

Diary dates for October and November, 2013

3 rd October	10.30 Holy Communion 11.00 Bible Study - St Paul 2 12.00 Bring and share lunch
4 th October	18.00 – 20.00 Private view of the Art Exhibition in St Bart's
5 th October	10.00 – 18.00 Art Exhibition in St Bart's
12 th October	12.15 SPA Lunch Diana Wilson's
7 th November	10.30 Holy Communion All Souls Service of Remembrance 11.00 Bible Study - St Paul 3 12.00 Bring and share lunch
10 th November	11.00 Remembrance Sunday
21 st November	10.30 Council Meeting

The church will be closed for four days:

Monday 7th – Thursday 10th October.

*There will be no services of Holy Communion:
10th, 24th and 31st October*

Prayer of the month

A blessing

Lift your face to the Light.
In the sight of God,
you are beautiful.
The mark of Christ is on you.
Go free, with an open heart,
for Christ walks with you
into a new day.

Prayer focus

To reflect on the blessing of those we have known, those who remain dear to us but who have subsequently died.

St Bart's Monthly



October, 2013

Services

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion (with hymns)

Thursday 10.00 Holy Communion (said)

A warm welcome to all who worship with us.

After the service coffee is served.

Priest-in-charge: The Revd Gareth Randall

For further information concerning baptisms,
marriages or funerals:

 02 99 46 77 00

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Website : www.stbarts-dinard.org.uk



October, 2013

Notices

Dear Friends,

If music be the food of love play on

Nearly forty years ago, the last play I produced at my first school was Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' which opens with these words spoken by the Duke Orsino who was in love with the idea of being in love. On reflection, it all sounds very much to me what it was like to be an adolescent in a Boys' Grammar school in those days.

Back in August, I attended a concert at church by a small orchestra under the baton of Paul Kuentz – 11 strings, a harpsichord and a solo violinist playing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. An honoured guest in my own church, I sat in the front row and was entranced by their performance. It was what Billy Elliot describes in his interview for the Royal Ballet School as 'electricity' – the music was without doubt electrifying. Not only was the artistry of the players clearly evident to my ears and to my eyes but I felt transported by the brilliance of their interpretation of what is a finely crafted work – Vivaldi's musical expression of a typical year through the filter of 18th century eyes.

But it occurred to me then and feels true to me now that music is part of our experience of 'otherness' – a way we can feel the presence of God in our lives and be moved and touched by him. Yes, I know that 'The Four Seasons' is not usually categorised as 'religious' music but is it not possible to experience the divine through the secular? A young violinist asked me if she might place her violin on the altar while she read a poem in French to preface each season. I said of course – was not her instrument in itself a medium to communicate deity?

So music may well be the food of love – but not quite in the same way or sense Orsino intended!

Father Gareth

- **SPA Lunch – 12th October 12.15** at Diana Wilson's: choice of main course and dessert – 12 €.
- **St Bartholomew's lunch, 1st September** - our thanks to everyone involved, especially our Sacristan, Helen Morgan, who made the event so enjoyable and raising 500€.
- **Banque Alimentaire** Thanks you for your continued support.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the November edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on 17th October*
- **Church Finances for August**
Income: 9,029€ Expenditure 4,636€



Readings in church

October 6 **19th Sunday after Trinity**
Habakkuk 1 v1 – 4, 2 v1 - 4 Psalm 37 v1 - 9
2 Timothy 1 v1 - 14 Luke 17 v5 - 10

October 13 **20th Sunday after Trinity**
2 Kings 5 v1 - 3, 7 - 15c Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2 v8 - 15 Luke 17 v11 - 19

October 20 **21st Sunday after Trinity**
Genesis 32 v22 - 31 Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3 v14 -4 v5 Luke 18 v1 - 8

October 27 **Bible Sunday**
Isaiah 45 v22 - end Psalm 119 v129 - 136
Romans 15 v1 - 6 Luke 4 v16 - 24



Verse of the Month

Our hope is not in vain, because God's love has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit, given to us.

Romans 5 v5



Church Notice boards 7/11

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

There are some questions that can't be answered by Google.



How Children perceive their Grand parents 4/9

Another mini-series of humorously sharp observations

sent to me from my friend, Lisa Klein

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like.

"We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front garden. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I wish I'd known you then !"



Right thinking

At lunchtime at a hotdog stand near the Tower of London, a novice Buddhist monk was heard to ask the vendor for the following:

"Make me one with everything."

Valerie Trevino

Notes from the Council

September 5th

Our September meeting was thin on the ground with regards to actual members of the Council present but, as ever with St Bart's, it is often quality not quantity that makes our place so special.

Valerie Trevino had been invited to the meeting to introduce herself and to talk about her sense of vocation to train as a Reader in the Anglican Communion, particularly with a view to being licensed here at St Bart's. She was warmly received and, after she left, there was a full and positive discussion about the best way to proceed. It was felt that there should be a period of reflection which would be reviewed at the first meeting of the new Council in April after our AGM which would give Valerie a chance further to embed in the church and for folk to get to know her better.

Finance, as ever, figured as a main agenda item with good results from the Garden Party and the St Bartholomew's lunch and Brian Cordery was apologetically positive about the Moynihan legacy – the time required to meet all the intricacies of French Law.

The Garden would be taken in hand by church members with the possibility of help from our contract gardeners if required - all subject to review in a year's time. The contract for the use of the church for a film location between 7th and 10th October was duly authorised to be signed. In her absence, Paddy Vidal Hall's report on the Archdeaconry Synod was read and accepted.

Finally, John Davey gave us an excellent and informative four minute video presentation on the inner workings of our organ after which the meeting closed in prayer.

Father Gareth

Help the Heroes – the Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2013
Wednesday 29th May – Compiègne to Amiens
(European Union of the Living rather than the Dead)

I was now having trouble taking in any carbohydrates at breakfast (bread etc.). Once I was rolling, I realised I had developed a heavy cold. I tried continually wiping my nose with tissue until it was a soggy mess, then resorted to the cycling glove, and in the end just gave up and let my nose run. I must have been a sorry sight with rain dripping off my helmet and a gooey mess from my nose ! I needed to try keeping the food intake up if I could, but was still finding it difficult.

Vignemont French and German Cemetery

Not far into the Ride, about 10 miles, we stopped at the Vignemont French and German Cemetery to pay our respects. There were other nationalities too, as well as headstones denoting Christian, Jewish and Moslem Faiths.

The thought struck me that this was the European Union of the Dead. This is what happens when fellow human beings cannot resolve their differences, and conflicting interests, peacefully. Was it this, and its causes, that drove the Founding Fathers of the European Union to try and create a better political and economic structure to resolve our differences ? Had the EU been formed half a century before, would the World have been a totally different place, with a far more peaceful history as far as Europe was concerned ?

Whatever we may think of politicians and our view of the current workings of the EU, we must all recognise that they carry a heavy responsibility, which they ultimately bear on our behalf. Over the next 2 years, when the debate over UK's membership of the EU intensifies, will we give it the quality of debate and critical serious thinking it deserves, so the men lying in these graves can rest easy that any future

Quotations of the month

‘Don’t be possessed by your possessions.’

Heard during a sermon preached at St Bart’s by the Revd Simon Barnes on 4th August, 2013.



Humour à l'école 11/11

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

Maîtresse : Bruno, quel nom donnons-nous à une personne qui continue à parler même si les autres ne s'intéressent pas au sujet ?

Bruno : Un professeur

(la meilleure de toutes, sans doute...)



Court reports 10/12

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

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male

Puzzled 4/5

The following were sent to me by Peter Campbell

What do you think this means :

**knee
light**

Answer -
Neon light
(knee on light)

ground

feet, feet, feet, feet, feet, feet

Answer -
Six feet underground



A question of churchmanship

Father Peter, a Catholic Anglican, rightly described the churchmanship of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Potters Bar, to Evangelical Anglican theological students on placement with him from Oak Hill College, as a ‘pot-pourri’.

But his wife, Ann, quickly and rightly quipped that at St Mary’s, there was no ‘popery’ !



long-term commitment will deliver peace, security, and economic well-being for all?

Ceremony at Thiepval

The site commemorates 72,000 graves of British and South African men who died in the Battle of the Somme but have no known grave. It is the place I particularly wanted to be, to give my personal dedications to my grandfather, Charles Lowe, and prayers on behalf of the Hill family to their grandfather Arthur Holmes.

I did look for my great uncle’s name (who forms one of my middle names and who died in the area from a German grenade whilst acting as a motorcycle dispatch rider). I sometimes believe I still have his gene that gave me a love of motorcycles throughout my life. Sure enough I saw the name and wondered whether it was him, James Lowe.

At each of the ceremonies our ‘embedded’ Jesuit Priest said a few words, we lay our wreaths, we sounded the last post and recited ‘we will remember them’ and sometimes a poem. On this occasion, the words from our priest struck a chord. His theme was, we have a choice in approaching our lives, as though we were ‘entitled’ or on the basis of ‘gratitude’. Thankfully, I believe I fall largely into the latter camp and could not be more grateful for the happy and contented life I lead with my dear wife, Sue.

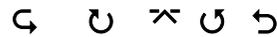
That’s not to say I am immune from moaning about the minor irritations, especially those that seem to emanate from the UK every time I visit. However, I was now learning that this is wrong and will try in future not to let such minor moments stand in the way. When we encounter the inefficiencies and greed culture, by which we seem to run the UK at the moment, it is best to take it in a good-humoured way and poke fun, rather than get screwed up in the process.

It was a nightmare coming through Amiens over very rough cobblestones. I decided to walk, as the front wheel was slipping all over the place and was in danger of wedging the narrow rim into the large gaping gaps. It proved sensible as Julian went a ‘pearler’ and fell off, trying to avoid a tractor.

Lots of mechanical problems for riders on the way included a broken saddle, spokes, chains, split tyres and punctures. These are quite rare occurrences normally but on this ride were popping up with undue regularity.

The last 8 miles to the hotel, I am not sure how I completed, as I was absolutely shattered. It must have been the lack of food intake that was beginning to take effect. Fortunately the roads were by now quite good, and I was able to gently pedal to my hotel stop and have a hot bath to relieve the pain in my legs.

Ron Kirk



I am a woman

Olive Browne sent in the following that was pinned to her office wall as a nurse:

Emotionally

I am a woman

Spiritually

I am a woman

Biologically

I am a woman

Professionally

I am one mean dude

I guess the moral might be – ‘Don’t mess with her!’

The end justifies the means ?

The following was sent to me by Peter Campbell

Mrs Dyer, a woman in her sixties, went to her group medical practice where she was seen by a young doctor. Some minutes later, clearly shocked and upset, she rushed out of the room into the hall where the Practice Manager asked her what was wrong.

On hearing her explanation, the Practice Manager promptly went in to see the doctor, who was writing up his notes on the computer, to ask him to explain how he could tell a 65-year-old woman with grown-up children and several grandchildren that she was pregnant.

Without looking up, the doctor simply inquired whether she still had hiccoughs ?



Not to be missed

UK Top Ten Hymns
 Sunday 27th October
 BBC1 Songs of Praise

Victor & Barry



Church Garden

A number of volunteers have contacted us to say that they are willing to help look after the church garden. Geoff and Janet have offered tools to help. The company who has been doing the work will continue until the end of the year and we will take over in January. Bill Hughes or myself will contact those who volunteered nearer the time

David Morgan

To wine or take coffee ?

Father Richard writes:

Dear Friends,

Well, I don't often take a holiday and it is years since I had nine whole days on the trot. But it was a real joy in July to come to Dinard again and to relax on the Chaplaincy balcony with a Pernod or two and a bottle of wine or three.

You may wonder why I had to resort to alcohol. Well, I did notice that, despite the warm welcome I received from you all, coffee was cancelled when I celebrated the Eucharist on Thursday and then coffee was cancelled on the Sunday when I celebrated the correct 'rite' (as Fr Gareth quipped in the August magazine). A rather more frail priest may have thought you were trying to tell him something !

Thank you to you all, and especially to Fr G, for welcoming me back into the company of St Bart's and thanks to Geoff Carter for making me laugh in the Vestry with his joke about . . . well, I'll let him tell you. His joke appears in my September mag.

God bless you all and if you are ever in Colchester, there will be a warm welcome at St Barnabas.

*Father Richard, Vicar of Old Heath,
Padre to 7th Parachute Regiment RHA,
the Royal Military Police and the Royal Navy.*

Personal Column

Congratulations to Maud and Andrew Briscoe who were married at St Bart's in September 2011 on the baptism of their son, Hugo Andrew Henri here on 21st September.

St Bartholomew's, Belfast – A Significant Centenary

Stranmillis is now a residential area of Belfast beside the River Lagan, and includes the teacher-training University College. At the turn of the twentieth century, it had industries producing glass, bitumen, roofing felt, brick, terracotta and dried soup. It was part of the Parish of St Thomas, Lisburn Road, which soon decided to do more for this growing community. In 1905, the year the city's trams were electrified, the Parish leased premises for use as a Sunday School. To accommodate more activities, a hall, also used as a Church, was later built. This was dedicated to St. Bartholomew on Easter Day, March 23rd, 1913, by the Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore. The Revd Herbert O Lindsay took up duty as curate on Sunday 6th July.

The platform of this modest building became the chancel with wooden benches, lectern, font, and altar. The gathering crowds were heated in winter by a coal stove. Many groups, including Choir and lawn tennis club, were now listed in the church Magazine and St Bartholomew's now attracted 117 subscribers to Church funds.

Parishioners came from varied backgrounds; one later recalled getting up each morning at 4.30am and walking to the tram at 5.20am, for a 6am start at the shipyard. The First World War took its toll of the men folk, but clergy warned that a rising proportion of children were getting Scarlatina due to the dumping of city refuse near the backs of houses and forming deep pools of infected water.

The new building fostered a spirit of devotion and worship, leading to a separate Parish of St. Bartholomew being formed out of the original Parish and from other adjacent undeveloped land. Nine hundred pounds was raised for it to become a full incumbency, and inaugural Services were held on Sunday 27th April 1919, with the Revd Herbert O

Lindsay as Rector. This “Little Church on the Hill” (as parishioners fondly called it) would be the Parish Church for several years to come.

By 1926, Belfast population growth required larger church buildings. The General Synod of the Church of Ireland established a £50,000 fund so that between 1930 and 1933, five new churches (St Simon’s, St Clement’s, St Bartholomew’s, St Polycarp’s and St Finnian’s) were built, and two existing churches (St Peter’s and St Columba’s) were completed.

The present fine Parish Church of St. Bartholomew, Mount Pleasant, was consecrated on 13th September 1930; it retains a book rest and alms dish from the 1913 “Little Church on the Hill.” A work bench in the Parish Hall turned out to be the original Communion Table, and in 1986 it was restored for use in the new Side Chapel.

One hundred years after the early church-building in Stranmillis, Belfast, the Parish is still an independent incumbency. The Revd T Kevin D Graham will be Instituted as its sixth Rector on 26th September 2013.

*The Very Revd G. Brian Moller, Rector 1986 – 2001;
with acknowledgement to Dr. H. F. Selwood Lindsay.*

Income Tax

If you wish to reduce your payment here in France next year, you can submit a receipt for any donation made to a charity including St Bartholomew’s. A receipt can be given for payments made through the bank by virement, in envelopes placed in the collection or by cheque. We will supply envelopes to anyone wishing to partake. Needless to say British tax is different. Donations (in sterling) sent to the Diocese in St Bartholomew’s name with a signed form saying you have paid income tax earn an extra 24% in Gift Aid for the church. Ask the treasurer for forms.

David Morgan

Film Review of the month ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’ John Madden 2012

Another DVD kindly lent to me by Rowlands, ‘Marigold Hotel’ is another ‘feel good film’ like ‘Quartet’ which appeals to the grey pound. It’s a seven hander with old hands like Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton, Celia Imre and Ronald Pickup and, not least, Tom Wilkinson !

The premise is a group of English folk of a certain age off to Jaipur to retire in a ‘palatial’ hotel in the process of renovation. Their reasons for so doing are various; the results of so doing varied: amusing, touching, sad. There’s a death; new-found love; the flicker of an old flame. All is set against the noisy, colourful bustle and peace of Jaipur – I once even stayed at one of the modern hotels used as a location !

You will be warmed by this ‘slice of life’, albeit at times exotic. Maggie Smith’s North London Cockney accent is not as alarming as her racial prejudice but, oddly enough, she, like all but one of the characters, is transformed by the experience.

Okay so there are clichés like a bird taking flight to signal the death of a character but the bus that nearly collides with an on-coming lorry as they travel from Delhi to Jaipur is a dead accurate reflection of driving on Indian highways !

And since the film is about oldies, one may excuse the old jokes. Maggie Smith dismisses the success of her hip operation as ‘luck’ to which the doctor replies that it is odd how the more operations they perform, the luckier they get; while Celia Imre puts her husband down saying that if she wanted his opinion she would give it to him.

Watch the film and enjoy – I did !

Gareth Randall

So Jesus was a miracle worker in the tradition of our Jewish forebears: Elijah restoring the widow of Zarephath's son to life; Elisha curing Naaman of his leprosy. Jesus never used his power to save himself but the greatest miracle associated with him was to come after his death.



Questions

A new occasional series in which a question is posed and you are invited to reflect on a possible answer and, if you want, to let me know what you think.

A social club ?

One of the distinctive features here at St Bart's is the buzz before a service and the fellowship thereafter. Come into church on a Sunday and you are greeted with a smile and handed a service book and hymn book and on your way to find a seat, you could, in theory, chat to any number of people. If you are here an hour early - some even arrive before ten o'clock for the 11 o'clock service - then there might even be chance to drink a cup of coffee before the service !

Now one criticism I've heard of our church is that we are 'a social club'. I guess the accusation is that folk are more concerned with meeting others than with meeting God ? Speaking English is more important than speaking about God ?

At the heart of Christianity is the thought that we should love: love of God and love of neighbour as we love ourselves. So I wonder are we neglecting the one by concentrating on the other ? Or is the cherishing and social contact a true expression of what a church should be ? What do you think ?

Father Gareth

The Bartholomew Gospel

5 Miracle worker

'Blind people are seeing! Lame people are walking!' Matthew 11 v5

A miracle! It was a miracle.

Well, I guess what you think about such things will depend on your experience and on how you make sense of the world. For me, miracles are part of my world, the stories I heard as a boy in synagogue. The birth of their son, Isaac, to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt so that he was there to welcome his brothers and his father to their new home. Moses, leading the Children of Israel across the Red Sea whose waters promptly closed over the pursuing Egyptian chariots, drowning them. Joshua, leading the Children of Israel dry-shod across the Jordan into the Promised Land. Elijah and Elisha, restoring dead boys to their mother's arms alive.

There is no end of miracles but do you have to believe in order to see them or for them to take place?

There is a danger in any miracle. Who is it for? What is it for? Jesus told us of his temptations by Satan in the wilderness. He'd been fasting for forty days so the first temptation was the challenge to turn stones into bread. Great one! If Jesus was the Son of God then he could. And there was a good reason to do so - he was hungry. But to do so would be to abuse his power, by being selfish. Of course, Satan was deliberately goading him, trying to provoke a silly act, but he didn't rise to the bait and blocked the challenge saying, 'The Bible says that it takes more than bread to keep you alive. You actually live on every word that comes out of God's mouth.' If I'd been there, I would have clapped.

So every miracle that Jesus did was carefully not casually done. There was always a good reason to use the power that God had given him.

Take the miracles of healing.

There are so many. The blind see. The deaf hear. The dumb speak. The lame walk. The leper is healed of a virulent skin disease. Even the dead, like Jairus's daughter, the widow of Nain's son, and our friend, Lazarus, are restored to life. And why? To show that God has the power to heal and that power is made manifest by Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. In another real sense, the eyes of the blind are opened because they can see that Jesus is the Messiah, foretold by the prophet, Isaiah. The men who broke through a roof to lower their friend down to the room where Jesus could heal him, trusted that Jesus had the power to heal. The centurion, who sent word that Jesus did not need even to enter his house, knew that he had the power to cure his boy. The woman suffering from a continual flow of blood knew Jesus could stop her haemorrhage just by her touching him. In each case, the power flowed from him to do what was necessary and in each case the truth about him was clear.

Take the miracles of power over nature.

When Jesus stilled the storm on the Lake, we were so frightened of drowning that we shouted to wake him up. He stood up, spoke calming words and the waves and the wind shut up, like naughty children fell silent. And in the stillness after the storm, we were scared because it was so obvious to us who was in our boat with us. In the middle of the night, when Jesus walked on the water, we were terrified we were seeing a ghost moving towards us over the water. But he called to us and Peter, reckless as ever, had the bottle to step out to Jesus and, for a moment, he too could do it till he took his eyes off

Jesus and began to sink beneath the waves. And he would have drowned had not Jesus stretched out his hand and caught hold of him and got him back into the boat.

Take the miracles involving exorcism.

Whatever you may think lies at the root of madness, the man called Legion, who naked, haunted a cemetery on the edge of the Sea of Galilee in the land of the Gerasenes, was demon-possessed, not by just one but by a whole army of them. The unclean spirits knew who Jesus was but he ordered them to shut up and come out. It wasn't so good for the pigs which plunged into the water in a fit of madness. It didn't make Jesus popular with their owners or the locals or I guess with animal-lovers today. But to a world of spirits, who and what Jesus was, was clear without doubt.

But there is always a choice. You don't have to believe the evidence of your own eyes. Anything is open to interpretation and to those who refused to recognise Jesus, an exorcism was not carried out through the virtue embodied in him by God but by some unholy, satanic pact – Satan exorcising his own demons. Inconsistent nonsense but then what do you expect of those who could see but were blind to the truth?

Miracles were signs by which Jesus made himself known. When John the Baptist was plagued by doubt in prison, he sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he really was the one John thought he was. Jesus points them to the evidence of what they've seen and heard: 'Blind people are seeing! Lame people are walking! People with virulent skin diseases are being cleansed! Deaf people can hear again! The dead are being raised to life!' These miracles are a check list of what you would expect of the Messiah.