

Diary dates for September and October 2012

6 th September	10.30 Council Meeting
12 th September	18.00 Aperitif evening at Diana Wilson's in aid of the SPA
13 th September	10.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study: Christian Basics - The Trinity 12.00 Bring and Share Lunch
30 th September	11.00 Harvest Festival & the celebration of the Revd Alan Charters 50 years in ministry
4 th October	10.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study: Christian Basics - Angels 12.00 Bring and Share Lunch



Prayer of the month

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers Orders of Ministers in thy Church: Mercifully behold these thy servants now called to the office of Priesthood; and replenish them so with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocence of life, that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end.

Amen.

BCP – Collect for the Ordering of Priests



Prayer focus

To reflect on our individual vocation, the variety of ways that we are being called to serve God and in particular that of Reader, Deacon, Priest and Bishop.

St Barts Monthly



September, 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



September, 2012

Dear Friends,

London Olympics

27th July – 22.00 French time – and there I was, well past my bedtime, glued to my TV, watching the opening ceremony choreographed by Danny Boyle and it was quite an extraordinary combination of history, culture and humour – all very English with the Queen, her corgis with James Bond and Mr Bean keyed-up with the LSO reminiscent of Benny Hill's triangle!

Once again, I felt proud to be British – entranced and delighted by a kaleidoscope of music and movement, of light and colour, of insistent rhythm and songs which touched a chord from 'Jerusalem', 'Danny Boy,' 'the Rose of Scotland' to 'Cwm Rhondda' and 'Abide with me'; allusions to Peter Pan via Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and to JK Rowling whose creation, Voldemort, is routed by Mary Poppins !

In the year of her Diamond Jubilee, was it not something to witness our Queen open the 30th Games of the modern era when her father had opened the 1948 Games and her great grandfather those of 1908 ?

Okay even if my attention flagged during the parade of the athletes from 200+ countries, was it not something special: that in a world of targets, achievement and greed that the Olympic ideal of the importance of simply taking part is of prime importance ?

As a Christian, competition that brings the people together in friendly games is a worthy ideal. Of course, we all want gold but only one person per event per games can ever win such an earthly prize. But St Paul urges us all on to do our utmost to win a laurel wreath that withers not – the prize that is ultimately winnable by us all.

So what prize have you set your sights on ?

Father Gareth

Notices

- **Aperitif Evening** at Diana Wilson's home, Tamara, St Lunaire, at 18.00 on Wednesday 12th September in aid of the SPA.
- **Our Sunday School** will close from the end of September to reopen on Palm Sunday.
- **Thanks** to all those who contributed to the £780 raised to pay for the bell in memory of Elizabeth Hannay.
- **Thanks** again to all those involved in the Flower Festival which together with the Concert by the Harmony Men of Jersey raised approximately 700€.
- **Thanks** to the many folk involved in so many ways in our Garden Party this year – 5,230€ was raised for St Bart's
- **Thanks** to all involved in the BBQ at Diana's on our Patronal Festival which raised 557€ for St Bart's
- **For sale** a 2007 Peugeot Partner 1.4L (petrol) 70,000Km on the clock. Contact Karen Blampied, who wrote our St Bartholomew icon last August, on 0044 1534 724 348.
- **Tournebride Monthly Lunch** 1st September 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 October edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on Thursday 27th September*
- **Organ Restoration Fund** - £11,319
- **Church Finances for July**
Income: 7,691€ Expenditure: 6,365€

Readings in church

Sept 2nd

Song of Solomon 2 v8 – 13 Psalm 45 v1- 2, 6 - 9
James 1 v17 - end Mark 7 v1 - 8, 14 -15, 21 - 23

Sept 9th

Proverbs 22 v1 - 2, 8 - 9, 22 - 23 Psalm 125
James 2 v1 -10, 14 - 17 Mark 7 v24 - end

Sept 16th

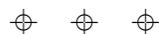
Proverbs 1 v20 - 33 Psalm 19 v1 - 6
James 3 v13 -12 Mark 8 v27 - end

Sept 23rd

Proverbs 31 v10 – end Psalm 1
James 3 v13 - 4v2, 7 - 8a Mark 9 v30 - 37

Sept 30th

Joel 2 v21 - 27 Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2 v1 – 7 Matthew 6 v25 - 33



Quotations of the month

These two were sent to me by Peter Campbell:

Happiness comes through doors you may not know you left open.

Living on earth costs but it includes an annual free trip round the sun.



Garden Party

Thoughts from my heart – Agnes François

The wonderful spirit everyone gave to the event. The great organization, everyone knew what to do. Lastly, just the hard work without a stop and no let up!

Every year the cakes and sandwiches are delicious. The French adore English cakes.

The knitting contest was unusual and the wool and presents given by the knitting shop in Dinan were greatly appreciated.

Also a big thank you for the balloons given by Joyeaux Tables in St. Juan des Guerets.

Things I saw:

An elderly lady alone, enjoying the music and company of everyone around her, with a smile on her face.

The balloons going up in the air people looking up with smiles on their faces.

My grandson Rowan as he stuck his hand in the bran tub and found a present, a smile on his face.

My grandson Jules age two, waiting under the tent and coming out with a monkey balloon with a smile on his face.

My next door neighbour coming for the first time a smile on her face when she saw me.

My husband Claude as he got everyone into the mood of the auction, a smile on his face!

Yes I remember

I was interested to read John Marshall's article on the start of the Garden Party at Carole and Tony Rogers's house in Trans-le-Forêt. That was the same year that we sold our business and became active at St Bart's. Until then, Sunday was one of the busiest days at our Fish and Chip Shop in Paramé. The new owners took over in June and we were able to attend the fete the following year.

At Carole and Tony's, the entrance to the top field for car parking was along a gravelled drive in front of their house. A short time after the second Garden Party, Tony found that the plastic water drain pipes under the drive were broken probably by the weight of the volume of traffic. We spent several days installing new concrete pipes to prevent the problem reoccurring. In the event, however, as John points out, the Garden Party relocated to the Dobinson's.

In those days, the congregation was about 25 people during the winter. Tony Rogers was a server but mostly acted as sidesman. I was quickly recruited to be another. Most Sunday's Sybil and the visiting priest conducted the service. If my memory serves me correctly, when Joyce and I first came to St Bart's there were 3 or 4 sidesman with Tony acting occasionally as a server. Now we have 5 servers and 9 sidesmen (or to be PC 'sidespersons'). Joyce became a server which help take some pressure off Sybil and shortly afterwards, she was joined by Helen Morgan.

When the then holiday chaplain, Father Eric Illing, was instructing Joyce into the art of being a server, I was in the process of boarding over the heating pipes in the pews behind the pulpit. They ran along a well where people put their feet which made life awkward for anyone sitting there. I apologised for the banging and thumping while he was

St Bartholomew's Church, Dinard Christian Basics 2 Autumn 2012

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

Session 1 Text	13 th September, 2012	The Trinity Matthew 28 v 19, Luke 3 v 21 – 22, John 15 v26
Session 2 Text	4 th October, 2012	Angels Luke 1 v 26 – 30; Revelation 12 v7 – 12; Psalm 91 v11; Isaiah 6 v1 – 3;
Session 3 Text	1 st November, 2012	Satan Job 1 v6 – 12; Matthew 4 v1 -11
Session 4 Text	6 th December, 2012	Predestination v Free Will Judas – a case study Mark 8 v31 – 33; John 12 v4 -8; Luke 23 v3 – 6; Matthew 27 v3 - 6

Confused ? 9

The chief missile of the Church of England is the Prayer Book.

John Marshall



God's Post-It Notes 6/18

The following was sent to me by Ron Kirk:

Opportunity may knock once
but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

Rules for Reverends 7/11 – Canon Jeremy Fletcher

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

61. The length of a PCC discussion about money will be in inverse proportion to the amount discussed.
62. No, the Diocese does not know what it is doing.
63. If you want something to thrive, threaten to abolish it.
64. Some organisations do die. Give them an honourable and joyful funeral.
65. It is impossible to overestimate the impact on your ministry of using clear consonants and not dropping your voice at the end of a sentence.
66. Just because the microphone is there doesn't mean everyone will automatically hear you.
67. The notice sheet exists so that people can happily ignore its contents.
68. If you can't be omniscient you can give the impression of being omnipresent. And you don't have to stay to the end.
69. If the whole team is last minute you'll get on well with each other and your church will learn what faith is all about.
70. Yes, it's frustrating not to be able to join in at Choral Evensong. Just let go, and let the office pray you.

talking to Joyce. Father Eric replied, 'If I'd brought my hammer, I would have joined you!' Apparently, he was - and possibly still is - a DIY enthusiast.

How things have changed during the past twelve years, especially since the arrival of Father Gareth who being here permanently has expanded our church considerably. Weddings and baptisms then were few and far between; now they are a regular occurrence.

Long may it continue.

Bill Hughes



Personal Column

Congratulations to:

Mark and Muriel Sweeting on the birth of a son, Timothy, brother to Paul and Célia on 30th July;

Claire and Andrew and to Claude and Agnes on the baptism of their son/grandson, Louis James François Hein in church on 12th August;

Melaine and Ashley Bautier who were married in church on 11th August;

Christopher and Amy Wignall who were married in Beccles on 15th August;

Claude François on having accepted nomination and subsequent election to the office of President of the Friends of St Bartholomew.

Our sympathy to Philip Black and his family at the death of his father, Jimmy, on 14th August. You may well recall that Jean, Jimmy's wife, died in Dinan on 24th August, 2007.

Women Bishops

The following article appeared in the August parish magazine of St Barnabas, Old Heath, on the edge of Colchester in Essex where my friend, Father Richard Tillbrook is the parish priest. It expresses a point of view which I believe needs to be respected if we are to maintain our Anglican vision of the Church of England as being an inclusive Church made up of differing and contrasting strands

If you follow church affairs you will know that, yet again, the procedures to allow women to become Bishops has failed and has been postponed until autumn. It hasn't failed because 'so-called' traditionalists like myself have campaigned against the proposal. It has failed because those in favour of women being Bishops refuse to allow any provision for priests and people in the Church of England who don't actually believe that God has changed his mind. The Act of Synod in 1992 allowed us all to live together – those who believed women could be priests and those who didn't. Bishops were consecrated who would guarantee the sacraments and who would care for the people who still believe what God seems to have decided 2000 years ago and what the rest of the worldwide Episcopal Churches still believe. (That Jesus only called men to be Apostles-Priests)

We traditionalists do not mind that others believe differently. You won't have seen traditionalists marching up and down and picketing meetings of women clergy. Alas, the way the C of E works, you have to actually object to something in order to get your point of view (your belief) across. There is no provision for us just to be valued for who we are – that would be too easy.

So, we traditionalists are merely saying 'Have your women Bishops by all means but please recognise that we were here first and we believe what we have always been taught is the truth. However, in your new C of E please make sure that we can remain loved and honoured and

About a mum

Answers given by young children sent to me by Peter Campbell

What kind of a little girl was your mum?

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

They say she used to be nice.

Who's the boss at your house?

Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such an idiot.

What's the difference between mums and dads?

Mums work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.

Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

Mums have magic - they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

Mothers don't do spare time.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.

I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



Are jokes about cannibals unkind? This one comes from Pam and Chris Rowlands: 'Does this clown taste funny to you?'

Recipe of the Month
Cauliflower and Potato Pie

Serves 4

- ✓ 1lb cauliflower florets
- ✓ 1lb Potatoes
- ✓ 3 tbsp double cream
- ✓ Grated nutmeg
- ✓ 2oz hard cheese, grated
- ✓ salt and pepper
- ✓ 1oz flour
- ✓ 1oz butter
- ✓ 5fl ozs full fat milk



- Cube the potato into pieces about the same size as the florets.
- Boil both together in salted water for ten minutes.
- Drain and put into an ovenproof casserole.
- Reserve some of the vegetable water.
- Melt the butter in a small pan, add the flour and grated nutmeg,
- Mix, gradually add the milk and cream until you have a thick, smooth consistency.
- Add a little of the vegetable water if necessary.
- Season.
- Pour over the vegetables, scatter with cheese
- Bake in the oven or under the grill until cooked and the top is golden brown.

Victor Pumfret



respected for what we still believe to be true. After all – this new regime has come in and changed the whole basis of our sacramental belief. Give us our Bishops and we will be happy.’

Alas, WATCH & GRAS – the women’s lobby - have said over and over again – NO WAY. They (traditionalists) must not be allowed to have their Bishops because that will make us second class. Well, they said it not me, so they must believe that they are second class. (I heard a lady clergyperson who was actually trained with me and ordained at the same time as me say this. Oh yes, she is a Canon already). Not something I would ever have said.

It may all seem daft to outsiders but it is not daft to me and many like me because I do actually believe in God and in Jesus Christ. I do actually believe that the priest has a very special authority and that the sacraments matter deeply. For that reason I have to be sure that the person bringing me the sacrament is a real priest. If others believe differently, fine. However, it feels a bit like the inquisition at the moment where the Women Bishop lobby are saying ‘Believe what we believe or get out’ – fortunately they aren’t quite saying ‘or die’. Nevertheless, to be driven out of my church would be a form of death.

Pray for the Bishops that they may discern a way through this terrible situation.

Keep smiling!

Father Richard



Five Pillars of Islam - 2

In the second of four articles, Claude Francois reflects on Islam and on how we in the West make sense of one of the three religions of the Book

The first pillar of Islam is called “SHAHADA”: ‘there is only one God and Muhammad is His prophet’.

The second pillar is “SALAT”: Muslims must pray Allah five times a day at specific times, knelt down towards Mecca.

The third pillar is “SAWN”: to appreciate God’s gifts, Muslims are supposed to control themselves, to have compassion for those in need and to fast during Ramadan.

The fourth pillar is “ZAKAT”: Muslims should not love money or base their lives on gathering belongings and they should give 2.5 % of their savings to the poor.

The fifth pillar is “HADJ”; it is the once in a lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca.

In each of these “pillars”, there is central rule of conduct based on a submission to God’s will, the love of nature (animals and plants); earthly “goodies” should not be taken for granted and they should be appreciated, respected and shared.

More specifically, SHAHADA means respecting God as a superior force while not attempting to challenge Him or cultivating earthly values like vanity or power.

To practise SALAT, the Muslim has, whatever his occupation at that time, to stop and pray at specific times. This simply means that no occupation is more important; it is a sign of submission, of humility in

Film Review of the month ‘Tom Brown’s Schooldays’ – Gordon Parry, 1950

There are four DVDs available of this classic English Public School story: two by the BBC in 1971 and 2004; a Hollywood version of 1940 and this one made when I was just one-year-old.

It retells the story of Tom Brown going to Rugby as a new boy where a new Head Master, Dr Arnold, is set on reforming the School. In Flashman, there is the archetypal bully embodying a particular kind of nastiness. Brooke is Head of Schoolhouse, the object of the boys’ admiration, but not much is made of him. Dicks, a Fifth Former, is wise and helpful but not much is made of his poverty. George Arthur, a delicate new boy who joins Rugby in Tom’s second year, has a near-death experience. Flashman’s naughtiness with a farmer’s sister is only implied.

But what fascinates me in this version is East. His aunt, a neighbour of Tom’s, has commissioned him to look after Tom and their friendship develops. But it is East’s crisis of faith I find interesting. In an unguarded moment, we learn that his mother has left home, left him though we don’t know why. East has prayed to God but his prayers for her return go unanswered so he concludes reasonably that there can’t be anyone there. George Arthur, however, is gripped by a potentially fatal fever contracted when he fell in the water in their company so Tom urges East to pray. But he rejects Tom’s earnest appeal as pointless: there is no one there to hear. But in the night, the boys hear the doctor’s carriage arrive and Tom is surprised to see East kneel by his bed in prayer. In the morning with the crisis past, East’s prayers have been answered and once more he finds his faith.

A Christian end to a Christian book inspired by a Christian Head Master.

Gareth Randall

Memories of the Rhondda Valley 4

An occasional series of articles from Ken Ivin.

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

I wonder why I am able to re-call all of this? My late Father left school at about 14 years of age with little or no education. However he then went to the local Miners' Institute and read every newspaper from the Communist left to the Conservative Right and lots more in-between. He was Secretary of the local Fed which was the fore-runner to the NUM. My Grandfathers were amongst the original founders of the Labour Party!

He was also the local scribe and so if anyone had problems in the surrounding area they would come to the house and my Father would draft the letters for them, using Basildon Bond paper in blue and with the line-spacing behind the pages. He would always but always end 'I am Dear Sir your most obedient servant, Herbert Sidney Charles Ivin'. We argued on this point for years. He truly could put a letter together and my somewhat flowery style follows him! He encouraged me to join the WEA and hence my exposure to Socialism. My views have changed over the years but the basic instincts remain.

Whilst at home this week, I made my twice yearly visit to the Crematorium with the ritual being daffodils in the Spring which my Mother loved and in the autumn Chrysanthemums which the miners used to grow with heaters fuelled by coal in their put together greenhouses. I have adored the flower since very early in my life. Contrast that with the French approach?

Finally, did you know that at Llantrisant there is a monument to the first cremation in Wales?

front of a higher power, naturally placing every activity on earth in perspective of such higher power.

Through SAWN Muslims recognize that human beings have been given so much by God, they engage in fasting, and feeling the effect of the absence of food make them realize how little they are without God's gifts. Fasting is a way to exercise self-control and to show compassion for those who are not as lucky as we are and who have no choice but to fast.

Giving ZAKAT to the poor is a recognition that we owe everything we have to God and that we are not free to dispose of it at will. We are the recipients, but God is the giver and we owe Him thanks for it.

HADJ, the pilgrimage to Mecca is an occasion to honour God, to save money for that purpose, for Him, to prepare and realize the trip once in a lifetime as a duty towards Him.

These are the five pillars, the 5 essential rules of conduct. They provide in themselves some very specific imperative actions to be accomplished (fasting, alms giving, pilgrimage) but no general guidance or principle guiding individual behaviour but general "submission" rules (recognizing the existence of God, praying and giving).

Claude François



Good and obedient wives

The following was sent to me by Pat Gicquel

In the beginning, God's plan for Man was that good and obedient wives were to be found in all corners of the world. Sadly, after the Fall, it was found that the world that He had made was round.

Garden Party

The 2012 edition of St. Bartholomew's garden party was a success from attendance and financial standpoints, this in spite of the weather (what's new in Brittany?) and the increased pressure put on fewer active volunteers (who are not getting any younger) for organising, advertising, setting up, running and clearing out.

This success is however less obvious if we look at it from a relative standpoint, that is to say in relation to the whole set of 3 objectives we had given ourselves:

- 1) Raise money for our Church;
- 2) Have fun together at the occasion of the yearly fête of our Congregation;
- 3) Make the Church better known in the area in order to attract more people to worship at St. Bartholomew's, Dinard.

The 1st objective was reached, although spending per person seems to be on the decrease.

The 2nd one was not really reached as the balance between stress/exhaustion on the one hand and joy/fun on the other was far from optimal. Someone said that the 'soul' was fading away...

The 3rd one may have been achieved in quantity but probably not in quality: it seems actually that our party, while becoming famous as one of the best events of the summer in the Saint Malo/Dinard area, may not be targeting English-speaking people and potential churchgoers. A majority of attendees to the event came from the Saint Malo area (lured by our sign posting, newspaper articles and advertising), while the centre of gravity of our congregation lies more on the Dinard side of the Rance).

Blessed are

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

‘Blessed are the pure in heart’

Purity is a beautiful word but sadly, understandably, few of us would claim to be pure.

The link between being clean and being holy is neatly expressed in the proverb, ‘Cleanliness is next to Godliness’. Judaism in which Christianity is rooted is preoccupied with the need for purity. Kosher food law is based on the principle of eating only undefiled food and of avoiding that which is impure: our inner purity is thereby preserved by not being compromised by contact with that which is impure.

It is also a characteristic of some Christian sects who believe that they and they alone are the elect and for fear of being tainted by the world, avoid socialising with outsiders.

The Greek word for purity is καθαρος (‘katharos’) and can be used to describe the purity of wine or milk free from added water or the purity of metal like gold free from alloys. For a Christian, a heart that is pure is a heart whose motives are uncompromised by base motives. We may be seen to be doing the right thing but is the underlying reason for what we do the desire to do what is right or merely to be seen to be doing it?

It may be impossible to recover the virginal purity and innocence of our childhood but through the grace of God, we can stand in His presence, purified by His sacrificial love which renders us justified in His sight and at one with Him.

Father Gareth

Saint of the Month
St Ronan

Traditionally, Ronan is represented as a bishop sometimes in the act of being pursued by a shrew (in this instance, a woman as in the ‘The Taming of the . . .’ rather than a small mammal). My source, ‘Le Légendaire des Saints en Bretagne’ - Editions Ouest France - recounts the following charming story about the saint:

One day, Ronan saw a wolf running towards him, a lamb gripped in its jaws while being chased by a distraught man. Moved by the distress of the young sheep and his shepherd, Ronan prayed to God. Result: the wolf vanished and the lamb was found safe and sound at the feet of the saint ready to be returned to his astonished but grateful owner.

All was well or should have been but for a maliciously false accusation by a woman, (la Keben) who accused Ronan of being a shape-shifting sorcerer, capable of transforming himself into a wolf which had just run off with her own little girl.

Taken before King Gradlon, Ronan had to prove his innocence by trial of ordeal which involved the saint being thrown into a ring in which two ferocious, salivating mastiffs hungrily awaited their next meal. ‘If he is guilty’, the king declared, ‘my dogs will savage him; if not, then let his God save him’. And of course he did. As soon as Ronan made the sign of the cross, the dogs now docile lay down at his feet. To test their obedience, he sent the pair bounding off to the woman’s home where in the barn, her little girl was discovered playing hide-and-seek !

Curiously, St Ronan is invoked in cases involving sterility.

Gareth Randall



While a church garden party is not meant to be a religious event, the very special character of Saint Bartholomew’s could probably have been featured more advantageously : Bread of life books, Anglicans in Brittany, Saint Bartholomew’s jam, umbrellas and dishcloths, as well as other church events and activities (Christmas carol service, harvest and flower festivals, Sunday school..). The music also was not up to previous years’ standards; in this respect, I had the personal dream of having the best voices in the congregation sing a great well-rehearsed Amazing Grace as a demonstration of glorious Anglican Church music but the idea did not meet great interest...

If we keep these objectives, we may have to rethink our strategy to achieve them. It may imply brainstorming for new (or old) ideas, and maybe going back to a smaller, friendlier and more targeted event... All suggestions are welcome (acfrancois@aol.com)

Claude François



Christmas Market at Ville Bague

We are planning to take a stall in a Christmas Market at Ville Bague on **Saturday 24th November** to help raise funds for St Bart’s.

On our stall, we intend to sell English-style Christmas goods. Donations, therefore, of home-made marmalade, jam and chutney are needed and also hand-made goods would be much appreciated.

Agnes François will be in charge of arranging the stall.



*Following our successful Flower Festival in July,
it is interesting to explore this insight into the nature of flowers
through the eyes of a local French poet*



Fleurs au miroir

Aériennes
toutes menues dans leur foulard de verdure
les fleurs
ciselures d'arcs-en-ciel dérobés
se sont donné rendez-vous
sous une arche tournée vers l'infini

vivantes de couleur et d'éloquence pour l'œil
elles dont la lumière est parfum
et la langue végétale musique d'âme
tiennent leur cour d'amour en jouant leur partition

dames-lignes de l'histoire millénaire
envoyée par des anges porteurs d'imminence
pour aimer la sève du regard
au miroir du soleil

Renée Solange Dayres

Extrait de 'Fragments d'une autre lumière, le signe'



Harvest Festival, 30th September

Our annual Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 30th September. We welcome your gifts of fruit, vegetables and groceries to be displayed in the transept. The church will be open to receive gifts on Friday morning 28th September.

After the service, fresh products will be donated to the "Little Sisters of the Poor", a home for the elderly founded by Jeanne Jugan and run by the nuns in St Servan.

Gifts of groceries are essential for the Banque Alimentaire of Dinard. These are used to aid the poorest people in the Dinard area. They especially need tins of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables as well as coffee and sugar. Rice and pasta are not needed as some companies give large supplies of such products. As ever, thank you for your interest and support.

Helen Morgan



Sponsorship

You may know that Barry now needs a wheelchair to help him get about but unfortunately the one we have is getting harder for me to push. A great solution would be to purchase an electric-powered one. Social services here in France will help to defray part of the cost but that leaves a substantial balance for us to find. To help raise the money we need, I am proposing to undertake a sponsored walk over and back the Rance Dam on

Wednesday October 10th at 10.30am

If you would like to support my efforts your contribution would be
much appreciated

Victor Pumfret.

But please, no timewasters...

David Norris



God's Email

*This was forwarded to me by Ron Frankel from his friend, Roy,
who thought we at St Bart's might appreciate it!*

One day, looking down on Earth, God saw just how sinful in fact folk were. So few were good; so many failing to be good. So He sent one of the angel host down to verify what He already knew to be true. Which, in due course, of course the angel was able to confirm: more than 95% of the people were indeed misbehaving; less than 5% were being faithful.

Reflecting on this very sad state of affairs, God decided to take advantage of a modern form of communication to send an email to the faithful few in order to encourage them and to strengthen their resolve.

And do you know what the e-mail said?

No?

Neither do I!



Winter fuel Payments

The following comes from Catherine Curtis, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Brittany:

The law has changed allowing Expats of state pension age to claim the above. The number to ring is 0044 191 218 7777. You'll need your NI number; lines are open between 8.00am and 8.00pm and you will be charged for the call.

Wanted a Wife

The crunch has come. The moment has finally arrived.

The unwashed pots in my sink are a sticky, teetering pyramid. There's Christmas pudding on one of them. My socks are composting in the corner. The telly hasn't been turned off in months. And the rest? I've just about had enough of it – three times a day, seven days a week – having to squeeze the toothpaste onto the brush. All on my own.

And now my book needs its page turning...

Need I go on? No, I can't go on.

Anyway, I've decided it's time to *share* these needs. Naturally. But only with the right person. Obviously.

At first I wondered about a helpmate from the homeland. Fly the Flag and Buy British – all that. But according to the press, native wives are in rather short supply at the moment because so many eligible UK women are becoming MPs. It seems to be a sort of feminist thing. Because with that particular kind of commitment there's no need for looks or brains, apparently. And not much of a selection procedure, either. All you need is the right(-on) gender.

Then I thought of an Internet advert. Reach out into Eastern Europe. A friend of mine recently recruited a Russian wife that way, and she's turning out to be very serviceable, so he says. Not that it's been all plain sailing for him, though. He admits he wouldn't be able to pronounce her name in Russian without an effort, even if he tried. (Actually he hasn't had time to ask her what it is yet because she's been so busy. So he just calls her *'Teasmaid'* and shows his appreciation by giving her a little smack on the bottom when she carries the coal in and

leans over to make the fire.) Overall, however – and despite the severe language discrepancy (*her* English is perfect) he's so satisfied he's started to let her sleep indoors. He's even considering getting another.

But I'm here in France now – *définitivement*. So she's got to be French, hasn't she? I don't want her to be tongue-tied when she goes shopping... pays the bills... takes the dustbins outside (and back in)... rows with the neighbours... or drives me to the doctor's... So, to avoid any misunderstandings later on, I've compiled a short pre-nuptial check-list – mainly for her benefit, really.

I want a house-spouse:

AGE: over 25 (so no pop music); under 35 (so no Barry Manilow);

SEX: female preferred though in accordance with current European Equal Opportunities legislation, same-sex and transsexual persons may also be considered (some conditions apply: e.g. don't waste your stamps);

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES: good listener essential (must not disagree; must not burst into uncontrollable, incredulous laughter); should look like Nigella Lawson (early period) – or my mum;

DOMESTIC SKILLS: plumbing (SIRET number req'd); roofing, tiling, plastering (min. Bacalaureate Grade I); any chiropody or hairdressing training an added recommendation;

CULLINARY SKILLS: readiness to eat and praise (small portions of) my microwave cooking – if and when offered;

LANGUAGE SKILLS: must be able to say "*Merci mille fois, chéri*" and "*You are Mr Wonderful*" in English and French (often); must be unable to say "*no*" in any language (ever);

PETS: just me;

DOWRY: substantial bank balance req'd (to be transferred); must come with own Hoover (silent); own blow-lamp (I like *crème-brûlée*); plus own Marigolds (industrial strength)...

In case all this comes across as a little pernickety, I ought also to detail here and now what I'm *offering* my prospective bride. I can't be expected to write individually to the scores of applicants who will reply.

I guarantee:

SECURITY: poss. state pension at 67+ (to be pooled);

HEALTH: First Aid kit in bathroom cupboard;

TRAVEL: 2 x annual car trips – drop and collect – to/from Pleurtuit Airport (my Christmas visit to London);

OWN TIME: 25th/26th December in Brittany annually (see above);

SOCIAL LIFE: opportunity for evening classes (e.g. car-maintenance; anger-management...);

LOVE: free subscription to *Mills & Boon*;

...Well, there we are, dear readers. I have entrusted you with my simple and honest matrimonial requirements – and a snapshot of the generous rewards and happy future awaiting the successful applicant. It's quite a deal - as any man would agree.

So before I go completely public, any offers?