

Diary dates for February and March, 2014

5th March 10.00 Ash Wednesday
20th March 11.00 Start of Lent Bible Study
29th March 10.30 Council Meeting



Prayer of the month

Merciful God
you have compassion on all that you have made
and your whole creation is enfolded in your love:
help us to stand firm in your truth,
to struggle against poverty
and to share your love with our neighbour
so that we may be instruments of your peace



Prayer focus

How we can be more compassionate.



Verse of the Month

Though he was in the form of God
he did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself
taking the form of a slave
being born in human likeness.

Philippians 2v6 – 7

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St Bart's Monthly



February, 2014

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

e-mail : gareth.randall@nordnet.fr

Website : www.stbarts-dinard.org.uk



Dear Friends,

Silence

How good are you with silence ?

One of the nice things about Dinard in winter is how relatively quiet the streets are, the town is. The beaches, crowded in summer, are now empty of all but the most hardy. The blue skies and cool breeze that tempt folk to come here are merely memories. But though I do love the sun and its warmth, there is much to recommend the quiet of a grey day in February and a long winter's night.

'Really, what ?' and I'd be tempted to reply the relative peace and silence of being in a quiet place. The problem with our modern way of life is the intrusive background noise, not simply in crowds but in the very fact that we wrap ourselves up in the sound of the television or the radio and are constantly potentially in touch with other people via our telephones or computers.

But one of the joys for anyone coming into St Bart's is how relatively peaceful they usually find the church (obviously not before a Sunday service !) On a weekday, our church is a place of prayer and here you can feel, in the quietness, a closeness to God. Folk do come in to pray and they do light a candle and leave the odd coin behind. But the important thing to ask yourself is where can you be still and quiet and find the necessary silence to listen.

Silence is gift waiting for you to unwrap and to enjoy when and where you can. Only by being still can we be sure that we are listening and can hear what might be being said to us.

Father Gareth

- **Advent Appeal** – 330€ was raised in aid of the Philippines disaster relief fund – our thanks to all who contributed.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the March edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on Thursday 27th February*
- **Church Finances for December**
Income: 5,507€ Expenditure 4,923€



Readings in church

February 2nd Candlemas

Malachi 3 v1 - 5	Psalm 24 v7 - end
Hebrews 2 v14 - end	Luke 2 v22 - 40

February 9th 4th Sunday before Lent

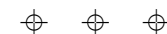
Isaiah 58 v1 - 9a	Psalm 112 v1 - 9
1 Corinthians 2 v1 - 12	Matthew 5 v13 - 20

February 16th Septuagesima

Deuteronomy 30 v15 - end	Psalm 119 v1 - 8
1 Corinthians 3 v1 - 9	Matthew 5 v21 - 37

February 23rd Sexagesima

Genesis 1 - 2v3	Psalm 136 v1 - 9
Romans 8 v18 - 25	Matthew 6 v25 - 34



January 23rd

'Live well while you can.
Die well when you have to.'
p203 'The Examined Life' Stephen Grosz

Energy prices – a hot topic in 2013
Radio 4



Church Notice boards 11/11
Nathan, Barry Jordan's son, sent me this:

BIBLE : Basic Information Before Leaving Earth



How Children perceive their Grand parents 8/9
*Another mini-series of humorously sharp observations
sent to me from my friend, Lisa Klein*

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."
"Look in your underwear, Granddad. Mine says I'm 4 to 6."



Ronnie Biggs

The Great Train Robber died in December and on Radio 4, a piece on him ended with the phrase – 'free at last'.

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Notes from the Council -

There were 18 folk at our service of Holy Communion before the Council Meeting.

The Meeting opened in prayer and the discussion ranged as usual over matters concerning finance, fabric and our fellowship.

There was healthy balance at the end of the financial year but our Treasurer, David Morgan, was concerned at the falling return on our investments. Bill and Chris Hughes talked about the fabric of the church and the maintenance of our church garden. The possibility of replacing the ageing boilers in the church and chaplaincy apartment was explored and a sub-committee set up to manage the process. There was discussion about our recent hosting of the Ecumenical service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the large numbers attending the Christmas services and Valerie Trevino's possible candidature to the office of Reader.

John Davey and Helen Cogaigh talked about the St Bart's blog to facilitate the advertisement of events. John also mentioned the fourth quotation re the organ renovation would take place in February and it was agreed that we formally withdraw from membership of the Fédération Patrimoine-Environnement.

There was a brief meeting of the Friends' Committee to consider the office of President of the Friends.

At midday, the meeting closed in prayer.

Father Gareth



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Help the Heroes – the Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2013

**Sunday 2nd June – Chatham to Blackheath
(We've Made It at Last)**

Not being sure how my stamina was to hold out, and knowing we had a strict time to arrive at Blackheath by 10.00am, I decided on Arthur's strong advice to skip breakfast and start before anyone else. I am pleased I did for several reasons. The climb out of Chatham went well but there were still more very testing hills along the original Pilgrims Way, which made progress difficult on essentially single track roads. You simply could not get rolling to a sustained speed. I also felt the fatigue setting in and it was getting tough to maintain any momentum, possibly the cumulative effect of the distance, my being under the weather and, of course, having had no breakfast.

There was a little light relief along the way as I managed to join up with Lacey, a Sun Page 3 girl, who had stopped for some more photographs and texting messages on her I-Phone. I had great respect for her. She had stuck it out and clearly was trying to make the best of what she could do to establish herself, and secure financial security through her business interests alongside the modelling.

About 10 miles from Blackheath, Arthur caught up with me when I had stopped for a rest and took on water. I explained that I would stop at the next available place for something to eat and a coffee as it was evident we would arrive well in time. Sure enough, a few miles later we stopped at a petrol station which had a wonderful café inside and I thankfully tucked into a large bacon bap followed by a Costa Coffee (tax paid). Arthur joined me and as we sat there, several riders had the same idea.

It must have quite surreal for the manager seeing so many cyclists turn up, many with arms and legs missing, unclipping themselves from their bikes. It reminded me of the scene from the film 'Reach for the Sky'

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Personal Column

Congratulations

to Bill Hughes who celebrates his 80th birthday on 17th February

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

Nice notice 1/4

The following is from our Church Warden, Bill:

In a Dry Cleaners

We don't rip your clothes with machinery.
We do it carefully by hand.

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

**Questions
'Amen' ?**

Were we to go down the road of inclusive language, how might we change the word 'Amen' ?

Father Gareth

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

Double entendre 2/8

The following was sent to me by Ron Kirk

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there, I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin. 3 hours later, they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot !

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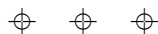
Guardian Angels

*A sermon on, angels in early October has produced three responses so far.
If you have your own story to share, then do let me have it.*

As a teenager on a motorbike, with a reputation for speeding, disregarding the reduced visibility from high hedges, disregarding the nature of the winding roads across the moors, disregarding my father's constant advice, telling me to "Mind the horses", nothing could make me slow down. One day, approaching the tiny hamlet of Hockings House, I was going flat out as usual, when I saw a group of elderly folk chatting by the road. Fortunately, I saw one of the ladies put her hands over her eyes in horror and I guessed something was seriously wrong. Miraculously, I managed to brake just in time to avoid ploughing into the side of a coach, which was just around the bend slowly turning into the chapel ! It didn't even feel like an emergency stop ! !

Many years later, on a night-time army exercise in Germany, wearing camouflage uniform, my face blacked up, I was supervising my men's departure. The noise from the various vehicles was deafening, when 'something' made me look up to my left and there, just feet away, bearing down on me at a great rate of knots was a Scimitar tank. Its driver clearly hadn't seen me and I hadn't heard the tank. With just seconds to spare, I managed to step back out of the way inches from being crushed. But strange-to-tell, my abiding memory of this second narrow brush with death is one of total calm.

Mike Holman



***Extra Film Review of the month
'The Selfish Giant' Clio Bernard - 2012***

It may have won the prize at the 2013 Dinard British Film Festival but it was not one with which I was comfortable. I left unwell before the end.

when Kenneth Baker, playing Sir Douglas Bader, walked into a local pub with his chums, all of whom had been injured in some form and he, himself, on his tin legs.

Finally, Blackheath was reached, where officially our event was completed and we would be presented with our medals, and in our Team's case a red tee-shirt, to be worn on the Final Parade down the Mall to Horse Guards Parade. We were accompanied by 1200 other cyclists who had joined us from as close as Clapham to as far as Edinburgh. This was going to be quite a Cavalcade in to London.

Blackheath to Horse Guards Parade (A Nation's Welcome)

Lined up in groups of the three colours red, white and blue plus the gold for the amputees, we gradually moved forward in convoy on our way to Whitehall. Just a mile into the ride, my gears were giving off the most awful grinding noise. I thought "Oh no, not now, with no back-up and just a few miles to the finish, don't let me down."

The problem at first wasn't obvious, but then I saw a metal protection plate had worked loose off the frame, possibly because of all the rough roads, and was jamming the gear change underneath. Whilst everybody passed by, I pulled the bike on to the pavement and managed to yank the offending part completely off the bike and thereby free up the gears. It was then a matter of catching up with the rest and joining the back of the red tee-shirts. Phew, that was a close call.

It was then I became aware of the hundreds, and then thousands, of people lining the streets all the way into London, clapping, cheering, waving flags and sounding their car horns. The whole Nation, across all genders, ages and ethnicities and religions were cheering us in. At one point, as we crossed Tower Bridge, the noise was as deafening as if we were in the middle of a stadium for the European Football Cup

Final. It was quite moving, especially as we were now so close to finishing and ending the agony and absolute fatigue.

Into Whitehall, we were completely filling the road from end to end. There were a handful of, I believe, Turkish Demonstrators but they were being completely swallowed up by our overwhelming numbers, they had picked the wrong place and the wrong time to make their point. The 'Two Minutes' Silence at the Memorial to the Women of the Second World War was respected impeccably, which is as it should be in the Great British Nation.

After the Service, we continued down Birdcage Walk around to Buckingham Palace and then down the Mall to finish at Horse Guards Parade. My family was there at the corner before turning into Horse Guards Parade and I was able to hear my name called out. "It's Ronnie, he's here," waving the Union Flag at the same time. My sisters, Sheila and Debbie, were particularly thrilled as they were featured prominently on the ITV coverage during the news.

Afterwards I saw the newspaper pictures of the final ride in and we made quite an impression. In Horse Guards Parade there was a short 30 minute concert and announcements before we dispersed, in my case to ride to Wellington Barracks to collect my case and get a taxi to Saint Pancras. It was only then did I have a slight mishap when I fell over backwards wearing my cleats, the legs were a bit weak, but fortunately I landed on everyone's soft luggage to give me a gentle landing and some amusement to my fellow participants.

On arrival at the station, I talked to the taxi driver, who kindly offered the fare as his contribution, which I thought was a magnificent gesture, and in line with all the other wonderful support I had received from people who did not even know me.

When is it ok to kiss someone ?

When they're rich.

Pam, aged 7

Is it better to be single or married ?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

Anita aged 9

How would the world be different if folk didn't marry ?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

Kelvin aged 8

How would you make marriage work ?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck.

Ricky aged 10



Confirmation

If you haven't been confirmed and would like to be, then please get in touch with Father Gareth. Bishop James Johnstone will be coming to us to conduct a service of confirmation on Sunday 18th May.



Love and marriage

*Peter Campbell forwarded these comments from what I guess to be American kids.
In a month that features Valentine's Day, how true do you find them ?*

How do you decide who to marry ?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

Alan aged 10

What is the right age to marry ?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

Camille aged 10

How can you tell two people are married ?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

Derrick aged 8

What do your parents have in common ?

Both don't want any more kids.

Lori aged 8

What do most people do on a date ?

Dates are for having fun, and to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

Lynnette aged 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

Martin aged 10

All my sponsors are going to receive a copy of my reflections, save for the taxi driver, whose email address I have mislaid amongst all my kit, blast!

I hope it in some ways captures a little of the experience, but donors can obtain some video clips of the event by Googling 'Help for Heroes BBR 2013' where they will find coverage of each day's trials and tribulations.

Conclusion

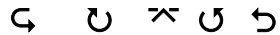
I started by **stating that** the Ride has changed me, and so it has. I think I am a little more humble than before, and very much more grateful for the life I now have. I returned to Saint Malo, and was recognised by one of my French students on the ferry. I thought to myself "I am now back home with my wife, Sue and wonderful friends in a very nice comfort zone, but thanks to Peter, I had an experience I will always treasure."

I witnessed the finest aspects of the Human Spirit at all levels.
Could this be true? :-

There's a hero
If you look inside your heart
You don't have to be afraid
Of what you are
There's an answer
If you reach inside your soul
And the sorrow that you know
Will melt away
And then a hero comes along
With the strength to carry on
And you cast your fears aside

And you know you can survive
So when you feel like hope is gone
Look inside you and be strong
And you'll finally see the truth
That a hero lies in you.

Ron Kirk



I trust you've enjoyed Ron's daily account of the Help the Heroes Bike Ride 2013 which stretched over eight editions of our monthly church mag. In December, I was fortunate to watch the DVD of the ride and was thrilled to share something of the joy and camaraderie, the respect for and love of those who have made real sacrifices in our armed forces - thank you Ron, for all your efforts on their behalf!



Storm surge - Dinard

At this end of the Channel,
here on La Plage de L'Ecluse,
the surge has been weakened.
Nonetheless, in-coming waves,
exuberant, turbulent,
crash into the sea-wall,
flow between the railings -
the promenade awash
with wandering water.
I feel the power and the joy
in the weight of movement
of the ever-changing sea,
urgent to find form in doing.

6 12 13

**World Day of Prayer,
Friday, 7th March 2014
Save the date !**

Last year, the World Day of Prayer was masterminded by France and St Bartholomew's was well represented at L'Eglise Reformée in St Servan. This year, the theme "Streams in the Desert" comes from Egypt. Check out the eye-catching poster on the bulletin board.

I've received the programme and the event promises to be just as moving as last year's. It would be great if you were able to take part this time around. The celebration requires singers, dancers and speakers so, if you are interested, then please contact me. Rehearsals are planned for February 2014. Budding musicians will be able to rehearse the songs with me whenever you are ready - I already have the sheet music.

In addition, help is needed in making paper lotus flowers to be given to everyone attending the celebration in March as a souvenir. I can let you have instructions and show you an example of the finished product.

So why not come to the Temple Protestant at Saint Servan at 18.00 on Friday 7th March ?

Valerie Trevino



Odd Words
Inadequate sex education
A misplaced adjective ?

It's Wednesday 1st May. I'm eating a light lunch before setting off for Portsmouth and the overnight ferry back to St Malo in time for the May Council Meeting. In the background, Radio 4 and 'The World at One'. The news headlines report that there is inadequate sex education in over a third of English schools.

My soup spoon pauses in mid-air, full of wonder that we need to teach people how to be inadequate in their personal relationships and how one might enter into a sexual relationships that is less than satisfactory.

But, of course, what is really being implied here is what is being taught to our young people is not up-to-scratch and falls below the standards of excellence which all good schools strive to attain.

What is wrong in what was said is simply where we place the adjective 'Inadequate' placed before 'sex education' inevitable produces an ambiguity - that what is literally being taught is inadequate sex education rather than the teaching itself is poor. A better wording would have been that in a third of English school the 'teaching of sex education is inadequate' !

Of course, our minds automatically readjust what we hear, making it make sense - but does that excuse a word order that is simply wrong-headed ?

Gareth Randall



Empathy 1/5

- 1 Give the gift of patience** *1 Corinthians 13 v4*
➤ Cut people slack, even when they may not deserve it.
➤ Withhold judgement when people mess up.
➤ Give people time to grow.
- 2 Leave no room for despair** *1 Corinthians 13 v7*
➤ We have the choice between remaining in our grief or unhappiness and moving on – finding something else to look forward to, celebrate, or experience.
- 3 Judge not** *Matthew 7 v1 - 2*
➤ Judging others actually puts us in God's crosshairs.
- 4 Maintain an outward focus** *1 Corinthians 13 v5 - 8*
To love is to:
➤ Celebrate the person.
➤ Identify the traits that make the person special.
➤ Develop a sense of pride in being associated with the person.
➤ Be thankful for the person's presence in your life.
- 5 Live with eternity in mind** *Philippians 3 v20*
➤ That promise puts earthly problems in their proper context and helps us see them as mere blips in the whole scheme of eternity.
➤ It makes our earthly pain and suffering a little more bearable, since we recognize that it's all temporary.
- 6 Be awed every day** *Acts 13 v22*
➤ Do you spend time contemplating and admiring the world around you ?
➤ Do you maintain an attitude of humility and gratitude ?

7 Find the silver lining in everything James 1 v2 - 4

- Our hard-earned life experiences make us more mature – and more empathetic to other hurting people.

8 Treat money as a tool not a treasure 1 Timothy 6 v10

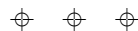
- Let's thank God for everything we receive.
- By giving thanks, we acknowledge that the money didn't originate with us and ultimately is not ours.
- God gave us the money for a reason. We should use it in a way that honours him.

9 Keep hope alive Romans 5 v4

- Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

10 Enjoy God's presence 1 John 4 v13

- God gives us salvation through his Son, Jesus. That's the central theme of Christianity.
- We do have access to his wisdom when we are confused.
- How often do we take advantage of the opportunities the Holy Spirit offers?
- How often do we thank God for this incredible gift?



Nightmare

In the middle of the night, young Tom was having a nightmare. The boy imagined an angel standing by his bed – the Angel of DEAF.

Horrified, poor Tom asked if he'd come to take his hearing from him.

But the angel just said, 'Speak up !'

Valerie Trevino

All Saints' Vendée

The Revd Caroline Sackley has been appointed priest-in-charge of All Saints' Church in La Vendée. I was fortunate enough to be present at her installation and we wish Caroline every blessing as she ministers to the needs of this growing congregation.

Father Gareth



Royal British Legion

I am pleased to announce that the Royal British Legion branch for Brittany have appointed me their chaplain. It will be good to develop further the link between St Bart's and this association.

Father Gareth



Glutton free wafers

If you have a medical reason to have glutton free wafers instead of the normal wafers we use as hosts then please let Helen Morgan, our Sacristan, know.



Church Spring Clean

A team of folk led by Corrie will be here after the 10.00 service on **Thursday 20th February**. If you'd like to help we'd be delighted to see you !



Film Review of the month

'The Hobbit' 'La Désolation de Smaug' Peter Jackson - 2013

If you enjoyed watching the first part of Peter Jackson's 'The Hobbit', then the second of the three films he has made of the Tolkien prequel to 'The Lord of the Rings' will be a must.

It was my late Christmas treat. I saw it in early January in the third week of its run in Dinard just before the schools went back ! It was in French without subtitles so I didn't quite grasp all the dialogue but that didn't really matter given it is essentially visual.

In many respects, it is more of the same: elves and dwarves, orcs and wolves, wizards and magic; the dance of violence between good and evil. Why is evil always so astonishingly ugly and the good so breathtakingly beautiful ? It is fantasy so I guess it's asking too much for it to be realistic. That said, there is a love interest between a beautiful elf warrior Tauriel (female) (Evangeline Lilly) and the youngest and most good-looking of the dwarves called Kili (Aidan Turner) – really sweet – in which of course she saves his life not only by being a whizz at fighting but also being a whizz at herbal medicine. Don't you love it – they did – and it was expressed by just the briefest touch of their finger-tips.

Martin Freeman as Bilbo is a winner for me – loved his performance as he grows in the role. And Ian McKellen as a wrinkled Gandalf is as smooth as ever.

But the dragon, Smaug, must surely be the best action figure with its bulk and flames and growling menace. After 2 hours 41 minutes, the end is a cliff-hanger with Smaug taking wing, flying off to burn up the lakeside town conveniently made of wood. Can't wait for the mayor, played by the aptly named Stephen Fry, to get what's coming to him in the third and final part next Christmas.

Gareth Randall

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The Bartholomew Gospel

9 Off on our own

'Jesus called the Twelve, and began to send them out in pairs.' Mark 6 v7

Memory is a strange thing. Over time, it's possible to remember things in a different order. With four gospels, you have four memories at play. John places the clean-up of the Temple at the start of Jesus' ministry; the other three at the end. Who to believe? And what about the mission of the Twelve, the time when Jesus sends us out on a practice-run as apprentice apostles? John doesn't mention it. Mark and Matthew place it well before while Luke places it just before Peter's confession, Jesus' Transfiguration and the healing of the demon-possessed, epileptic boy. But I think they got it wrong. As far as I can remember, I thought it happened *after* not *before* these three things – logical really if you think about it. It was then that Jesus first gave us space to try out what we could do in faith and prayer.



We were sent off in pairs. There were twelve of us, one each for each of the Tribes of Israel. There was Simon whom Jesus named Peter (the rock) and his brother, Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, both of whom Jesus nicknamed Boanerges (sons of thunder); me and Philip; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Judas Thaddaeus, aka Jude; Simon the Cananaean, aka 'the hothead', and Judas Iscariot who turned traitor by handing Jesus over to the priests.

Jesus gave us clear instructions. We were to preach the gospel and to heal the sick - and he empowered us to do so. We were to travel light, taking just the bare essentials: no change of clothes; no money; no food; simply a staff in our hand and sandals on our feet to help us to get about. We were to stay with people where we found ourselves,

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accepting their hospitality while we were there. If we were not well received, then we should leave without a fuss: it would be their loss and ultimately count against them.

We left with his blessing. It was the day after the Sabbath. We were to go our separate ways and then come back, having spent one Sabbath away to return on the eve of the following Sabbath – fourteen days physically apart from him but with him in spirit.

While we were gone, Jesus would spend the time alone in prayer.



We were sent off in pairs. Peter went with Andrew; James with John; Matthew with Judas – they shared a certain skill with money. I went with Philip.

It was good to be alone with Philip again. It was good to be with him and to share the excitement of doing something as a pair. We had an exciting truth to share: that Jesus was the Son of God, our long-expected Messiah who had been sent into the world to cleanse us, God's children, from the impurity of our wrong-doing and to restore us as righteous in God's sight.

It wasn't easy. The first time I spoke to people about Jesus, our faith in him, my heart was in my mouth. But practice makes perfect – 10,000 hours spent on anything will do the trick - so in the fortnight Philip and I spent away from Jesus, we did get better about speaking to people about what we knew to be true. By a village well; in a town's synagogue; in a family's home - the words we needed seemed to come and honestly, no one could doubt our enthusiasm for what we felt.

It wasn't easy. The first time I tried to heal someone, I was nervous, uncertain, unsure. I pictured Jesus in my mind. In his name, I prayed to our Father. I asked that the fire of the Spirit might flow through me to heal this sick child in front of me. I placed my hands on the boy's head. I felt the healing power flow, tingling down from the top of my head and through my arms. My hands felt warm as something seemed to flow from me to the lad. All was well.

People were mostly kind to us. They were interested in what we had to say. They were astonished at what we did. And for what we said and what we did, they looked after us: the food was simple, the sleeping-space shared, the hospitality open and warm.

In that time we spent apart from Jesus, we both grew up. We were now more fully a part of him, his plan, God's plan for us.



Church of Scotland humour

The following was sent to me by David and Helen

The Moderator recalls the following exchange when he went to present a long service medal to a Church Elder.

"You must have seen some changes during your 50 years."

"I have and I have opposed every single one of them!"

