word of wisdom: "The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."

Ron Frankel

A local hero

'Strange Looks on Remembrance Sunday'

I got some strange looks in church on Remembrance Sunday when I wore my medal (and no - believe it or not I am not old enough to have been awarded a war medal!) So let me tell you how exactly I came to be presented with it by the Queen at Buckingham Palace for gallantry having rescued seven scouts from the sea off Alderney.

With two other assistant Scouters, I had taken a group of scouts to Alderney for a weekend camp to give them the opportunity of passing a number of scouting badges. One was for fishing so I went to check with the Harbour Master to see if it would be okay for a party of scouts to fish standing or sitting along the breakwater. He indicated that would not be a problem so off we went, the boys enjoying themselves fishing from the breakwater while I busied myself sitting under one of its many arches tackling administrative chores like marking up their record books.

Out-of-the-blue, totally unexpectedly, came an almighty thump against the wall of the breakwater. An enormous wave had swept over the wall itself onto the walkway washing seven of my boys into the sea! At first, I could not see a thing because of the sea spray but then to my horror there appeared seven heads bobbing about in the water. Without hesitation, I dived in fully clothed, including the heavy hiking boots I was wearing. Panic-filled, some of the boys were screaming but eventually I managed to bring all the boys back to the edge of the breakwater and with help, soaking-wet they were each lifted back onto the walkway.

Once the boys were safely back at the camp site, I was whisked off to Alderney Hospital where I was kept in overnight suffering from exhaustion and having swallowed an awful lot of sea water. Later

Phrases in French (8/8)

'Hôte' L'hôte peut être soit la personne qui invite, qui reçoit, soit la personne qui est reçue; l'invité.

- a) Mon hôte nous a invité pour le repas de Noël.
- b) L'hôte est reconnaissant de l'hospitalité qu'il a reçue quand il était dans le besoin.

D'un point de vue chrétien, si l'on pense à l'Eucharistie et aux paroles de Jésus dans l'Evangile selon Saint Jean, 'Qui mange mon chair et boit mon sang demeure en moi et moi en lui,' le mot français 'Hôte' suggère une réciprocité, un échange et il est difficile à traduire. Jésus est l'Hôte, l'invitant, de toute évidence, mais en français celui qui communique, qui est l'invité, peut aussi être appelé Hôte. Ce peut être un sujet de méditation sur le mystère de l'Eucharistie, mais c'est aussi un bon exemple des difficultés que rencontre tout traducteur.



'Hôte' can mean either the person doing the inviting or the one invited

- a) Our host (hôte) invited us to Christmas dinner.
- b) The guest (hôte) was grateful for the hospitality he received when in need.

From a Christian point of view, thinking of the Eucharist and the words of Jesus in the Gospel (John 6 v56) 'He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him', the French word Hôte implies a reciprocity, an exchange, and is difficult to translate. Jesus is the host, definitely, but in French, the communicant who is the guest, can also be called 'host'. This may well be a starting point for meditation, on the mystery of the Eucharist but it is also an example of the difficulty facing every translator.



Monseigneur Pierre d'ORNELLAS
Archevêque de Rennes, Dol et Saint-Malo

Monseigneur Nicolas SOUCHU
Évêque auxiliaire de Rennes

Père Jean ROBERTI
Archiprêtre de l'Église Orthodoxe de Rennes

Père Gareth RANDALL
Révérend de l'Église Anglicane

Monsieur Olivier PUTZ et Madame Éléonore LEVEILLE-BELUTAUD
Pasteurs de l'Église Réformée à Rennes, Saint Malo et Laval

Monsieur Jacky LEPRAT
Pasteur de l'Église Évangélique du Thabor à Rennes

Monsieur Maurice AZEROUAL
Président de la Communauté Juive de Rennes

Monsieur Mustafa ARSLAN
Président du Conseil Régional du Culte Musulman

Monsieur Hamou AALAMI
Président par intérim du Centre Culturel Islamique Le Blosne

Monsieur Lakhdar KHELIFI
Président du Centre Culturel Islamique Avicenne

Docteur Sokkaing SAUR
Responsable de la Communauté Bouddhiste

enquiries revealed that the freak wave was the result of the QE2 having passed close by Alderney which had resulted in the potentially fatal backwash that had swept into the island's Harbour.

Later, when I was told that I was to be presented with the Gilt Cross for Gallantry by the Queen, I think I was more nervous of the prospect of meeting Her Majesty than having to jump into the sea in the first place! Still, it was a wonderful end to what could have so easily been a real tragedy for all of us on what was meant to be a simple weekend camp away.

In the years that followed the incident, whenever I have met any of these boys while visiting Jersey, they always want to stop and chat and thank me for what I did – for rescuing them, for saving their lives.

Although November 13th 2011 is the first time that I have worn the gilt cross, I was told I could wear it on any special occasion but perhaps you'll agree with me that Remembrance Day is the best day on which to remember.

Victor Pumfrett



No joke

The following was sent to me by the Revd Canon Greg Webb, Rector of St Gregory's, Sudbury:

A man arrives home on Christmas Day to find all the doors yanked open and everything taken from inside. No way to treat an Advent Calendar is it?

*Christmas is the season of Peace and Good Will -
I was invited to sign the following in Rennes in October*

Déclaration

« Aujourd'hui, la paix est urgente ! »

Il y a 25 ans, le 27 octobre 1986, à Assise, la ville de l'humble et pauvre Frère François, le pape Jean-Paul II, d'heureuse mémoire, a invité les représentants des diverses Églises chrétiennes et des différentes religions à travers le monde à une « rencontre interreligieuse de prière pour la paix ». Nous nous souvenons de ses paroles de conclusion : « *Il n'y a pas de paix sans un amour passionné de la paix. Il n'y a pas de paix sans une ferme volonté de réaliser la paix. La paix attend ses bâtisseurs. La paix est un chantier ouvert à tous pas seulement aux spécialistes, savants et stratèges. La paix est une responsabilité universelle, elle passe par mille petits actes de la vie quotidienne.* »

Pour le XXV^{ème} anniversaire, le pape Benoît XVI renouvelle la même invitation et propose une « Journée de réflexion, de dialogue et de prière pour la paix et la justice dans le monde », qui se tient également à Assise.

Ici, en Ile-et-Vilaine, à l'initiative de Mgr Pierre d'Ornellas, nous, représentants de confessions chrétiennes, du Judaïsme, de l'Islam et du Bouddhisme, nous voulons nous associer à l'occasion de cet anniversaire aux croyants qui, chacun selon sa foi, proclament que Dieu, l'Unique, est toujours Ami de la paix. C'est pourquoi, nous voulons agir au service de la cause fondamentale de la paix entre les hommes. Aujourd'hui, la paix est urgente !

Vouloir la paix, c'est s'engager pour qu'elle soit protégée et promue partout, aussi bien entre les nations qu'entre les communautés religieuses et les personnes ; c'est avoir conscience qu'elle est un bien précieux et fragile, souvent menacé et blessé par des crimes contre la paix.

Vouloir la paix, c'est choisir uniquement des moyens pacifiques pour l'obtenir, en portant un regard de confiance sur l'avenir de l'humanité et en considérant que tous les hommes sont appelés à vivre comme des frères.

Vouloir la paix, c'est respecter toute personne humaine dans le secret le plus intime de sa conscience, en défendant le droit inaliénable à la liberté religieuse pour tous, en particulier pour les minorités religieuses, dans tous les pays.

Vouloir la paix, c'est marcher inlassablement sur la voie du dialogue sincère, bienveillant et ouvert à l'autre dans la recherche désintéressée de la vérité et de la justice pour tous.

Vouloir la paix, c'est garantir à chaque famille la place vitale qu'elle a en toute société, dans le respect de sa liberté, de la dignité de l'homme et de la femme, et aussi dans le respect primordial des enfants.

Vouloir la paix, c'est ouvrir son cœur à la paix et comprendre le lien intrinsèque qui unit toute attitude religieuse authentique au grand bien de la paix, de telle sorte que la religion ne puisse plus jamais justifier la violence et la mort d'autrui.

Vouloir la paix, c'est progresser dans sa foi ou sa conviction pour devenir de plus en plus humbles et miséricordieux les uns envers les autres, car il ne peut y avoir de vie heureuse et pacifique en société sans amour ni pardon.

Vouloir la paix, c'est s'associer avec tous les hommes de bonne volonté afin de participer aux efforts entrepris pour lutter contre la pauvreté et la faim dans le monde.

Vouloir la paix, c'est aussi pour les croyants se souvenir qu'elle est un don de Dieu ; c'est pourquoi, chacun selon sa foi, nous prions pour que grandisse la paix entre les hommes, tous aimés de Dieu.

Fait à Rennes, le 27 octobre 2011