

### Diary dates for May and June, 2013

2 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.30 Council Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 Ascension Day
19 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 Pentecost
25 <sup>th</sup> May	20.30 Concert Dudley Choral Society.
12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Archdeaconry Synod St Jacut de la Mer
17 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00 Service of Confirmation The Right Revd Geoffrey Rowell Bishop in Europe



### Prayer of the month

O Lord Jesu, who art the only health of all men living, and the everlasting life of them which die in faith; I give myself wholly into thy will; being sure the thing cannot perish, which is committed unto thy mercy . . .

O Lord into thy hands I commit my soul.

*Thomas Cromwell (1485 – 1540)*



### Prayer focus

What's real for you about your faith.



### Verse of the Month

To bring out the captives from the dungeon,  
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

*Isaiah 42 v7*

## St Bart's Monthly



May, 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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May, 2013

Dear Friends,

***Second or third person ?  
Singular or plural ?***

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church and on that day, fifty days on from the Resurrection, ten days after Jesus had ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit energised the disciples, now apostles, to rush out into a crowded Jerusalem street to share their enthusiasm with passing strangers in their own strange languages – and, amazingly, they were understood by many who heard them.

If Pentecost is about God the Father making God the Son known through the power of God the Holy Spirit, then I'm tempted to ask what is your own personal experience of the God who loves us enough to die for us and who is always with us even until the end of time.

Is God someone you think of as 'He' – someone out there that you've heard about, someone out there that you know something about ? Or do you think of God as 'You' – someone out there that you speak to, someone near-at-hand, a 'You' who is there to encourage you ?

What Pentecost did was to make God more up-close-and-personal, singular by definition, by definition 'He', into the 'You' we can talk to. Our one God is now very much three-in-one and one-in-three.

So is God both 'He' and 'You' to you, both singular and plural ?

To me, 'He'/'They' are also very much 'You' !

***Father Gareth***



**Notices**

- **Lent Appeal** raised £300 for Leukaemia Care
- **Easter Flowers** – 208€ was donated in memory of loved ones by people at St Bart's. Thanks as ever for being so generous.
- **Easter Lunch** – at Diana's made 632€. Our thanks to all who made the event possible not least Sharon and Kate
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the June edition of the St Bart's Monthly is ***midday on 30<sup>th</sup> May***
- **Church Finances for March**  
Income: 4,009€ Expenditure: 5,861€



**Personal Column**

Congratulations to:

John and Laura Davey who were married here on 4<sup>th</sup> May;

Maëlle Yvonne Margot Hancock who was baptised here on 5<sup>th</sup> May.



**Humour à l'école 6/11**

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

Professeur : Pouvez-vous me dire le nom de 5 choses qui contiennent du lait ?

Elève: Oui maître. Un fromage et quatre vaches ...

(Dites-moi où il s'est trompé ?)

## Readings in church

### **May 5**

Acts 16 v9 - 15

Revelation 21 v10, 22 - 22 v5

Psalm 67

John 5 v1 - 9

### **May 12**

Acts 16 v16 - 34

Revelation 22 v12 - 14, 16 - 17; 20 - end

Psalm 97

John 17 v20 - end

### **May 19**

Acts 2 v1- 21

Romans 8 v14 - 17

Psalm 104 v26 - 37

John 14 v8- 17

### **May 26**

Proverbs 8 v1- 4, 22 - 31

Romans 5 v1 - 5

Psalm 8

John 16 v12 -15



## Notes for the Council

2<sup>nd</sup> May

These will appear in our June edition of the St Bart's Monthly because the one for May will have been printed before the meeting.



## God's Post-It Notes 13 & 14/18

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

The will of God never takes you where the grace of God will not protect you.

If God is your co-pilot,  
swop seats.

## Resurrection

*This short piece was sent to me by our regular Welsh contributor, Ken Ivin.*

*Ken joined us from All Saints Vendée and by now with his wife, Linda, will have moved south to Spain where the weather is warmer than it is here in Brittany but not quite so Celtic!*

*We wish them both well in their new home.*

Directly opposite the main entrance to Llethrudu Cemetery, one of the biggest in the Rhondda and one which contains the graves of many a brave miner, not least those of the men who died in the last mining disaster in the valley in May 1965, The Bute Hotel acquired the nickname of The Resurrection because, in the days of walking funerals, the mourners would repair to the Bute to 'resurrect' the deceased with tales and reminiscences over a pint or three.



## Pope François

*On Maundy Thursday,  
Francis knelt to wash  
then kissed the feet  
of 12 young offenders  
at Casa del Marmo.*

I kneel to kiss his feet:  
my Lord, my God, my King;  
in serving others,  
we are serving you.



## Let's not poo poo the loo !

### ***It's Just Not Right!***

There are many things we take for granted, indeed expect to be always available, not least the availability of a decent flushing toilet. However, for about one in three of the world's population, this is not so and bad sanitation is one of the world's biggest killers. We may be surprised to learn that about half the world's population has an illness caused by bad or lack of sanitation.

### ***Women and Girls most at Risk!***

In Africa fifty percent of girls who drop out of school, do so because they need to collect water, often from many miles away, or because there are not separate toilets for boys and girls at the school. Not having a toilet puts people at risk of being bitten by snakes etc. as they squat in the grass. It also makes women and girls a target for sexual assault as they have to 'go to the toilet' in the open.

### ***We Can Help Improve Matters!***

Statistics show that for every £1/1€ spent on providing clean water and decent sanitation, there is an eightfold return through saved time, increased productivity and reduced health costs. This does not include the increased security and safety of all especially the females of the societies.

I remember when the toilet here at St. Bartholomew's was only a few percentage points better than many. Yes it flushed, but access from the library was up a couple of steps, not ideal for those with mobility problems. I remember the toilet seat with its special hinged arrangement, a bit of bent wire coat hanger, a brief call to a 'Brico' store and I was able to replace the aforesaid seat. Eventually, we had the more skilled members of the church, who lowered the 'loo' floor to match the library, and also change the system to allow effluent to be

?? ? (3/6)

*Peter Campbell forwarded the following question:*

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

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### **Court reports 5/12**

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

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?  
WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

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### **Church Notice boards 2/11**

*Nathan, Barry Jordan's son, sent me this*

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long, but the retirement benefits are out of this world.

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### **The Devil or what ?**

Two young boys were walking home from Sunday School during which much time had been devoted to discussing Satan.

"So what do you make of the devil ?" one lad asked the other.

"Well, I reckon it's going to be a bit like Father Christmas - in the end, it turns out to be your dad!"

*John Marshall*

## Odd Words

*An occasional series looking at odd usage or the odd choice of a word or a phrase.*

### 'Beyond'

As a 63-year-old, former teacher of English, I think it is reasonably safe to assert that my knowledge of and facility in English leads me to be surprised at some of the things I may hear on Radio 4. As I type this, it is 6<sup>th</sup> April – Grand National Day back in England. On the 'Today' programme, an interviewer was giving the new man responsible for Aintree a hard time. Challenging, provocative, he is trying to obtain an assurance that something more will be done to make the race a safer experience for the horses taking part. So he asks if there were to be further fatalities today whether the number of horses taking part would be limited to say 'beyond thirty'.

He had my attention. To my mind, 'beyond' means 'more than' not 'less than'. The assumption is we start from zero to count up from one to whatever. Well, I smiled. Spoken language is not as precise as written language so once we've opened our mouth, the word is out for all to hear (well at least by those who are tuned in to listen) and we can't delete or tippex it out as we did in the old days of typewriters.

Well, I guess I'm well beyond thirty but if we want fewer horses to take part next year, then perhaps it might have been better to have suggested a number smaller than thirty. Why he didn't is beyond me!

*Gareth Randall*



### Quotations of the month

Is to be released from prison to be past one's cell by date?

*GJR*

12

pumped to sewer level in rue des Cèdres. We have now been improved again to our current little loo palace.

Two charities, Cord and Tear fund, have linked to provide toilets where needed by toilet twinning at a cost of £60 per twinning. The Church Council has agreed that we support this cause, and for us this means our toilet will be twinned with a latrine in a needy location in Kainpani, Rolpa District, Nepal.

I am sure that many will wish to help this most worthy cause and donations may be given to our treasurer, David Morgan. Eventually we shall receive a framed certificate of our twin, together with its GPS location. I feel sure that this will be displayed by our own facility. Thank you all in anticipation of the St. Bartholomew's generosity.

*John Marshall*



### Wisdom and knowledge

My sister-in-law, Lin, shared this insight with me during one of my regular Sunday evening family telephone calls.

'The difference between wisdom and knowledge can be simply illustrated by the humble tomato: knowledge is to understand the tomato is a fruit; wisdom is to refrain from using it in a fruit salad.'

***Film Review of the month***  
***'Forrest Gump' Robert Zemeckis - 1994***

Having reviewed a film starring Tom Hanks last month, I was delighted to be lent a DVD of the above by my friends, Ann and Peter Bevan.

There is a real delight in watching a good film for the second time – you can remember some of what is coming and you can see and appreciate different things you may well have missed before. The mark of a good film is surely that it stands the test of time.

Nor was I disappointed at hearing again the slow southern drawl of a seemingly unattractive character sitting on a bench by a bus-stop engaging initially unwilling listeners as he shares his life-story. But Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks) grows on you as his story unfolds. He is an unlikely hero - once a boy with leg braces, an IQ of 79 and a loving single parent mum (Sally Field) who fights his corner. The way he is isolated on the school bus and bullied for being slow – ironically he discovers a talent for running and later for table tennis – is realistically poignant. We see the boy become a man and though it is very funny, there is also a serious side as significant events in American history between the 50s and early 80s are touched on: Elvis Presley; John Lennon; Civil Rights in Alabama; the assassination of President Kennedy; the Vietnam War; Hippies; Watergate; HIV. Archive film footage of Presidents Kennedy, Johnstone and Nixon is retouched to include Forrest and there is an excellent choice of contemporary music.

His life-long love for Jenny (Robin Wright) is touching and bitter sweet. Serious and funny, you'll love 'Forrest Gump' whether you are watching it for the first time or like me revisiting an old favourite.

***Gareth Randall***

**Epitaphs**

It's Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April – my nephew Tony's birthday.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher died yesterday; her funeral will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. In the many words being broadcast about her, one thing is certain: as a politician her legacy is fiercely contended depending on who is offering an evaluation of what she did, of what she achieved and what she stood for.

Her death made me reflect on what might be a suitable epitaph for our former Prime Minister. I penned the following:

***She made a difference***

✘

4 words; 5/6 syllables – suitable or suitably ambiguous ?

What would you choose to write as your epitaph ?

Mine might be:

***Thank you***

✘

***Father Gareth***

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**Concert at St Bartholomew's Church**

***Saturday 25th May – 20.30***

***Dudley Choral Society***

Faure's 'Requiem'

Rutter 'Magnificat'

Rutter 'Wells Jubilate'

Mozart 'Exsultate Jubilate'

Admission free – collection to be taken

## Seating in St Bartholomew's

As members of our congregation are getting older, more of us would appreciate softer seating in the church pews. As mentioned in the April newsletter, our Council has investigated ways of providing cushioning for the pews.

We are planning to purchase 3 inch thick foam cut to fit each of the pews at cost of 1,549€. To reduce the overall cost of the project, Victor Pumfrett has offered to lead a team to make covers for them. The material used will be hard wearing and match the colour of the red carpets in the church. All materials will be provided and Victor has access to a few sewing machines. Volunteers will be needed to operate these machines or if you have your own and were able and willing to help then please contact Victor on ☎ 02 99 73 99 14.

And if anyone would like to make a contribution to defray the funding the cushions, then please contact me.

*David Morgan*  
*Treasurer.*



## ITV

*'Adverts interrupted by programmes' – Geoff Hooke*

I don't watch much television nowadays – I prefer to be selective and generally choose a DVD. But I do love 'Foyle's War' and Series Eight started on ITV at the end of March, so late (for me) on a Sunday night, I tuned in – and rediscovered adverts. I'd forgotten just how irritating they can be – breaking up the drama so it loses its pace and impact. Ok, so it is good to have a loo break but even my aging bladder is not that needy. Ok, so adverts do pay for commercial television but is an awful price to pay to be entertained and I'm not that amused!

*Gareth Randall*

## Bishop Geoffrey's retirement announcement to the diocese

As most of you will be aware, I celebrated my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. This is the normal final date for retirement of diocesan bishops, as of other clergy. The Archbishop of Canterbury has discretion to grant an extension of office for up to a further year. Being aware that the Archbishop of Canterbury has a special role in the appointment of a new Bishop in Europe (which is not a Crown appointment, but is an appointment made, after appropriate consultation, by a triumvirate of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and a bishop appointed by the Anglican Consultative Council), Archbishop Rowan Williams agreed last year to such an extension, so that my retirement should not coincide with a vacancy in the see of Canterbury. Once Archbishop Rowan's successor, Justin Welby, had taken office, I was in correspondence with him about a date of retirement. We have now agreed that this will be November 8<sup>th</sup> of this year, and I have signed the necessary Deed of Resignation. The date chosen will enable the Friends of the Diocese service on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to be my farewell to the Diocese, to be followed in All Saints by a farewell visit to the Cathedral in Gibraltar, where I was enthroned as Bishop on All Saints' Day, 2001.

I give thanks to God for calling me to serve as bishop of this unique and far-flung diocese. For almost twelve years it has been a great privilege to be able to meet with and support priests, deacons and congregations in many different places, and I thank all who have welcomed me on many pastoral visits with warm hospitality. I have often – taking as my cue the collect for All Saints' Day, which speaks of God 'knitting together his elect in one communion and fellowship' – compared my ministry as one of knitting the scattered chaplaincies together. In this I have been helped and supported by many: Bishop David, my Suffragan; a succession of Archdeacons and Area Deans;

the staff in the Diocesan Office and, especially and personally, in my own office at Worth; and the Diocesan Chancellor and Registrar. This is a ministry which you cannot do alone. In the annual residential Diocesan Synod, which is in so many ways a model for synods elsewhere, and in the two Pastoral Conferences of clergy of the Diocese, we have seen and known something of that internet of the Spirit which is at the core of the life of this Diocese.

What lies at the heart of a bishop's ministry is prayer, teaching and pastoral care, all of which enable the bishop to encourage and enable the mission of the church, the sharing of the Gospel – the good news of God in Christ – which is what each and every one of us is about. In Europe we have a unique ecumenical vocation, and it has been a priority for me to build and to sustain, on behalf of the Diocese, the Church of England, and the Anglican Communion, ecumenical relations, particularly with the great Churches of East and West. Ecumenical relationships always grow from personal encounters and from friendship, as well as from theological exchange. As Aelred of Rievaulx dared to say – ‘God is friendship’. To be bishop of the Diocese in Europe has enabled me to meet with many church leaders and to share their welcome and friendship, and to pray in many holy places for that unity which is our Lord's will and to enable the mission of the church. It is a special responsibility of ministry in this Diocese which I treasure, and which in due course I will of course hand on to my successor. I shall be remaining as Anglican Co-Chair of the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox dialogue, which, after a time of suspension, is now to resume.

I came to this Diocese, after learning the ministry of a bishop on the ground as Bishop of Basingstoke, from many years of teaching and pastoral care in the university. The teaching of the Christian faith, and the preaching of the Gospel, is a commission given to the Church by Christ. In an age of relativism and individualism we need to remember

that our faith is something which is not individual opinion, but is a revealed truth which transforms our lives. As St Paul said, ‘I handed on to you that which I also received’. Where there have been differences on disputed issues, I have stood where I have because I have seen my responsibility as a bishop to defend the faith which I have received through the Church – the faith once delivered to the saints – knowing that true discernment requires the consent of the whole Church.

In the months which remain to me as your bishop, I shall continue to serve you as I have always endeavoured to do. Writing this on the verge of Holy Week and Easter is a recalling of all of us to that transforming grace and divine life which, in Christ, entered into our human living and dying, that goodness of God which the Lady Julian of Norwich said was our highest prayer, which comes down to the very lowest part of our need.

With every blessing,

+ *Geoffrey Gibraltar*

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013



### **Confirmation**

We are fortunate to have Bishop Geoffrey with us on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June after the Archdeaconry Synod in St Jacut to take a service of Confirmation at St Bart's. It is chance for us to say goodbye to our ‘shepherd’ whose ‘cure of souls’ in this place I share.

So if you can, do come and be with us.