

Diary dates for June and July 2012

9 th June	13.00 Come Dine with me
10 th June	18.00 Concert Alunissons
12 th June	19.00 Groupement Oecuménique AGM
1 st July	11.00 Eucharist to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Elizabeth Hannay
12 th July	10.30 Council Meeting
13 th - 15 th July	Flower Festival
14 th July	18.00 Concert Harmony Men Jersey 10€ including a glass of Pimms.
15 th July	12.00 Friends AGM
21 st July	18.00 Cheese and Wine at Diana Wilson's

Prayer of the month

God of time and eternity,
whose Son reigns as servant not master;
we give you thanks and praise
that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories
with ELIZABETH, our beloved and glorious Queen.
In this year of Jubilee,
grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace
as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God,
and in devoted service to her lands and peoples,
and those of the Commonwealth,
now and all the days of her life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral

Prayer focus

To reflect on the paradox of the servant king.

St Bart's Monthly



June, 2012

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



June, 2012

➤ **Notices**

Dear Friends,

The Queen

At a formal dinner, the first toast might well be ‘The Queen’. In a month which sees the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, it seems right to pause for a moment to consider this remarkable Lady, our Sovereign for most of my life.

We are not our titles but two of her many titles do capture something of that which is truly significant about Elizabeth: Defender of the Faith; Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Defender of the Faith (Fidei Defensor) was a title given by the Pope in 1521 to Henry VIII for a work defending the Church against attacks from those who protested against contemporary abuse and pointed to the need for reform. It is ironic, then, that Henry went on to establish the Church of England, the Anglican Communion.

Supreme Governor (Act of Supremacy 1534) points to what is now an honorary position but in the days when Church and State were at loggerheads in a power struggle over primacy in matters spiritual, it exemplifies Henry’s solution to the question of who is ultimately in charge – he was.

Both titles suggest a leadership role which the Queen has provided. Hers has been an example of sustained service rooted in a Christian paradox that the leader is also the servant, a principle embodied in the ritual of foot-washing on Maundy Thursday and symbolised in the distribution of the Royal Maundy money.

We have much to be thankful for but let us celebrate a monarchy that combines stability with the ability to evolve and to adapt in order to serve her people. In our own way, may we do the same.

Father Gareth

- **Sunday School** during June will run if and when there are children present in church
- **Tournebride Monthly Lunch** 2nd June at the Relais de Tournebride - a good opportunity for British and French folk to meet. 15€ includes an aperitif, a four course meal, wine and coffee. *Mike Baber* 02 99 73 56 06/annebaber5050@aol.com
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the July edition of the St Bart’s Monthly is *midday on Thursday 28th June*
- **Thanks** to Diana Wilson whose soup lunch in May raised 565€ to be shared between SPA and Organ Fund
- **Church Finances for April**
Income: 3,563€ Expenditure: 3,022€



Readings in church

June 3rd Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6 v1 - 8	Psalm 29
Romans 8 v12 - 17	John 3 v1 - 17

June 10th First Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 8 v4 - 11, 16 - 20	Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4 v13b – 5 v1	Mark 3 v20 - end

June 17th Second Sunday after Trinity

1 Samuel 15 v34 -16 v13	Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5 v6 -10, 14 - 17	Mark 4 v26 - 34

June 24th Birth of John the Baptist

Isaiah 40 v1 - 11	Psalm 85 v7 - end
Acts 13 v14b - 26	Luke 1 v57 – 66, 80

Quotations of the month

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

Albert Einstein

My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four.

Unless there are three other people present.

Orson Wells

If you worship money, you'll always feel poor.

Tom Sachs



Sunday School humour - 6/7

Sunday School is back in the swing of things so the following quip sent by Peter Campbell may raise a smile

Time to pray

A priest asked a small boy if he said his prayers each night.

'Yes, father.'

'And, do you always say them in the morning, too?'

'No father. I'm not scared in the daytime.'



Confused ? 6

Lead us not into Thames stations.

John Marshall

Notes from the Council - May 3rd

Our meeting, as usual, was preceded by Holy Communion and interestingly in a church dedicated to St Bartholomew, the readings chosen were those for 1st May, the feast day of his friend, St Philip who shares this day with St James.

The meeting itself began and ended with prayer and there was a real sense of laughter, humour and joy as we discussed our stewardship of our church.

We are still awaiting judgement in our favour re the Monahan legacy. The fabric is being cherished with plans in hand to complete the work on the toilet in June. The church garden is being cared for with plans afoot re the palm trees that are nearing the end of their lives and a bench in memory of Michael Wilson. The Library is the beneficiary of the donation of many paperbacks, not least five large boxes of books from our sister church of All Saints' Vendée where I preached and celebrated Holy Communion one weekend in April.

Events in the future included Diana's 'Soup lunch' (now past); Victor's 'Come dine with me' (shortly to take place); the Flower Festival (in July); and the Garden Party (in August).

On Tuesday June 12th, our church will host the AGM of the Groupement Oecuménique starting with a bring and share supper at 19.00 and followed by the business of the evening.

The profile of the church will be raised by the printing and distribution of a Church postcard to be devised by John Davey. Under any other business, the possibility of a church bell was touched on and would be considered at the next meeting in July.

Father Gareth

Common Senses
Five pieces on how it feels to live in France

4 CHACUN À SON GOÛT

The condemned man ate a hearty breakfast...

...and if served in the UK, it was probably washed down with Lucozade. The Drink of Doom.

Believe me, if you're in hospital and your nearest and dearest bring you Lucozade and best wishes, smile - then change your will fast; and, even faster, turn that bottle to the wall. Believe me, it's you or the Lucozade.

The colour should be warning enough. An oily fluorescent orange, as used in traffic lights because it can slow anyone – anything - down to a full stop...

Then that clinging, twisted wrapping paper: spine-chillingly, flesh-creepingly thin cellophane. Crumpling it in your hand is well known to cause toothache.

And the taste. Tinned syrup of... tin? Fruit-flavoured WD-40? – with too much sugar and more than enough gas to take your breath away - in one final, farewell burp...

Suffice it to say that, significantly, Lucozade – unlike virtually every other *health aid* known to humankind, is NOT available on prescription in France. Why not? Because here we have the real reviver... champagne!

Christine Hart reminded us of the importance of keeping people safe in church, especially those who are vulnerable. Val Carter is our Safeguarding Officer at St Bart's. If you were to be concerned about a vulnerable person and they do confide in you, then write down what is told to you and speak to Val. Useful information re this issue may be found on the Diocesan Website.

The Revd Anders Berquist spoke at three of the sessions. He was awarded a PhD in Archaeology before being ordained. Thereafter he taught Old Testament and Patristics at Westcott House Cambridge. He has been responsible for Continuing Theological Education for both lay and ordained ministers in the Diocese of St Albans and was a member of the Church of England liturgical commission which helped draft Common Worship. He was an excellent communicator and I'll write more about what he said for the July edition of St Bart's Monthly.

Paddy Vidal Hall

God's Post-It Notes 3/18

The following was sent to me by Ron Kirk:

Many folk want to serve God -
but only as advisers.

Archdeaconry Synod Report May 2012

With some disappointment, we watched the rain bounce off the wisteria and viewed the banking clouds but the warmth and excitement of meeting Synod members from all over France soon dispelled any gloom.

As usual, our time was divided between business meetings, talks from a speaker and regular worship. This pattern gave us a balanced daily diet.

The business covered Archdeaconry concerns; the budget; clergy stipends; the Report from the July Diocesan Synod; and Ecumenical issues in France. The rest focused on updates and discussions arising from on-going work of Synods and other working groups.

At last, the 'Diocese in Europe measure' has passed its first reading so money may be made available to develop mission in the Diocese. The plan for four free-standing Archdeacons to refocus attention to on much-needed work and to lighten the burden for those already overworked can go forward.

The Anglican Covenant is designed to find a way for member churches to relate and respect each other while recognising our differences. There is a need to be clear about what binds us together and what is our shared common faith. The Synod thought that the Church in Europe sets a good example in these matters and voted to adopt the Covenant though clearly more work remains to be done.

42 of the 44 Church of England Dioceses have agreed to consecrate women bishops. Those in favour do not want any further provision to be made for those who oppose the measure. Our Diocesan Synod agreed and the measure is now with General Synod.

Launch a ship... a marriage... an affair... Drown your sorrows like Napoleon... or down it all day as Churchill did... When you drink champagne, you're tasting the stars...

...While sucking a barley sugar is rather different. But, in the England of my own early years - worlds away from champagne - *that* was considered magical, too.

"I'm going to be sick." On a charabanc to Blackpool.

"Sit still and think of something nice."

"No, I am."

"Suck this then." A barley sugar.

I do. And I am, in a lay-by.

I suppose you had to believe in barley sugars to make them work. Or maybe take the paper off first. Or the fluff...

When we reach Blackpool my travel sickness vanishes, naturally. Along with my appetite.

But we're on holiday, so every taste-teaser is on offer:

"Just eat the batter then and leave the fish..."

"Try a bit of your Dad's saveloy..."

"Don't be daft. Everyone likes a Penguin..."

Finally:

“You’ve got to eat something...”

We’re waiting for the charabanc home.

“You can’t be sick on an empty stomach...”

But alas, it’s a day-trip from Salford, 1955...

So, no mini-sausage rolls... no cheese-and-onion patties... no salt-and-vinegar crisps...

No hostess aboard. No nibbles...

And it’s a long, long time before Francophilia...

So, no sautéed mushroom vol-au-vents... no salmon mousse en feuilleté... no melon wedges rolled in Parma ham... no deep-fried pig’s-foot glazed croquettes, no chicken hearts embalmed in garlic... no Beluga caviar...

No coolbox. No canapés.

No, we’d set out that morning just with dip-butties and a flask. All gone by the time we were halfway there.

So it’s got to be - of course it is - our national manna in famine, fire or flood... our little life-saver... our homely ambrosia... our stand-by in all emergencies...

A cream cracker.

“Get this down you... and don’t sit over the wheel.”

Blessed are

In the fourth of a series of articles looking at the Beatitudes found in St Matthew chapter 5, we consider the third:

‘Blessed are the meek’

If I were to ask you now if you wanted to be thought of as meek, your answer is likely to be . . .

Why no ? Because no one wants to be thought of as meek ! Nowadays, in the 21st Century, meek is not a word that gives anyone street cred ! The meek are seen as milk-sops – someone who is weak – someone who is feeble ! You are likely to be down-trodden and you risk being treated like a doormat.

Much better to be thought of as tough. But actually, *πραος* (‘*praus*’), the original Greek word which the King James Bible translates as meek, is in fact an Aristotelian virtue, the middle way between two extremes of character: on the one hand between being overaggressive, being angry, having a temper out-of-control; on the other hand, being without get-up-and-go, without the energy to react appropriately and positively in the face of wrong-doing and injustice by standing up for what is right.

So far from being weak and feeble, the meek are those who know just how to act and when to react with energy sufficient for the occasion.

I wish I were meek !

Father Gareth

Memories of the Rhondda Valley 2

An occasional series of articles from Ken Ivin.

Like my mother's family, Ken spent his childhood in this mining community

My late Uncle was an elder of the Bethany Chapel so Sunday best fly-away collars and boots, yes boots, so highly polished that you could see your face in them. As a family, we grouped together and walked, yes walked to the Chapel. Of course, the Non-conformists believe in total submersion when it comes to Baptism so up with the floor-covering to the front of the Chapel, white gowns and all of that.

He was also something high up in the pit and rented the house with grounds from the Board (as in Coal). Then came the Miners' holidays. You knew it was their holidays for there were more large white £5 notes in the pay packet and which was given immediately to my Mother and if my Father was lucky, he would get some pocket money. I loved the holidays for I went to my Uncles and stayed there for he housed the pit ponies when they too had their holidays.

Then there was a Working Man's Club called the Baden Powell and no he never went there. When old enough, I was attracted to it by the snooker and darts. Problem was it was opposite my Aunties who was, of course, well-connected to the Chapel. So one evening I slipped in there and had a couple of halves of shandy and a couple of games of snooker then went home. The distance between my Aunties house and our family home was quite considerable and in those days, there were no telephones or at least we didn't have one. When I arrived home my Father was strangely quiet and asked me how I had enjoyed myself and where had I been? I sensed the problem and admitted it quite openly. Then a lecture on such evils and the devil. My Auntie had clearly managed to get a message to my Father by bush telegraph!

"They don't taste of anything..."

"Hark at faddy..." She's rummaging in her bag...

"Some folks nowadays..." Extracting a triangle of Primula cheese spread. My favourite.

"...You'd think they were born in Buckingham Palace..." She deftly peels off the silver foil and lays it flat on the cream cracker, intact - none under her nails - as only she can do.

"...They won't look at a slice of bread..." Placing the cream cracker on top of my head - *crowning me with it*, she says...

"...But they want it larded all over with Shippam's paste."

Still true, Mum, except now it's *pâté de foie gras*...

David Norris



A matter of diet ?

At a take-away pizzeria, a rather overweight man orders a Margheretta.

"Would you like me to cut it up for you?" the owner asks.

"Please."

"Six or eight slices?"

"Just six – I'm on a diet."

Bill Hughes

The following is a transcript of a handwritten poem was sent to me by Diana Wilson who found it in a beautifully leather bound Scrap Book belonging to Mary Hartley of Killinghall, dated 1839.

**Ancoats Sunday School
on the Coronation of Queen Victoria
June 28th, 1838**

At early dawn, the Scholars rose -
Each boy and girl in Sunday clothes.
Delightful morning, fair and bright;
The female teachers all in white.
Wearing favours all were seen
In honour of our youthful Queen.
Bourne by two youths, each took a part
To show the ladies' work of art:
Two banners work'd on silk so neat
With crown and cushion VR complete.
Reverse'd was Ancoats Sunday School
Each mounted on a neat, blue pole.
Next crown and cushion with great care
Bourne by four girls, both clean and fair,
Surrounded by a youthful band
With tricoloured flag on polish'd wand.
Thus headed, all moved on in style,
The streets were thronging all the while.
In Mosley Street, we took our stand
Where we soon join'd a numerous band
They all look'd well, both great and small,
Convivial love inspired them all.
The Church Schools passed, we joined the throng,
In open order march'd along.
At Ardwick Green, the hymn was sung

**Recipe of the Month
Honey Bran Muffins**

How sweet ?

- ✓ 8ozs plain flour
 - ✓ 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - ✓ ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ✓ 2ozs sugar
 - ✓ 20ozs Kellogs 'All Bran'
 - ✓ 10 fluid ozs skimmed milk
 - ✓ 2 tablespoons honey
 - ✓ 2 egg whites
 - ✓ 2 fluid ozs veg oil
- Stir together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.
 - Put 'All Bran', milk and honey into large bowl.
 - Mix together, let stand for 3 minutes, or until cereal softens.
 - Add egg whites and oil and beat well.
 - Add flour and mix well.
 - Spoon into prepared muffin tins.
 - Bake at gas mark six or electric equivalent for about 20 minutes or until brown.

Victor Pumfrett



Feedback

*In response to my sermon on Psalm 23 (29th April),
Ken Ivin emailed me to share this childhood memory:*

Most houses in the valleys were two up two down with a cellar and an outside toilet. So if you needed the toilet after a night out, it was quite a journey. I made the journey once only when opening the toilet door to find sheep who got in to shelter from the storm! I was petrified.

St Bartholomew's Festival of Flowers

This year's Festival will take place in July on Friday 13th, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th 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.



Flower Arranging Course

Date	Time	Venue	Class Title
Tue June 5 th	14.30	St Bart's.	Pedestal Outlines
Tue June 12 th	14.30	Diana's.	Inverted Crescent
Tue June 19 th	14.30	Diana's.	Marrying Two Arrments
Tue June 26 th	14.30	Diana's.	Interpretations

If you would like to take part, please give name to Victor Pumfrett victorbarry@orange.fr or 02 99 73 99 14

By every heart as well as tongue.
No eye was clouded with a tear.
The Scholars gave a hearty cheer.
'Long live, long live our youthful Queen'
Was sung by thousands on the Green.
Such sights before were never seen.
All that beheld was charm'd to see
The neatness and simplicity
Of every School from first to last -
All previous sights were far surpass'd!
Down Mannor Street, we went our way
All hearts elate in neat array.
In Ancoats Street, we stopt awhile,
The Anthem sung again in style.
Then coronation buns to all
At School was serv'd to great and small.
Then everyone was sent away,
Delighted with the festive day.

G A Tilly
Russell Street
Manchester

Come Dine with Vic

Theme – Beach wear

Saturday 9th June
13.00 – St Bartholomew's Church

Ticket = 10€ in aid of Church Funds

Rules for Reverends 4/11 – Canon Jeremy Fletcher

The following were forwarded to me by my friend Father Peter Bevan

31. Falling asleep during a clergy quiet day isn't a sin, but it's embarrassing if you dribble.
32. The person who looks most miserable in a special service will be the one who tells you at the end how much they loved it.
33. You might have sung 'Hark the Herald' thirteen times already, but for most of the congregation it's their only time in church this year.
34. The person who thought that an orange, some ribbon, sweets and a candle would be an aid to worship had to be joking. No one's laughing now.
35. There should be a misprint in every order of service. Only God is perfect.
36. No one will notice if you do your bit at the wrong time. Everyone will notice when the organist does. Cut them some slack.
37. Aggressive gestures at other drivers are given added spice when you wear a dog collar.
38. There is something curiously uplifting about doing 70 mph in a hearse.
39. You need a very secure safe for all the special treasures people entrust you with.

Garden Party 4th August

The following stalls are proposed:-

Groceries & Cakes	Cards, Jigsaws
Church	Face Painting
House Visits	Plants
Raffle	Sunday School Colouring
Nail Painting	Weight of Dog & Balloon
Bran Tub	Knitting Competition
Mystery Parcels	Bottles
Books	Handicrafts
Bric à brac	Quiz
Ladies Accessories	Bath & Beauty

Contributions of suitable things to sell are required for all stalls please bring to church during July. The quality of items for sale must be maintained especially for the Bric-a-Brac stall where they should be what you would have in your own home. Homemade cakes are required for both the cake stall and to go with teas. Please let Sharon Wignall or Kate Berry know if you intend to bake nearer the time. Homemade chutney and jam are welcome for the Grocery Stall.

In some instances, more helpers are still required to man stalls, supply teas, for car parking etc – volunteers should contact Helen Morgan. Remember help is needed on 28th July and 3rd August to erect marquees, tents and to prepare the site.

David Morgan



writes of the Celtic migrations from Wales, Cornwall and Ireland in the 5th and 6th centuries and of the bloody conflicts involving the English, French and Bretons that swept across the peninsula for hundreds of years. The pages are full of colourful characters, not least in those to be found devoted to Dinan and Bertrand Du Gueselin. Additionally, the pages are superbly illustrated by drawings and photographs mostly provided by local people.

In 1902, after he had returned to England, Sabine wrote a pocket guidebook entitled 'Brittany' in which he says: *The charm of Brittany is to be found in the people and in the churches. The former with their peculiar costumes and customs are full of interest, and the latter are of remarkable beauty and quaintness.* His love of the people of Brittany was demonstrated not only through his donations to Breton churches but most memorably through his successful appeal in British journals and newspapers for practical support for the Breton fishing communities crippled by the sardine disaster of the early years of the 20th century. This led to a sum of 32,900ff being distributed to those in need.

The Revd Canon Roger Gilbert

The above text is taken from original research on Sabine Baring-Gould by Dr. Ronald Wainman. Additional Dinan material supplied by Canon Roger Gilbert. The English text has been translated by Monique Salvagniac.

PS

"I can find no record of Baring-Gould ever having taken a service at St. Bartholomew's although he would certainly have visited the Church. The Dr. John Millard, to whom he refers in his "A Book of Brittany" lived in a Villa which is today No's 63-65 Avenue Georges V (formally Grande Rue de Dinard). Dr. Millard was a dentist and originally from Jersey whose villa was known as "The House of Saints" as the facade was decorated with statues of Saints from the 15th and 16th Centuries - hence Baring-Gould's interest!

The Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924 Squarson of Lew Trenchard 1881-1924 Resident of Dinan October 1900-December 1901.

Who was Sabine Baring-Gould?

On Whit-Sunday 1865, the children of the Parish Church of the North of England industrial town of Horbury marched in Procession singing a new hymn, '*Onward Christian Soldiers*'. Written by the Curate of the Parish, the Revd Sabine Baring-Gould, it was destined to become one of the most popular hymns ever composed. Sung throughout the English-speaking world by Roman Catholic, Anglican and Free Church congregations, it also transcended national boundaries and it was proposed by the Americans that it should become the official USA battle hymn during the course of the 1st World War. Although this was not adopted, much to Baring-Gould's relief, the words, coupled with the rousing music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, led to it being known in some circles as the *Christian Marsellais – Aux armes chretiens!*

Although he ministered in the North of England, Baring-Gould's roots lay in the small Devon village of Lew Trenchard, some 50 kilometres inland from Exmouth which is twinned with Dinan. Born in 1834, he was the eldest son of the local Squire and from his parents received an unusual upbringing. Instead of a formal education, most of Baring-Gould's early years were spent travelling in Germany and France in the family private coach accompanied by a personal tutor. A favourite destination was Pau where, at the age of 16 Sabine excavated a Roman Villa. From an early age, Sabine showed an interest in history and archaeology and his notebook of 1851 contains sketches of the celebrated megalithic stones at Carnac and Plouharnel. Despite his unconventional early years, he entered Cambridge University in 1854 but he fell out with his tyrannical father and, instead of becoming the mathematician and engineer that his father desired, at the age of 29 years he was ordained as a Priest in the Church of England.

Following the unexpected death of his father in 1872, Sabine inherited the Manor House and Estate at Lew Trenchard of which he eventually became the 'Squarson', this being a combination of the words 'Squire' and 'Parson' i.e. the Incumbent of the Parish Church. In returning to Devon, Sabine was accompanied by his Yorkshire born wife, Grace Taylor. Grace was an 'humble' mill girl, half his age whom he had sent away for two years to learn how to conduct herself as a 'lady'.

During the course of their marriage, she was to bear him 15 children! It was as the 'Squarson' that Baring-Gould set about to achieve his two ambitions in life, the Restoration of both the Parish Church and the Manor of Lew Trenchard. In the Church, many ancient artefacts were re-instated, including a Rood Screen based on the one to be found at *La Roche-Maurice* which Sabine described in 1901 as *one of the finest in pure Renaissance work*. Over a period of many years the Manor House was not only restored but also enlarged and refurbished. As Baring-Gould had little time of architects, the work was undertaken to his own splendid but somewhat idiosyncratic designs!

However, although Sabine inherited the Manor of Lew Trenchard and its domains, there was no family fortune to pay for the maintenance of the Manor, let alone its Restoration and that of the Parish Church. So it was that Baring-Gould took to writing and so became, not only one of the most prolific but also the most well known English author of his day. Continuing the custom of his youth, he continued to travel widely, especially for health reasons for as a child he had suffered from chest infections, during the winter months, visiting France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and Iceland. From these voyages came a whole host of travel books which are still classics of their *genre*. From his pen flowed books on archaeology, history, theology, biography (in 1897 he published a celebrated *Life of Napoleon*) along with extensive studies on the Lives of the Saints. Some of his work was published in France and an indication of Sabine's literary importance is that in 1885

acknowledges the assistance given to him by Monsieur Jean Even of Dinan, Monsieur Villard of Quimper and Dr. Millard of Dinard.

Not surprisingly, during the course of his researches, Sabine made contact with L'Abbé François Duine. Although a junior cleric teaching in the Oratory at Juilly, Duine already had a special interest in St. Sampson of Dol and became an authority on the Saints of Brittany. Both men had enquiring minds and an interest in a wide range of subjects, especially the history of the Church in the Middle Ages and also in folklore. They struck up a firm friendship for both men were original thinkers with sharp tongues and an inclination to be outspoken and critical of Church hierarchy. L'Abbé Duine is known to have visited England and Sabine on several occasions and his developing liberal attitudes within the Church of Rome were undoubtedly influenced by his English friend. This remarkable relationship between an Anglican Clergyman and Roman Catholic Priest, especially for the period, is fully explored in Bernard Heudré's book *'Souvenirs and Observations de l'abbé François Duine'* published by Presses University of Rennes 2009.

As writers, however, Baring-Gould and Duine were very different for while Sabine was a populariser and inclined to use dry historical facts as the basis on which to build a colourful, widely roaming and eminently readable narrative, L'Abbé Duine was inclined to devote many years of in-depth and meticulous study to the subjects about which he wrote. In the preface to 'A Book of Brittany' Sabine wrote that the purpose of the book was to *prepare the mind of the traveller to appreciate what guide books point out to him as worth seeing. When the reader has read it he will find that there is a human background, against which the objects he sees when visiting Brittany stand out.*

To fulfil this objective the book covers the history of Brittany and its People from its prehistoric stones to its architecture and Pardons. He

old soul – a saint if ever there was one'. The family employed an 'adorable Breton cook called Felicitas'. Trips to the busy market in Dinan were a great adventure although Felicitas's method of testing the quality of the produce with her hairpin and the treatment of the animals came as a shock to the well brought up English girls! Joan also records how two of her brothers left the house early one morning to witness one of the last public guillotining in the market place but of which they refused to talk about afterwards.

The family were to return to England in December 1901 having enjoyed a big family event when Sabine's daughter Barbara married Laurence Burnard at Christ Church on Easter Monday 1901. Family and guests coming from England were met at St. Malo and travelled to Dinan in an omnibus chartered by Sabine.

Sabine in Brittany

St. Briec, St. Pol-de-Léon, St. Just, St. Tudy, St. Melaine, St. Ive, St. Sampson' there are literally hundreds of Celtic Saints who share a common heritage with Brittany, Cornwall and Devon. Baring-Gould had been invited to give the Presidential Address to the Royal Institution of Cornwall in 1898 on the subject of 'The Celtic Saints'. Consequently, while he chose to settle in Dinan because of its access to the channel port of St. Malo which would make family visits from England relatively easy being resident in Dinan would also give him the opportunity explore in more detail 'The Saints of Brittany'. So, despite a busy social life and his involvement with Christ Church in Dinan, Sabine found time to travel widely in pursuit of his researches into Brittany and its heritage. He records studying the extensive records held by the bibliothèque in Rennes as well as visiting the museum there. Baring-Gould also made use of the libraries of the Cathedrals of Rennes, St. Malo and Dol-de-Bretagne. In 'A Book of Brittany' he

J. de Premilly wrote a *Tablette Biographique* entitled *Homme du Temps. Sabine Baring Gould* which was published in Paris by the Société de Gens de Lettres.

Somewhat paradoxically, Baring-Gould's main source of income was derived, not from academic writing but from popular novels, of which he wrote over 40. Sabine was possibly the most well known English authors of his day. Until his very old age he habitually wrote standing at the desk which stood in the great west window of the library he built in the manor house. However, it is generally acknowledged that his greatest and most long-lasting achievement to the literary scene lies in the collection which he made of folk and dialect songs of Devon and Cornwall which, without his efforts, would certainly have disappeared forever. The importance of their preservation is reflected in the fact that, even today, they are commemorated in the *Sabine Baring-Gould Folk Festival* which is held annually in West Devon.

Grace died during the early years of the 1st World War. Sabine lingered on, writing to the very last but gradually fading away until dying in January 1924, just a few days short of his 90th birthday. During his latter years Sabine wrote two volumes of *memoirs* but these were mainly concerned with the people he had met and his travels and contain little about himself, his wife or children. This reticence points to a very private man who, despite outward appearances of self confidence and being dismissive of others, was in fact sensitive to criticism and easily hurt. A third more personal volume was destroyed by Sabine's eldest son Edward, with whom in his latter years he had a difficult relationship, sometime after his death.

The Dinan Interlude

One of Baring-Gould's most successful novels was entitled 'Red Spider' which he turned into and ambitious Opera, with a large cast, many dancers and a sizable orchestra. The opening performance was in July

1898 but the Opera's early success was not maintained and it came to a premature close in November of the same year. The financial losses were considerable, nearly all of which were born by Sabine personally, leaving him close to bankruptcy. Faced with this situation, Sabine sold his horses, dismissed most of his servants, shut up the Manor House and, accompanied by Grace and some of the children, left England for Dinan. Here, the cost of living and household expenses would be much lower than running a substantial Manor House in Devon and, additionally, the town had a large ex-patriot community and the Anglican Christ Church in the Rue Broussais, the foundation stone of which had been laid in 1868 although it was not consecrated until 1877. Sabine and the members of his family arrived in Dinan on the 20th October 1900 initially taking up residence at the Hôtel des Voyageurs. In a letter written to his daughter Mary on 2nd December 1900, Sabine mentions a Dinner and Ball at 'The Club', no doubt a reference to the Victoria Club in the Rue du Château, which was the focus for the social life of the British residents. In the same letter, Sabine writes, 'I am glad to say we have at last got a nice chaplain who will remain three years, he is a good churchman and is a gentleman. I am helping him'. In so doing, we are reminded that, despite his many domestic and literary concerns, Sabine was also a dedicated Priest.

The new Chaplain was the Revd C.S. Collis Smith. Young and inexperienced, he undertook changes both in Church Order and Worship which did not meet with the approval of either the Churchwardens or the majority of the congregation. Sabine appears to have played an eirenic role in both supporting the Chaplain yet, at the same time retaining the respect of the Churchwardens. In all Baring-Gould conducted many services at Christ Church and virtually acted as Chaplain from July to September 1901 when Collis Smith was absent through illness.

Unfortunately, tension between the Congregation and Chaplain were such that Sabine advised Collis Smith to resign and start afresh elsewhere. However, this was ignored although Collis Smith eventually resigned the Chaplaincy in January 1903.

By Christmas 1900, the family had moved into the Villa Penthievre in the Rue St. Malo, today 6 Rue de Roquet, a gracious and spacious house where the family were obviously very happy for Sabine's daughter, Joan, who was 14 when the family lived in Dinan, writes of a return visit some 20 years later with affection. Joan accompanied her father on archaeological visits to a variety of neighbouring villages and it is clear Sabine lost no time in getting to know all he could about Brittany and its people so much so that he felt competent to give a lecture on Brittany at the Victoria Club in February 1901 which raised 37ff15c for Church Funds.

One of the most vivid insights into the life of the Baring-Gould's during their stay in Dinan is to be found in Joan's memoirs where she writes:

'I loved Dinan, we had a very happy time there. We loved the Carnivals and would watch it from some Hotel verandah in the town and would afterwards join the dancers and people in the avenues of trees. Everyone had confetti and would throw it at the person they wanted to dance with. I remember my mother laughing at it all when she got a handful in her mouth, which made her choke and splutter, and we had to beat her on the back and put our hands in her mouth to get the stuff out. My father was delighted and thought it a great joke'.

Sabine's children attended the *Convent school du Sacré Coeur* in the Rue Chateaubriand, which was conveniently situated near the Anglican Church. From Joan's memoirs, it is clear that they had a warm, indeed affectionate, relationship with the nuns especially Sister Marie A'Sain who struggled to teach the high spirited Baring-Gould children French. Dressed in hard coarse clothes, Joan describes Sister Marie as 'a dear