

### Diary dates for January and February, 2013

22 <sup>nd</sup> January	20.30 Service at St Bartholomew's during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 Council Meeting 20.30 Service at St Jean L'Evangeliste, St Malo during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
13 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00 Ash Wednesday
21 <sup>st</sup> February	11.00 Start of Lent Bible Study



### Prayer of the month

O Christ,  
tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you  
and think that you are far away;  
teach us, at every moment,  
to place our spirits in your hands.  
While we are still looking for you  
already you have found us.  
However poor our prayer,  
you hear us far more than we can imagine or believe.

*Brother Roger of Taizé (1915 – 2003)*



### Prayer focus

How might 2013 truly be a New Year for me ?



### Verse of the Month

*A new regular feature to give you a chance to reflect on a verse from Scripture*

A new heart I will give you  
and put a new spirit within you

*Ezekiel 36 v26*

## St Barts Monthly



January, 2013

### Services

**Sunday 11.00** Holy Communion (with hymns)

**Thursday 10.00** Holy Communion (said)

A warm welcome to all who worship with us.  
During the service there is a Sunday School.  
After the service coffee is served.

**Priest-in-charge: The Revd Gareth Randall**

For further information concerning baptisms,  
marriages or funerals:

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January, 2013

Dear Friends,

### *A New Beginning ?*

A New Year is often seen as a chance for a new beginning. Any New Year's resolution we might be tempted to make could be seen as a sign we want to be different somehow, somehow better: *I will eat less; drink less; exercise more.* Slim chance of that lasting into February (?)

In this month's magazine, in the article entitled 2012, a quiverful of the congregation share in a sentence why 2012 was a memorable year for them. If you are generous in heart, then to read such sources of joy and satisfaction may fill you with pleasure on their behalf. Oddly enough, that's what 'vicarious' means: to share what someone else is feeling as if you were them. If you are more mean-spirited, then you might feel like dismissing what's written as simply boasting, just a case of showing off in public.

It is very hard to change what is going on around us but it might be possible to change what's going on inside us. If we resolve to try 'to look on the bright side', try to be more positive in the way we see things, try to be more generous in the way we treat others and ourselves, then might not our lives and the lives of those around us be brightened by our joy ?

Love is the heart of Christianity: love of God; love of neighbour; love of self. If only we could resolve to be more loving in our attitude to all Three, then might not that make for a truly 'New Year' ?

Happy New Year to you all.

*Father Gareth*



### Notices

- **Our thanks to Corrie Stein** who has been responsible for the Flowers in church for more than the six years I've been here, who introduced our beautiful Flower Festivals in July and who masterminded the recent Christmas decoration. In January, Victor Pumfrett will take over her role co-ordinating the flowers – many thanks to her and her team of flower arrangers!
- **Our thanks** to everyone who does so much to make St Bart's a good place to worship
- **Our thanks** to Victor Pumfret for crafting our the rose pink burse and veil
- **Christmas Fayre – La Ville Bague** St Bart's made 270€ profit and our thanks go to Agnes François and her team who put in so much hard work to raise the profile of our church amongst the community at large.
- **For sale** - 1<sup>st</sup> floor Studio – 15sq metres – centre of Dinan - 27,000€ ☎ 02 96 83 30 19 or 06 67 67 02 28
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the February edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January*
- **Church Finances for November**  
Income: 4,948€ Expenditure: 5,730€



### Answers to the Christmas Carol Anagrams

- |                               |   |                             |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 anagram ya wine             | = | Away in a manger            |
| 2 healthily doth envy         | = | The Holly and the Ivy       |
| 3 gilded goring rhino hymn    | = | Ding dong merrily on high   |
| 4 idle tent yolk              | = | Little donkey               |
| 5 a garland heels her knights | = | Hark the herald angels sing |
| 6 a windsock glee song        | = | Good King Wenceslas         |

Our thanks to the Banyard boys for these.

## Readings in church

### *January 6<sup>th</sup>*

Isaiah 60 v1 - 6  
Ephesians 3 v1 - 12

### *Epiphany*

Psalm 72 v10 - 15  
Matthew 2 v1 - 12

### *January 13<sup>th</sup>*

Isaiah 43 v1 - 7  
Acts 8 v14 - 17

### *Baptism of Christ*

Psalm 29  
Luke 3 v15 - 17, 21 - 22

### *January 20<sup>th</sup>*

Isaiah 62 v1 - 5  
1 Corinthians 12 v1 - 11

### *3<sup>d</sup> Sunday of Epiphany*

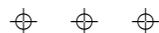
Psalm 36 v5 - 10  
John 2 v1 - 11

### *January 27<sup>th</sup>*

Nehemiah 8 v1 - 3, 5 - 6, 8 - 10  
1 Corinthians 12 v12 - 31a

### *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany*

Psalm 19 v1 - 6  
Luke 4 v14 - 21



## Quotations of the month

Some truth is too deep for easy words  
*Graham James, Bishop of Norwich,*  
*Thought for the Day 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2012*



## God's Post-It Notes 10/18

*The following was sent to me by Ron Kirk:*

Why put a question mark when God puts a full-stop ?

## 2012

If you were to remember 2012 in a sentence what would you write ?

The following were what our readers sent in:

- 'Mount Etna - climbed 2,950metres and walked around the craters in most difficult conditions - spectacular sight !  
*Val Carter*
- The year of my tenth grandson – Orson Elliott.  
*Olive Brown*
- Visiting my son, Michael, in Norway and being taken out for an expensive meal.  
*Helen Morgan*
- My first trip to Jordan and sailing past Mt Sinai.  
*Elaine Dunstan*
- The year my book first appeared in print.



## Personal Column

Congratulations to:

Charles Marshall on receiving in December the Chief Scout's Award for service to scouting (the text of the commendation will appear in our February edition of the St Bart's Monthly);

Patricia Brunt on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> December;

Peter Campbell on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December;

Pam Rowlands on her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> January.



## The Written Word

Word appears in many formats be it in Chinese Mandarin characters or in Russian script and can be written from right to left.

However there is another written word (well just) and it is called Pitman's shorthand with its birthright being witnessed through one Sir Isaac Pitman.

Thus in the early 1960's and in a sort of gap year and before I could quite understand what I wanted to do I went for a year to the Pontrhondda college in Llwynypia in the Rhondda. The college is also fairly near to the Llwynypia hospital and which is famed for my birth!

The syllabus was rather wide and amongst the subjects was shorthand and typing and which is more often associated with the female of the species. Not so I am afraid!

It was a gloomy autumnal day when I got there but I was then reminded of 'Mother Father how are things in Camp Grenada' for there were twenty eight young ladies in the class and just me! I could not wait to get to college every day!

So to Miss McEllstrum and firmly in the 'Miss' camp and unlike today when we see Ms sometimes paraded around. You were left in no doubt how to address that lady. Some time ago Gareth in his Sermon preached on the question of favourites and I was Miss McEllstrum's favourite for by then she had had enough of the girls and to see a male taking shorthand and typing was something else.

However it was covert and she was a hard task master but at the end of the course I was proudly in possession of the RSA 110wpm shorthand certificate and the RSA Advanced typewriting certificate. I still retain them today.

## Playing with words 3/4

*The following were sent to me by Geoff Scott*

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it!

Did you hear about the cross eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!

Broken pencils are pointless.



## Humour à l'école 2/11

*From a dear friend in Potters Bar, Lisa Klein,  
a parent of pupils who are/were at Dame Alice Owen's School:*

Professeur: Joachim, dites-moi le présent de l'indicatif du verbe  
marcher

Elève: Je marche... tu marches... il marche...

Professeur: Plus vite !

Elève: - Nous courons, vous courez, ils courent !

(Et c'est vrai non ?)

**Rules for Reverends 11/11 – Canon Jeremy Fletcher**

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

101. On paper Carol services look like they are going to be really long, but are shorter than you think.

102. Work out how you respond best to conflict, because there will be some. The Body of Christ is made up of human beings, after all. And the Holy Spirit doesn't help. Look at Corinth.

103. No, the compilers of the Lectionary didn't know what they were doing.

104. If you buy a thick cassock because all churches are cold, you will only ever work in warm ones.

105. There is no such thing as a quiet toy.

106. Never overestimate the power of a lone bagpiper to evoke a sense of lament.

107. If your worship group has a drummer, pray that they are the most musical person in the building.

108. People who have worshipped in the same church for decades have rarely looked around it properly. Preach about the windows or a carving. They will be amazed.

109. Church bells must be divine. Humans ring them. God knows why.

110. Don't mess with the Flower Arrangers.



My learning was supplemented by private tuition with the lady at her home and the weekly purchase of Pitman's Shorthand at the princely sum of 2p.

Nowadays and when viewing say Parliamentary Committees you witness a lady taking down the proceedings on a sort of ticker tape machine. Not so in my day for in the Strangers Gallery there were a team of shorthand writers who took down say 20 minutes of shorthand then left to type it up and was replaced by another writer. That ladies and gentlemen is Hansard. It is impossible to keep shorthand up at 110wpm for more than 20 minutes or so but a good shorthand writer will remember twenty words that have been said and still take them down.

Again the same approach is seen in our Courts of today but then we had Assizes and once at Gloucester I saw a male shorthand writer in pin stripe trousers and a black coat being asked by Mr Justice Sable what a witness had said some say fifteen minutes before. Without hesitancy he simply went back in his shorthand notebook and just rolled it off.

Wonderful and the best shorthand writers then used fountain pen to write the outlines for that is what they are called. You write them above the line on the line and through the line and it simply is amazing. Imagine taking down The National Westminster Bank Ltd. I can I have the short form for it.

With advancing years my speed has dropped but I still touch type and what a blessing from our Lord!

***Ken Ivin***



## Crib Service

This year's Crib Service featured the retelling of the nativity story from the point of view of five animals who may have been present at the time. The fifth is a Robin.

### *The Robin*

I'm not afraid.  
I'm not afraid of anything  
Or afraid of anyone.  
True, I'm small in body  
But not in heart.  
My heart's as big  
As the tallest tree  
Up to which I fly.  
My beak is sharp -  
Trust me !

Robins have always been here.  
Rouge Gorge the French call us.  
Robin Redbreasts,  
The favourite Christmas card,  
The image of the season  
If not the reason for the birth.

But I was there  
Though the Gospels never mention it  
Nor tell you what I did.  
Yes, they tell of an inn  
And a stable where he was born  
And a manger where he was laid.

## Diary dates for 2013

22<sup>nd</sup> January

24<sup>th</sup> January

13<sup>th</sup> February

21<sup>st</sup> February

23<sup>rd</sup> March

28<sup>th</sup> March

29<sup>th</sup> March

31<sup>st</sup> March

7<sup>th</sup> April

2<sup>nd</sup> May

9<sup>th</sup> May

19<sup>th</sup> May

12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> June

11<sup>th</sup> July

14<sup>th</sup> July

3<sup>rd</sup> August

25<sup>th</sup> August

5<sup>th</sup> September

29<sup>th</sup> September

31<sup>st</sup> October

10<sup>th</sup> November

21<sup>st</sup> November

21<sup>st</sup> December

24<sup>th</sup> December

25<sup>th</sup> December

20.30 Service at St Bartholomew's  
during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
10.30 Council Meeting  
20.30 Service at St Jean L'Evangeliste, St Malo  
during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
10.00 Ash Wednesday  
11.00 Start of Lent Bible Study  
10.30 Council Meeting  
10.30 Maundy Thursday  
11.00 Good Friday  
11.00 Easter Day  
12.00 AGM  
10.30 Council Meeting  
10.00 Ascension Day  
11.00 Pentecost  
Archdeaconry Synod  
St Jacut de la Mer  
10.30 Council Meeting  
12.00 Friends AGM  
14.00 Garden Party  
11.00 Patronal Festival  
10.30 Council Meeting  
11.00 Harvest Festival  
10.00 All Souls Service of Remembrance  
11.00 Remembrance Sunday  
10.30 Council Meeting  
17.00 Carol Service  
17.00 Crib Service  
11.00 Christmas Day

## Flower Arranging at St Bartholomew's

For some seven years, I have been responsible for the flowers in St. Bartholomew. It has been fun organising the various events and I have loved working with the other flower arrangers. But now I believe that it is the right time for someone else to take over as I did from Diana in 2005.

And who better than Victor, a professional florist, who has been such a great support to me? Leaving it to him will give Gerard and me more time to get away when we want to and, of course, we will be helping Victor whenever we can and are here. Christmas 2012 will have been my last major display in church and Victor will then be taking over from me in January 2013.

I would like to thank sincerely all those who over the years have helped me to make our church look so beautiful every time. They were always ready to come. All of us have made great improvements over the years, experience and of course thanks to Victor's lessons which we enjoyed so much, usually at Diana's home.

Thank you again and good luck to Victor.

*Corrie Stein*



## Misheard

During the Sunday morning service broadcast on Radio 4 on 9<sup>th</sup> December, I thought I heard the preacher say: 'Jesus, the Prince of peace, was not born in a MANOR like a king.'

And they do mention it was night  
But not how very cold it was  
Or the fire which kept them warm.  
It wasn't just the shepherds  
Keeping watch that night -  
I was there too.  
I saw them fall asleep.  
I saw a burning twig  
Fall into the straw.  
Before the flame could catch,  
I caught it  
Flaming in my beak.  
Ignoring the heat,  
I flew away  
To drop it in water  
Out of harm's way.  
But harm was done  
The flame had scorched my breast,  
Turning these feathers red . . .

And that is why all robins  
Have a red breast,  
A badge of courage,  
A mark of service,  
To the Lord of Creation  
Then a sleeping child.



**Film Review of the month**  
***'Stand by me' – Rob Reiner 1986***

If there were a film equivalent of 'Desert Island Discs', then 'Stand by me' would be one of my eight DVDs. Based on 'The Body' by Stephen King, the plot is straight-forward: four 12-year-old boys going off to find a missing classmate, knowing his dead body is lying close to a railway line.

The film is a flashback seen through the adult eyes of one of them. Now a writer with his own young son, Gordie (Wil Wheaton) has read a newspaper report about his erstwhile friend, Chris (River Phoenix), who has been stabbed to death trying to diffuse a potential fight in a queue in a fast-food restaurant. We see the events of 48 hours one summer through the lens of his unvarnished affection.

'Stand by me' is not so much a story as a chance to explore a snapshot of pre-adolescent life in a small town in Oregon. The four boys are friends. It's the summer vacation. They meet in their tree house den to play cards. Ray Brewer has disappeared and Verne (Jerry O'Connell), overhearing his older brother talking to a friend, knows roughly where the corpse may be found. The boys are up for it, motivated by the kudos and publicity of being the ones to solve the mystery of Ray Brewer's disappearance and accidental death.

What is interesting is the group dynamic: banter, serious and playful. Then there's the tension between the 12-year-olds and their older brothers' gang of teenagers who can drive and are into mild mischief. All this is given the extra frisson of the pervasive American gun culture which has the potential to transform a Boy Scout adventure into something much darker.

What is interesting is each of the four boys has a history. Gordie is part of a family locked in grief after the accidental death in a car crash

**Recipe of the month**  
**Chicken Wait-and-See Bake**

*When you were younger and you asked you Mum what was for dinner, she may have replied, 'Wait and see'. Well this is a dish that is useful to serve on a Monday, using any cooked chicken left over from Sunday roast.*

- ✓ 1 ½ oz soft margarine
- ✓ 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- ✓ 2 tbsp plain flour
- ✓ ¼ pt semi skimmed milk
- ✓ 12 oz broccoli spears, lightly cooked and drained
- ✓ 4 oz (drained) canned sweet corn
- ✓ 8 oz cooked chicken diced
- ✓ salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ✓ 2 oz cheddar, grated.



- Melt the margarine in a medium sized saucepan
- Cook the onion over a gentle heat for 5 minutes until soft.
- Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute.
- Gradually blend in the milk bringing to the boil, stirring constantly.
- Cook for 1 – 2 minutes, until thick.
- Stir in the broccoli, sweet corn, cooked chicken, and season.
- Turn the mixture into an ovenproof dish and sprinkle with cheese.
- Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C (350°F) Gas mark 4 for 25 minutes until golden brown.
- Serve hot with jacket potatoes and freshly cooked vegetables.

As we once again celebrate the good news of God-with-us, may God give us his grace that we may live and proclaim his love in the world. It is in that love that I send you my blessing, to you and your families, that you may indeed have a holy and blessed Christmas, a Christmas that will touch your hearts and strengthen you to go out into all the world to live and to proclaim the Good News.

+ **GEOFFREY GIBRALTAR**



### **Court reports 1/12**

*The following are a series of what was actually said in American courts and has been sent to me by Ron Frankel*

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?  
WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'  
ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?  
WITNESS: My name is Susan!



### **My thanks**

to whoever in early December left a small present on my stall in church: a wind-up, Lego-man in swimming goggles capable of a convincing front crawl and found inside an envelope with the following note of encouragement written in green ink on the outside :-

'Don't give up' !  
**Father Gareth**  
12

of their first son, Danny, a golden boy, academically bright and a talented sportsman under whose shadow Gordie has grown up. Racked by the thought his parents would have preferred him to be the one to have died and by his own grief for the brother he loved, Gordie is haunted by his lack of self-worth though he shows real potential as an imaginative writer. Chris is a bright but disadvantaged boy from a poor white family. His father drinks and Chris has been accused of stealing the dinner money from his class. Teddy (Corey Feldman), fortunately not without a sharp sense of humour and the ridiculous, has been traumatised by physical abuse from a mentally disturbed father who was a D Day Veteran. Verne (Jerry O'Connell) is tubby, dozy and the butt of their humour.

The film takes what it means to be a 12-year-old seriously. It is a world explored with sympathy and insight. There is humour and serious speculation about what is important to these boys. There are the shadows of growing up: changing schools; making choices about a future career, the tension between them and the older gang of boys (Keifer Sutherland is particularly menacing as their leader).

If you have never seen 'Stand by me', it is a film well worth looking out for. In my view, it repays watching more than once. It is a film that understands boyhood and the enduring value of friendship.

**Gareth Randall**



### **Food for thought**

*The following was told to me by my sister-in-law, Lin:*

If God wanted us to be vegetarians, then why did he make animals out of meat ?

## Christmas message

One of my delights at Christmas and the New Year is to find myself in an Italian city in which the large churches have the most wonderful Christmas cribs on display. *Mechanico praeseptio* on a poster outside tells you that the crib is replete with flickering fires around which the shepherds warm themselves, the star moves in the heavens, as do the angel choirs, the Magi with their camels journey from afar, and the landscape may have water-wheels turning, streams flowing, and houses with all kinds of crafts going on. And in the centre a cave or a stable with the Child in the manger, and Mary and Joseph standing or kneeling in awe, wonder, and adoration. It is not surprising that children gaze wide-eyed with fascination at these intricate and amazing cribs.

It was St Francis of Assisi who was the first to create a Christmas crib in the year 1223, for the poor and illiterate peasant people of Greccio. It was so that they might realise more clearly the awesome truth of the Christmas story, that God the Lord and Creator of all that is stooped to share the frailty and fragility of our human nature. Francis was part of a change in Christian devotion which stressed the human and the personal, so that St Bernard could meditate on the pricking straw of the manger anticipating the crown of thorns, and artists like Giotto could portray the tenderness of Mary's maternal love. The sometimes stern and hieratic portrayals of Christ gave way to one in whom we see and know a human person like ourselves.

When St John, who, at the beginning of his Gospel does not tell the Christmas story as we find it in different ways in St Matthew and St Luke, proclaims that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,' he captures for us the amazing truth at the heart of our faith, that the Word – the creative wisdom and energy of God himself – took the vulnerability of our human nature, knowing what it is to be one of us

from the inside. The poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, said that, 'the Almighty goodness does not dwell in generalities, nor abide in abstractions.' God did not become an idea, did not become some generalised human nature, but a unique particular person, a man of particular time and place, a Jew from Galilee, in an occupied country in which people asked, 'where was God? and why did He not act? But God does act. He comes among us not as the expected powerful, revolutionary leader, but in all the vulnerability of a new-born child, indeed as one who as the unborn child grew in Mary's womb – which is why the real Feast of the Incarnation is not Christmas but the Annunciation nine months earlier.

'The Word became flesh...and we beheld his glory.' The Greek word for glory, *doxa*, means the very being or reality of a thing. In the astounding humility of the Incarnation we behold the reality of God, know who the God who created us is – the one who empties himself, chooses in love to come down to the lowest part of our need. The word 'Islam' means 'submission', and Christians and Muslims rightly know that we are called to obedience, to submission to the will of God. But Christians differ from Muslims in this confession at the heart of our faith – that the God whom we worship and seek to obey is a God who amazingly chooses to submit himself to us.

As Charles Wesley wrote 'he emptied himself of all but love', and, as Mark Frank, a great Anglican teacher preached on Christmas Day, 'by this day's emptiness we all were filled.' 'This is our story, this is our song,' this is the Gospel – the good news for the world – a world distorted by the abuse of power, by poverty, by hunger, by greed and lusts of every kind. Our Christmas Gospel is the good news of the God who comes to set us free by showing the glory of His amazing grace in the love that meets us and transforms us that we may grow into His likeness. The divine light indeed shines in our darkness, and the darkness has not been able to snuff it out. That is our joy and blessing this and every Christmas.