

## Diary dates for April and May, 2014

7 <sup>th</sup> April	20.30 Concert in church St Michael's Church choir Highgate
12 <sup>th</sup> April	15.30 Concert in church Amici Cantate
13 <sup>th</sup> April	12.00 Church AGM
17 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 Maundy Thursday
18 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 Good Friday
20 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00 Easter Day
24 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 Council Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> April -	Archdeaconry Synod
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	St Jacut de la Mer
29 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 Ascension Day

### Prayer of the month

Almighty Father,  
look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ  
was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and  
to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever,  
Amen

*Collect for Good Friday*

### Prayer focus

To reflect on the possibility and meaning of new life here and now !

### Verse of the Month

Beloved, since God loved us so much,  
we ought also to love one another.

*1 Peter 1 v3*

## St Bart's Monthly



*Easter, 2014*

### Services

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

**Thursday 10.00** Holy Communion (said)

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

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

For further information concerning baptisms,  
marriages or funerals:

 02 99 46 77 00

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April, 2014

Notices

Dear Friends,

***He is risen indeed***

Easter Day falls this year on 20<sup>th</sup> April so if you're reading this edition of the St Bart's Monthly when it first appears at the back of the church, then there is still an awful lot of Lent left before Easter dawns with the Spring sunrise over the estuary of the Rance, lighting up the porchway entrance to our church.

How many years have you celebrated Easter here at St Bart's ? My first was back in 1995 when Sybil Fagg had still to be licensed as Reader. Irene Bishop welcomed Neo and me to the church flat; Elizabeth Hannay popped round to see us that first afternoon. Were you in church to welcome me the very first time I took a service here ? There were the Marshalls; the Lamberts; the Hudson Davies; and the Poldens; Julian and Audrey; Tristan and Odile; Ann and Pierre; Doreen and Stanley (Pauline Eyre didn't come till some time in May); John Noton and Ida Beau; Denise West and Geoffrey Emerson; Paulette Benahim and Chris Curtis; Lynne Savage played the organ and somewhere in the background must have been George with their children, one of whom, little Ben, dressed in a red cassock, served me at the altar ! So who have I left out ?

What strikes me now is how many of the folk I've just mentioned have died or moved on; what strikes me now is how many more are our regular congregation, worshipping here in St Bart's each week.

The message of Easter is simple: it's one of NEW LIFE - the tomb is empty; Jesus has risen; He is risen indeed; alleluia !

***Father Gareth***



- **Lent Appeal** is in aid of the SPA St Malo.
- **Easter Flowers** - contribute to the cost of our Easter flowers in church by remembering the name of a loved one. Give their names and 3€ per name to David Morgan or Father Gareth.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the May edition of the St Bart's Monthly is ***midday on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April***
- **Church Finances for February**  
Income: 3,473€ Expenditure 3,665€



**Readings in church**

***April 6 Passion Sunday***

Ezekiel 37 v1 - 14	Psalm 130
Romans 8 v6 - 11	John 11 v1 – 45

***April 13 Palm Sunday***

Isaiah 50 v4 – 9a	Psalm 31 v9 - 16
Philippians 2 v5 - 11	Matthew 26 v14 – 27 end

***April 20 Easter Day***

Acts 10 v34 - 43	Psalm 118 v14 - 24
Colossians 3 v1 – 4	Matthew 28 v1 – 10

***April 27 Low Sunday***

Acts 2 v14a, 22 - 32	Psalm 16
1 Peter 1 v3 -8	John 20 v19 - end

## Quotations of the month

Two from a calendar of silly quotations given to me as a Christmas present by my nephew, Ben, last year and appropriate (?) for Easter:

### *Lake Champlain Chocolates*

Celebrate Easter with Vermont's finest gourmet chocolate Easter eggs and Easter baskets. (certified Kosher)

### *Church Bulletin*

On Easter Day, we will ask Mrs Fisher to come forward to lay an egg on the altar.



### **Double entendre 4/8**

*The following was sent to me by Ron Kirk*

A new Middle East crisis erupted last night as Dubai Television was refused permission to broadcast 'The Flintstones'. A spokesman for the channel said. 'A claim was made that people in Dubai would not understand the humour, but we know for a fact that people in Abu Dhabi Do.'



### **Nice notice 3/4**

*The following is from our Church Warden, Bill:*

### *In a photo shop window*

One hour photos ready in twenty minutes.

## Notes from the Council - March 29<sup>th</sup>

Hot off the press, I am actually writing these notes just before I print our magazine ! And the prize for the best excuse for absence at this meeting must surely go to our organist, John Davey, who having been elected to the Council of his local Commune in St Méloir des Bois on the first round of voting, John had to attend their meeting, not ours, because as the youngest member there then present, John was responsible for taking their minutes – in French – bon chance !

Carolyn Hewitt attended our meeting to discuss the latest St Bart's cook book, 'Saints and Sinners' to be launched at the Friends' AGM in July and the possibility of using St Bart's as a venue to stage an illustrated exhibition of Dinard history during the British Film Festival. Concerts are to take place here in church on 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April. And a Teddy Bear's picnic at Diana's will be on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

A second icon has been commissioned from Karen Blampied (who wrote our icon of St Bartholomew) one of his friend, St Philip, which will be blessed on 24<sup>th</sup> August, our patronal festival, and will mark my 20 years as a priest, most of them associated with this church. The Royal British Legion for the Central Brittany Branch will be laid up in church on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

As usual, the meeting opened and closed in prayer. Finance (where best to invest our money) and fabric and our new management of the church garden by us ourselves – a true labour of love – were all discussed. Valerie Trevino's candidature as a possible Reader was again touched on with the Council making a decision at our April meeting And, of course, I took the opportunity to thank all those who have served St Bart's so faithfully this year on our Council and wish them well for the new year to come !

*Father Gareth*

## Escoval – The English Speaking Church of the Valley of the Loire, Ranton near Loudun

Greetings from (just south of) the Loire Valley! Father Gareth has asked me to contribute a few words to the St Bart's Monthly about the Christian, and more specifically Anglican, community in this area.

The Loire Valley and the region called Poitou-Charentes immediately to the south are both popular areas for British expats, and at my local Leclerc some of the announcements are made in English! However, the countryside is pretty traditional and many French people spend their whole lives in the area, moving for work being much less common in France than it is in the UK. This can make it hard for British people to integrate, and of course the language can also be a barrier. For those who seek ways to worship, the Catholic church is also not very attractive to many, with a dire shortage of clergy and liturgy which often seems either improvised or alternatively very stale.

For all these reasons, a retired priest, Fr Geoffrey Colman, who lives in the area, decided about nine or ten years ago to offer a monthly Anglican Eucharist for those in the area who wished to attend, and to encourage community by setting up a shared lunch after the service. After some discussion with local RC clergy, he obtained permission to use a church in a small village near Loudun, and the Conseil municipal allowed the use of the adjacent salle des fêtes for lunch. Numbers were encouraging from the start, and it has always been evident that not just Anglicans, but also Christians of other denominations (and perhaps of none) value the opportunity to meet once a month. We have a "core" of about fifty but frequently more, especially during the summer and at Christmas and Easter.

Fr Geoffrey celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday some years ago, and a while later handed over to another retired priest living in the area, Fr Tom Goode; unfortunately about a year ago Fr Tom began to suffer from

## World Day of Prayer

The local celebration of the World Day of Prayer was held at the Protestant Temple in St Servan on March 7<sup>th</sup>. St Bart's was represented by Jean Mansell and Carolyn Hewitt both of whom had speaking roles in the presentation and by me as the musician. Attendance was on a par with last year - about 40 people. Many kind words of encouragement were offered afterwards at the potluck meal.

Many thanks to Agnès Thirion, regional organiser of the event, and to St Bart's for its continued support.

*Valerie Trevino*



### Mothers' Day Joke

*This was part of a longer visual joke on wine  
sent to me by Peter Campbell*

Don't forget to buy your mum some good wine for Mothers' Day.

Remember you're the reason she drinks !



### A pair of puns

*A couple from Peter Campbell*

What does a clock do when it's hungry?

It goes back four seconds.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

A thesaurus.

**Amici Cantate,  
“L’Entente Chorale”**

15.30 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

St Bartholomew’s Church

Tickets: Adults 10€; Concessions 5€

Amici Cantate will present a choral concert in St Bart’s a week before Easter featuring appropriately, given our history, a selection of beautiful and joyful French, British and American choral music.

On this their first visit to Brittany, the concert will include extracts from Duruflé’s ‘Requiem’, Fauré’s ‘Cantique de Jean Racine,’ Leonard Bernstein’s ‘West Side Story’, works by Saint-Saëns, Elgar, Holst, Bob Chilcott, Moses Hogan, Morten Lauridsen, and Kurt Weill.

**About Amici Cantate**

Amici Cantate is known for its eclectic repertoire spanning musical genres from early music, through classical choral works, to contemporary and African music. They stage 3 to 4 concerts a year including tours to Venice, Lake Garda, St. Andrews, Santiago de Compostella and Bruges. As ever, the emphasis is on quality, fun, commitment and performance.

**About their Musical Director**

John Tripp is well known in the UK as a baritone soloist, chorister, pianist and performer. He has sung with the Imperial Male Voice Choir for nearly 30 years, and has directed a number of groups including Imperial College Operatic Society, Imperial Opera, Ware Operatic Society, The Morgan Stanley Singers, and The Canary Wharf Choir in London Docklands.



ill-health and also has had to withdraw from much active involvement. We now rely on the services of visiting clergy (fortunately at least two others come regularly to the area) and a Reader, Geoffrey Cornwall, who has been part of the team for some years.

We have also moved from our original village – the problem was the *salle des fêtes*, which was sometimes not available and caused strained relations with the *Conseil municipal*. The Archbishop of Poitiers very kindly stepped in and allowed us the use of a pilgrimage chapel not far away, which has the double advantage of being very rarely used by the RC community and also has its own small *salle* attached. The electrical supply is dodgy, and there was no heating, but it is “ours” in a more real sense than was the original church. We have indeed installed heating and a sound system over the last two or three years.

I mentioned that both our resident priests have health problems: this has brought us very much to a crossroads and we are actively seeking the best way forward. Our links with the Diocese of Europe have so far been pretty tenuous (Bishop David came to visit once about six years ago, but most of the congregation probably didn’t know exactly who he was!). Some of us think that we should strengthen our links with the diocese and aim to become a fully fledged chaplaincy, while others favour a more independent future, including all denominations and relying on lay and visiting ministers, not necessarily Anglican. It will not be easy to reconcile these two points of view, I think, and it is certainly true that financial resources will not allow us to think in terms of a full-time Chaplain in the foreseeable future.

On behalf, therefore, of the English-Speaking Church of the Valley of the Loire (our official name for the French authorities, used also for our website [www.escoval.org](http://www.escoval.org)) may I ask for your thoughts and prayers as we seek to discern the mind of God for our future development.

By the way, I should have mentioned at the beginning that I have very happy memories of St Bartholomew's Dinard, from Easter-time visits in the 1970s with Alan Charters and the choir of St John's School Leatherhead. More of those memories another time.

**Barry Williams**

*Sadly Fr Tom died on 16<sup>th</sup> February this year.*

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**'Lend me'**

My gift  
to listen  
to lend  
an ear  
to what  
she has  
to say

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

**From Pam Rowlands**

When I see my friend, Anne, I give her a good listening to . . .

⊕ ⊕ ⊕

**And from Val Carter :**

Why was Moses hidden quickly ?  
It was a rush job !  
What do you call small rivers that flow into the Nile ?  
Juveniles !

## **A question of creation**

A little girl asked her mother, 'How did the human race appear?'

The mother answered, 'God made Adam and Eve and they had children and that's how all mankind was made.'

Two days later the girl asked her father the same question.

The father answered, 'Many years ago there were monkeys, from which the human race evolved.'

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, 'Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?'

The mother answered, 'Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his.'

**Nathan Jordan**

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## **Shop puns !**

*Bryan Larkin sent me a newspaper cutting  
reporting the best shop names in the UK which are plays on words !*

- 1 a second-hand store in Chesterfield – 'Junk and Disorderly'
- 2 a double glazing store in Ashford – 'Pane in the Glass'
- 3 a hair salon in Brighton – 'Barber Blacksheep'
- 4 a takeaway in Manchester – 'Abra Kebabra'

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## The Light Turned Yellow

*The following joke out of America was sent to me  
by Valerie Trevino*

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."



## Recipe for Easter Scripture Cake

*Victor, our resident writer on matters culinary, returns to print with this challenge – a piece of cake exercising your familiarity with the books of the Bible and your ability to translate words into deeds.*

*Good luck and enjoy !*

- ✓ 1½ cups of Judges 5 v25
- ✓ 3 cups of Jeremiah 6 v20
- ✓ 6 Jeremiah 17 v11
- ✓ 3½ cups of Exodus 29 v2
- ✓ 2 Chronicles 9 v9 (to taste)
- ✓ A pinch of Mark 9 v50
- ✓ 1 cup of Genesis 24 v17
- ✓ 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14 v25
- ✓ 2 cups of 1 Samuel 30 v12
- ✓ 2 cups of chopped dried Song of Solomon 2 v13
- ✓ 2 cups slivered or chopped of Numbers 17 v8



- Preheat oven to 325° F / 170°C / Gas 3
- Cream together butter and sugar
- Beat in the eggs well one at a time
- Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and spices
- Add alternately to the cream mixture with water
- Stir in honey, fold in raisins, figs and almonds then mix well
- Turn into two well-greased (9x5x3) loaf tins
- Bake for about 60 minutes but don't overbake – skewer test
- Allow to cool for 30 minutes then turn out onto rack

*Victor Pumfrett*

**This is dedicated to my dearest best friend  
and my Sister-in-Law, Pat Ivin**

Being, let us say, of a certain age, I well-remember the effects or should I say after-effects of Dr Beeching. His was an academic Doctorate not medical not that matters I suppose too much? However, in today's terms he was paid some £340,000.

Even in those days cutting costs reducing the budget and returning British Rail to profitability was the prime need. Ernest Marples was the Minister of Transport and I am not sure but was he not the architect of the M1?

Of course, we now witness the demise of British Rail and profitability is no longer a difficulty for those who benefit from the various franchises. Thus the costs are now borne by those who use the services and not the State and which perhaps is a continuation of the Baroness Thatcher mantra.

Most of this was achieved by 1966 which was the year of the Aberfan disaster and the opening by Her Majesty the Queen of the first Severn Bridge Crossing. I cannot remember the cost of the crossing at that time but today it is £6.40. Thus 1966 was a momentous year and in more ways than one. We lost a generation of young children in Aberfan and, in business terms, we witnessed a new generation of travel.

That is the historical setting but my memories of the rail system are much more pleasant particularly of the steam era.

I well remember going to Cardiff General with my train-spotting book which cost pennies at the newsagents and sitting quietly on the platform and noting huge beasts of steam trains with their names on

***Film Review of the month  
'Mud' – Jeff Nichols 2013***

My friends, John and Fiona Johnstone, gave me the DVD for Christmas. You might have seen 'Mud' at Cannes in 2012 or Dinard during last summer. I had 'Mud' in my eye after the rush of our Christmas services had subsided.

'Mud' is well worth watching: there's tension, threat and violence, a coming-of-age story with a love interest, set around Arkansas, white working-class filmed against the panorama of the Mississippi, a fugitive from the Law, the eponymous 'Mud', (Matthew McConaughey) stranded on an island in the river, befriended and helped to 'escape' by two 14-year-old lads, Ellis (Tye Sheridan) and Neckbone (Jacob Lofland), a story in the tradition of 'Tom Sawyer' and 'Huck Finn.'

On one hand is the main plot but for me the real interest is the life the two boys lead, their less than satisfactory parenting, their relative freedom, Ellis's discovery of girls, their fickleness. He is an honest boy who tries to do the right thing even if it involves risk-taking. When Ellis falls and is bitten by a deadly poisonous snake, a cottonmouth, Mud risks his own life by rushing Ellis to the nearest hospital!

I worked hard to understand all the nuances of the accent, the different vowel sounds to familiar words. I was fascinated by the odd phrase e.g. 'watch yourself' – in English I think we'd say 'be careful.'

Okay, so the ending is a little too like a fairy-tale; mostly, they may live happily ever after a shoot-out that proves fatal for most of the bad guys. It's not a perfect film but there's much to entertain and to make you reflect on what's truly important in life: love and friendship, loyalty and doing the right thing, even if it costs.

***Gareth Randall***

## **Odd Words The Union Jack**

Sometimes, I hear the phrase ‘Union Jack’ when folk are talking about the UK flag. Other times, less frequently, I may hear the term ‘Union Flag’.

What you use depends on who you are and where you are and what you know but, apparently, it was a matter of some debate whether properly speaking our flag is the Union Jack only in a naval context.

Now usage depends on use and what the majority of folk use – correctly and sometimes, in the view of those in the know, incorrectly.

But in October, the Flag Institute, after detailed and pains-taking research, flagged up the fact that there was no legal and definitive definition and so both terms are current and freely interchangeable.

So if you always use the phrase Union Jack to describe the Union Flag, that ubiquitous trademark of all that which is British, then no sweat – you were right. But then you knew that anyway !

***Gareth Randall***



### ***British humour 2/5***

*This series plopped into my in-box from Geoff Scott, bless him !*

A dwarf goes to a very good but very busy doctor and asks “I know you are busy but do you treat dwarves?”

The doctor replies “Yes, but you will have to be a little patient”.

sort of crescent shaped emblems affixed to the train. The trains came in all colours but mainly I think green or red but I may well be wrong.

Then one would go further afield so that duplication did not happen!

Very recently I went from Bristol to Cardiff by train and of course today it is diesel. I sat next to a train spotter and, with respect, I cannot see the attraction in ‘spotting’ diesel trains.

I still vividly remember travelling by steam train and whose boiler was undoubtedly fired by Welsh coal, probably anthracite from the west Wales valleys and the deep mines.

You would enter the carriage and, whilst not the Orient Express, it was a wonderful feeling. Windows which you could pull up and down with a leather strap and on each side of the carriage were sepia photographs of places of interest – mainly as we lived in a coal mining area it was of the ‘sea and sand.’ Miners suffered from dust (pneumoconiosis) and the then NUM set up special homes, one at Porthcawl and one in Bournemouth called the Court Royal and I would encourage readers of this note to just google Court Royal and to see its history. Both at Rest Bay and the Court Royal NUM Members could benefit from fresh air. Much I suppose as the early treatment of TB sufferers.

My late Father went to both of these Homes and the memory of miners stopping in the streets of the Rhondda unable to grab breath due to ‘dust’ will live with me forever.

Indeed, here a very personal story. On Saturday, I used to go with friends for a drink and so did my Father. Sometimes we used to meet up and faced with let us say an incline to navigate on our way home – we were after all in the Rhondda Valleys – my Father used to encourage me to walk ahead but only on the proviso that we meet up at the

corner of our street and then walk home together. This he said would not cause our 'Mam' any worries as to his health. Nothing could be further from the truth!

My non-conformist background was three times on Sunday to Bethany for the Church in Wales was above us and to encompass Sunday school. One of the joys of going to Sunday School was the Sunday School outings and which took place on Saturdays so as not to miss a Sunday!

I am still of the belief that one's presence at Sunday School was identified by either a gold, silver or bronze star and was a way of absolutely making sure you did as you were told. Then that the Sunday School outing was a reward for being 'a good boy.'

Now to the day itself. The Non-Conformist Chapels formed a sort of alliance and contracted for the transport to take everyone to the coast. So it was either the Rhondda Transport, where once I viewed forty three double deckers, or British Rail. Whatever each bus and carriage had a number allocated to it and you had the same number so thus no need to fight for a seat as in Ryanair or Easyjet. Are you able to contemplate the logistics for say a thousand people getting on to transport in Porth and then descending upon Barry Island?

Then to Barry Island sans Butlin's Holiday Camp. Billy Butlin later built a holiday camp overlooking the Bristol Channel and a sort of brown and not blue sea. It was said that on a good day you could see Clevedon and Ilfracombe and, of course, Paddle Steamers used to operate from Penarth, a southerly suburb of Cardiff just a little way down the coast, and to the north Somerset coast.

Then our 'Mams' had made sandwiches: some egg, some Co-op ham, perhaps some pickle and John West tinned salmon but no hot beverage

- Give your friends and family a say in who influences you.

**27 Guard your thoughts** *Proverbs 4 v23*

- Don't dwell on sexual temptation.
- Don't savour anger.
- Don't harbour silent doubts.

**28 Show kindness** *Proverbs 15 v1*

- Pause before you reply.
- Ask questions to make sure you understand the situation.
- Consider the feelings of the person you're talking to.
- Choose your words carefully.

**29 Learn from History** *Ecclesiastes 1 v9 – 10*

- The things we struggle with today: fear, doubt, insecurity, temptation, greed are the things every generation struggles with.

**30 Take time to laugh and cry** *Ecclesiastes 3 v2, 4*

- To laugh and to dance is to celebrate the world around us, to express our joy at being.
- Expressions of sadness initiate emotional healing.



**Punctuation**

*The following was sent to me by Peter Campbell*

How would you punctuate

A woman without her man is nothing ?

One possibility might be

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

## Empathy 3/5

- 21 Spend some time in nature** *Psalm 19 v1 – 4*
- Don't just observe Nature: study it.
  - Keep a journal of your observations.
  - Talk to others about your experiences.
  - Talk to God about the things you see.
- 22 Develop humility** *Proverbs 3 v7 – 8*
- Do you wish to rise? Commence by descending.
  - You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.
- 23 Choose your associates carefully** *Proverbs 4 v14 – 15*
- Take a look at the people who influence them.
  - Look at their priorities.
  - Look at the fruit of their labour.
- 24 Be stronger than temptation** *Proverbs 6 v20 – 23*
- Recognize where you're vulnerable.
  - Practice your escape routes.
  - Enlist the assistance of others.
  - Celebrate your victories – but not too much.
  - Learn from your failures.
- 25 Be unstoppable** *Galatians 6 v9*
- And if you want to be first, you must be everyone's slave.
- 26 Keep good company** *Proverbs 2 v12 – 15*
- Why is this person interested in me? Do I have something he wants? Is he using me to go ahead?
  - You are judged by the company you keep.
  - The influence of others will affect your direction in life.

so it was to the enclosed section of Promenade at Barry and into the back where there were tables and chairs and for tea (not coffee) to be served from aluminium teapots.

Then we were let loose and I truly remember my Father with a handkerchief tied at the corners and sat on his deckchair and with his socks held up by suspenders.

However at the end of the promenade was a 'lost children's area'. Unfortunately, the author of this article did indeed find himself confined in the lost children's area. I still remember it and somewhat vividly.

The world had truly come to an end and I felt that I was being punished for being let us say at six years of age, a bit of a rebel (nothing much has changed). When I saw my Mam coming through the gates to collect me, you will not be able to imagine my joy. I clung very close to her not only for the remainder of the day but for the rest of her life.

I see her now she is my 'Mam' and my angel.

RIP Florence Isabella Ivin otherwise known as Florie, a wonderful lady.

**Ken Ivin**

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*Sadly, Pat died at home in South Wales on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, the day Ken finished writing this piece for the St Bart's Monthly.*

## Questions 'Open-minded' ?

Am I ? Are you ? Are we ?

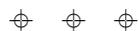
The opposite, 'to have a closed mind', is an accusation some folk may well level against Christians or against anyone of faith – the new breed of evangelising atheists for example.

Curiously enough, whatever you base your life on is a matter of faith, science no less a fact, but what differs are the particular articles of faith that underpin your own particular worldview. Regardless of what it is, there will be foundational assumptions on which the way you see things rest.

That said, back to my question about having an 'open mind'. Are you still open to God speaking to you in unexpected ways ? Can you, do you, find the truth in unexpected places ? In the presence of another person or people, are you surprised to be touched by the sense of the presence of God ?

Being open to the infinite, to a sense of His presence and His love is a mark that we are still alive. What do you think ?

*Father Gareth*



### Personal Column

Our sympathy to the families of  
Bishop Clifford Wright who died on 14<sup>th</sup> February  
and  
Barbara Tchertoff who died on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

BONNE ET GRANDE NOUVELLE !  
LE CHRIST EST RESSUSCITE !

A sa suite les bénévoles de l'humanité  
Mettent leurs pas dans ceux du Ressuscité  
Sans relâche, ils offrent leur générosité  
Sans eux que deviendrait notre société ?  
Les sans-toits ont droit à la chaleur d'une maisonnée  
Le prisonnier doit se saisir du bonheur de la liberté  
Le travailleur en détresse lutte pour retrouver sa dignité  
L'humaniste propose et tente de légiférer  
Et moi, que vais-je faire pour mon frère humilié ?

LUMIERE DE PAQUES, éclaire-nous dans notre cécité.

*Gaby Rouleau*  
*Pâques 2013*

*The above was sent to me as an Easter greeting last year  
by Jean-François Comyn, Secretary of the Groupement Oecuménique*



### Church humour

*The following was sent to me by David and Helen*

A leaflet outlined this simple idea - "Chain Vicars". It read: 'Are you unhappy with your vicar ? Just have your verger send a copy of this letter to six churches then parcel up your old vicar and send him off to the church at the top of the list. Within a week, you should receive 256 vicars, of whom at least one should be all right. Have faith in this process but **Do Not Break the Chain** ! One church did and they got their old Vicar back !'

## Lumière de Pâques

Matin de rêve, une merveilleuse lumière est née  
L'homme fragile, en recherche jusque-là égaré  
A soudain vu et compris les caprices de l'immensité  
Les Forêts, les Montagnes, les Océans, tout doit être maîtrisé  
Notre Dieu ce matin à ce travail, vient de nous inviter  
La création, merveilleuse horloge si bien réglée  
Entre nos mains doit maintenant s'harmoniser.

Sortons de nos tombeaux, le Christ est ressuscité  
Incroyable nouvelle, l'histoire de l'homme est changée  
A sa suite, une nouvelle route est tracée  
Aux peuples maintenant de façonner l'humanité.  
Roulons les pierres qui ferment nos tombeaux.

Tombeau du chômage qui empoisonne notre société  
Tombeau des sans-abri qui emprisonne la précarité  
Tombeau des marginaux qui justifie la pauvreté  
Tombeau de la maladie qui isole la perte de santé  
Tombeau des prisonniers qui écrase la fragilité  
Tombeau du racisme qui refuse l'égalité  
Tombeau de l'argent-roi qui rejette l'équité.  
Ouvrons nos tombeaux, le Christ est ressuscité.

Roulons les pierres qui freinent les avancées  
Allumons les phares de la solidarité  
Tissons les liens d'une vraie fraternité  
Modifions nos regards vers la pauvreté  
Combattons la priorité pour l'argent, cancer de la société  
Changeons nos cœurs, ils sont faits pour aimer  
Ouvrons nos mains, elles se tendent pour donner  
Accélérons le pas : nous sommes si loin de l'arrivée.

## The Bartholomew Gospel

### 11 Mary of Bethany

*'The house was filled with the smell of the perfume.'* John 12 v3

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were our friends, all three good friends of Jesus. They lived in Bethany, a small village, a couple miles from the Mount of Olives due west of Jerusalem.

Mary was a dreamer – she loved to sit and think. Martha was practical, full of energy – she loved to be busy about the house. Lazarus was not a well man – otherwise, surely, he would have been one of us, one of the Twelve.



Once, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him speaking about Our Father and the coming of the Kingdom. Martha was working hard in the kitchen to prepare our food. Overwhelmed by the pressure and unfairness of it all, Martha complains to Jesus that he should tell her sister to stop sitting there and come and give her a hand.

Not good. Both women have a point with Jesus in the middle. But with the wisdom of Solomon, he affirms both: 'Martha, Martha, you are fretting and fussing about so many things. Only one thing matters. Mary has chosen the best part, and it's not going to be taken away from her.'

Pure diplomacy. He recognises the worth of what Martha is doing, all her very real effort for us, but at the same time, he affirms too the value of Mary being still and attentive to the Word of God.

And yes - we did eat well that night.



News came that Lazarus was unwell. We were not surprised but we knew everything would be all right. Then we heard he'd died and we were shocked. With a troubled, heavy heart, we went together to Bethany and there, as you know, Jesus did something extraordinary.

We went to the tomb where Lazarus had been laid and Jesus ordered the stone to be removed. Understandably, Martha was not happy – in a climate like ours, after four days his body would already be decomposing so the smell would not be nice. But Jesus told them to do it anyway, and he prays to God, thanking him for having answered his prayer!

Jesus then commands Lazarus to come out. And to our shock and amazement, our friend stumbles out of his tomb, his body encumbered in the grave clothes wrapped round him.



The Saturday night in question we were staying in Bethany before going up to Jerusalem for Passover. It was natural to stay with them. As usual, Martha had prepared the food and Lazarus sat with us at table.

Then something extraordinary, extravagant happened - an act of generous love. Without warning, without telling anyone first, Mary took some expensive perfume and anointed Jesus' feet and the fragrance filled their home.

Jesus remained still, his face calm, beautiful, radiant in the light of the lamps in the room, as gently, reverently, Mary massaged the scent of the ointment into his feet. It was a selfless act of love, a public recognition of just how special we all knew this man to be. A verse from Isaiah sprang to mind –

'How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news'.

And Jesus' feet, his spotless soles upturned, were rendered more beautiful by Mary's anointing love.

But one of us was not a happy man. As Judas spoke, I looked at his face and you could see just how angry he was. In the tone of his voice, you could hear his real irritation. That such valuable perfume could be so carelessly wasted! 'Why wasn't this ointment sold? It would have fetched a year's wages! You could have given it to the poor!'

Of course, he was right. He did have a point. What he said was true. But, at the same time, he was profoundly wrong. All Judas could see was how much the perfume had been worth to him, not how much Jesus was worth to us. He simply did not value Mary's love for Jesus; Judas only loved the money which he looked after for us.

But Jesus puts him in his place. 'Let her alone. She's been keeping it for the day of my burial! You always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me.'

And there we had it. A restatement of the awful truth we knew. That our time with Jesus was limited. That we had come up to Jerusalem not just for Passover but for the end-game too. We were all sad, all sobered by the thought. All that is but one.

At that moment, Judas I guess had ceased to be one of us. From that moment, Judas I guess had made up his mind to do what he must do – to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

And if you had the eyes to see and the mind to read a man's face, then you might have guessed what was going to happen too.