

Diary dates for September and October, 2014

5 th September	10.30 Council Meeting
7 th September	12.30 St Bartholomew's Day lunch in the Church Garden
28 th September	11.00 Harvest Festival
2 nd October	10.30 Holy Communion
	11.00 Bible Study
	12.00 Bring and Share Lunch



Prayer of the month

You have cast a spell of longing over me, O Christ, and changed me with your divine yearning: but burn up my sins in immaterial fire, and make me worthy to be filled with delight in you, that dancing, I may magnify your two comings, O Good One

St John Damascene (676 – 749)
From 'The Canon on the Transfiguration of the Lord'



Prayer focus

The fruit we have borne and are still to bear



Verse of the Month

My soul magnifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
Luke 1 v46 – 47

St Bart's Monthly



September, 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:

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September, 2014

Dear Friends,

'Down-to-earth worship ?'

It's May. I'm listening as ever to the Today programme on Radio 4 as I wash up. Apparently, in the States, a considerable number of Hispanic American Catholics are switching to Evangelical and Charismatic congregations where the worship is said to be more 'down-to-earth'. I almost choke with laughter !

Isn't worship about a God-encounter. ? Yes, I know we are flesh and blood. Yes, we are firmly rooted on and in the earth. But in coming to church and through worshipping God the Father in God the Son through God the Holy Spirit, is not our spirit touched by His spirit ?

Then, as the cup dries in my hand, I reflect on the need to bridge the gap between where we are and where we'd like to be – in the kitchen washing up and the realm to which our thoughts and imagination fly.

So is our worship at St Bart's down-to-earth and heavenly-minded ? Does it start where you currently are and lead you on to where you would like to go ? Do you come out of church inspired, informed and enthused ?

If not, why not ?

I smile at the thought of being down-to-earth - the joke that some Christians are so heavenly minded that they're no earthly good. But surely it is not a question of 'either . . . or' but 'both . . . and'. And by the way, the word for priest in Latin, 'pontifex', means bridge builder. And so I hope to be.

Father Gareth

Notices

- **A big thank you** to all who worked so hard to make this year's Garden Party at Diana's such a success from the point of view of fellowship, working together, raising the profile of St Bart's among the community and not least earning much needed money for our church.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the October edition of the St Bart's Monthly is ***midday on Thursday 25th September***
- **Church Finances for July**
Income: 3,661€ Expenditure: 5,007€



All Souls' Service
10.30 Thursday 6th November

Why not come and remember in prayer in St Bart's those loved ones who have died. This year's list of the names of loved ones will include all those who have died in 2013 and 2014 but if you would like me to add the names of a loved one to those we will automatically mention, then please let me have their names by 1st November



Nurse Vera Hunneyball

Have you ever read any of the memorials that line the walls of our church ? There is one just to the left of the Bartholomew window which intrigues at least one of our congregation, Dr David Norris. So who was she ? Why did she die ? At just 30, on holiday I presume in St Lunaire, a nurse at King's College Hospital, she accidentally drowned while bathing on July 21st 1930. Her name itself is redolent with meaning: truth personified; beloved; sweet. But who knows the true story behind this loss of a young life ?

Readings in church

Sept 7th

Exodus 12 v1 - 14
Romans 13 v8 - end

Sept 14th

Numbers 21 v4 -9
Philippians 2 v6 - 11

Sept 21st

Proverbs 3 v13 - 18
2 Corinthians 4 v1 - 6

Sept 29th

Deuteronomy 8 v7 - 18
2 Corinthians 9 v6 – 15

12th Sunday after Trinity

Psalm 149
Matthew 18 v15 - 20

Holy Cross

Psalm 22 v23 -28
John 3 v13 - 17

St Matthew

Psalm 119 v65 - 72
Matthew 9 v1 - 13

Harvest Festival

Psalm 65
Luke 17 v11 - 19



St Bartholomew's Lunch

A buffet lunch will be held in the church garden on Sunday 7th September after the service. We hope this will be a time of fellowship and blessings.

A list for those who wish to attend will be in the transept. The cost is €12 per person.

Come and enjoy !

Helen Morgan

Archdeaconry Synod Report 30th April – 3rd May 2014

The theme of the Synod was 'Equipping for Mission'. There were six sessions which offered a wide variety of thoughts, practical ideas and inspiration for meeting the challenge of being effective Christians in today's world.

Dr Clare Amos, Co-ordinator for the World Council of Churches inter-religious dialogue and co-operation programme in her two Bible Studies delightfully and enthusiastically led us to see the four gospels as gateways to mission. In them, she said Jesus challenged the disciples, 'Go make disciples of all nations . . . tell them everything I commanded you' (Matthew 28 v20). Mark 16 v1 – 8 describes Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James at the tomb astonished and fearful yet they tell the disciples. Like Jesus, they will have their cross to bear.

In Luke and John, the story is taken further: the road to Emmaus; the miraculous catch of fish. At Emmaus, when the food was shared with 'the stranger', they recognised the resurrected Jesus who blessed and broke the bread. We ourselves can meet Jesus in communion. Dr Amos said 'mission is the overflow of our delight in God.'

Keith Lamdin, Principal of Sarum College, Salisbury, led two sessions. He stressed the need to learn about God and to change. Each of us must ask what can change me ? We need to 'lean towards change' which requires discipline, prayer and effort. Thereby grace will flow. We need to let ourselves be known at the same time getting to know others. To help us understand, he used music pictures and discussion in small groups.

His second session was entitled 'Learning about Leadership'. Everyone learns to lead naturally: e.g. a baby influencing his parents. How we

learn to lead is on-going. He recommended we should not be fulfilling people's expectations of us, not being dependent or seeking dependency nor getting others to do the work that is rightly ours. Leadership is about awareness and requires passion, optimism, and hope, all rooted in reality. He outlined different leadership styles: the monarch; the servant; the warrior; the elder; the contemplative; the prophet - all of which are described in the book he wrote on the subject.

We were given lots of information and handouts from the Bible Reading Fellowship. Their new project, Foundations 21, seems to be a break-through in enabling and encouraging people to learn about and share their faith. Free on line, it is a resource for Christian life-long learning and discipleship providing 3,500 pages of content and 6 hours of videos and links to 7,500 web-sites. User-friendly, it is tailored to different learning styles so you can feel comfortable how you choose to work.

Philip Mountstephen showed a video of the work of CMS. The old idea of missionary work has changed. CMS now provides dedicated people who often go into difficult and desperate situations world-wide to share the gospel message and translating the Bible if required, providing practical support and training. I was particularly struck that help was being offered to young women who had been raped and become outcasts as a result. In particular, CMS works among the boat people and children in Uganda and these many other projects deserve our support and prayer

Bishop David gave us news from the diocese in particular of the current extreme workload experienced by Diocesan staff. The promised funding of four full-time Archdeacons by the Church Commissioners proved to be sadly inadequate. To help our current part-time Archdeacons, Area Deans have been appointed. With so

Personal Column

Congratulations to:

John and Laura Davey on the baptism of their first child, Theo John Michael;

Mike and Barbara Thomas on the baptism of their grandchildren Alexander Michael Thales Anastassiades and Frederic Thomas Tassos Anastassiades – all three in church on St Bartholomew's Day;

Geoff and Val Carter who celebrated 50 years of marriage on 3rd August in church;

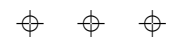
Paul and Ann Elms who celebrated 25 years on marriage in church on 25th August;

Daniel and Jennie Blank married at Grand Val on 21st August;

Charles and Catriona Zimmerman married at Grand Val on 30th August

James and Anna Jordan married here on 30th August;

and Philippe and Carole Moreau married here on 30th August.



Quotations of the month

'I am not a man of faith, but my wife is.'

Nick Clegg



Questions 2/8

This mini-series was forwarded to me by Ian Phillips

If people from Poland are called Poles,
then why aren't people from Holland called Holes ?

Odd Words
Straplines
‘Serving Christ; Serving You’

Have you ever come across the word ‘strapline’ before ? I hadn’t. It’s not in my two volume Shorter English Dictionary nor in the spell check of the computer on which I’m typing this article. But it is in the new Collins English Dictionary that Les and Lin gave me for my birthday in 2006 shortly before I came here to be your priest.

It was Neo who used it first in my hearing. We were talking about a leaflet the Anglican clergy in Potters Bar had produced with their contact details. At the foot of the A4 single sheet with four reassuring smiles of the four priests is this slogan/motto coined by my vicar’s son, Matthew:

‘Serving Christ; Serving You’

Neat don’t you think ? And as I was praising Matthew’s astute summary of what a Christian church is really there to do, Neo described the phrase as a strapline. I paused; I asked her to repeat the word she’d just used; then I asked her to explain. Apparently, it refers to any sub-heading used in a newspaper, magazine or advertisement.

So there you have it: if you want a subheading to sum up what we at St Bart’s are all about, then why not take Matthew Bevan’s strapline to heart. I love it. Don’t you ?

Gareth Randall



Hoover Joke ?

Sent to us by Victor Pumfrett, courtesy of the Edinburgh Festival

I’ve decided to get rid of my vacuum cleaner – it’s just gathering dust !

many British people now living in the EU, there is a diocesan-wide need for training and support. Ecumenical dialogue continues. Safe-guarding continues to enjoy a high priority.

In conclusion, as ever the Synod was hard work but the fellowship and worship at St Jacut helped enormously. I am very grateful for your support in having this opportunity to be part of such an exciting and enlivening experience.

Paddy Vidal-Hall



Visitors to the Holy Land (1)

Having completed extensive security checks at both Heathrow and Ben Gurion airports Val and I finally set foot in Israel on Monday 26th May. This by coincidence was the very day that Pope Francis was meeting Patriarch Bartholomew in Jerusalem. Our visit was to celebrate our Golden Wedding while the Pope was there to heal the 50 year old scars of the division caused during World War II. We spent our first night in Tel Aviv but were really too tired to take much in.

Our tour plan was to visit the principle places featured in the stories in the Bible about Jesus together with sites of general or historic interest. The New Testament proved to be an excellent guide book for this purpose.

We first journeyed to Caesarea through a rocky and mountainous coastal area where Herod built a port and a palace to honour Caesar Augustus. Pontius Pilot had a house near to the palace indicating his importance at this time. Excavations had revealed the remains of many

grand mosaic floors, a complete chariot race track straight out of 'Ben Hur' and lots of dwellings and marble statues.

In contrast we then went to Acre, a walled Arab city with its Citadel and Amphitheatre. This city was taken over by the Knights Templar during the Crusades but their fine buildings were buried over the centuries and eventually became the foundations for a prison. They were finally unearthed about 40 years ago when a prisoner, trying to escape used a spoon to dig through the floor and fell to the floor of the Great Hall below. The prison is still used as an army base and new recruits trained while as visitors we walked through the recently excavated Crusader's dining rooms and Chapel beneath them admiring the almost perfectly preserved vaulted ceilings and stained glass windows.

Travelling on to Nazareth was a culture shock. It was not the dusty village that we expected but a shabby town where we saw the Church of the Annunciation and the supposed remains of the home of Mary and the workshop of Joseph. These two sites are very close together and each has a modern church built on top of it. It all seemed too convenient to be true but did give some idea of living conditions in biblical times.

This was our first anxious moment as there is a clash of religious beliefs here as a mosque close by has been refused permission to expand. They displayed banners condemning Christianity and claiming their Prophet to be the only true representative of God. Memories of this faded as we then went to Tiberius, a charming port on the Sea of Galilee, where we had ample time to relax, look around and spend the night in comfort overlooking the sea and getting ready for another day of adventure.

Geoff Carter

A Guernsey Kneeler

The Kneeler that I was pleased to present to the church recently was made during our recent extended Cruises. I am a fidget - it is very difficult for me to sit down and do nothing. I do enjoy visiting new places on cruises but there are always sailing days when making something like a kneeler keeps a fidget occupied.

I have always admired St Bartholomew's kneelers, particularly those produced by other churches and organisations. I therefore designed one based on the Guernsey flag. This is basically the St George's flag overlaid by a golden cross. This golden cross is the emblem given to William the Conqueror by the Pope prior to the 1066 Norman Conquest of England. You can see this flag being carried in the Bayeux Tapestry. For hundreds of years, Guernsey had been part of the Duchy of Normandy and was solidly 'Norman' at the time of the conquest. Wace who was from a channel island family wrote the early history of the Normans. He wrote 'my father saw the invasion fleet leaving for England.'

Things fell apart in the early years of 1200 when the French king recaptured all of Normandy except the Channel Islands. Despite many raids by the French they failed to bring the Islands under French rule. The British, understanding the strategic value of the islands allowed the Islanders to continue under their Norman Law and system of administration. Free of UK taxes and self-governing, subject only to remaining dependences of the Crown. The Islanders looked upon the French King as the enemy. Their recognised head was the hereditary Duke of Normandy who was also the King England.

I was often involved in talks with the Home Office in London and it was always a pleasure to remind them when the going got rough, that we were the last nation to conquer England a thousand years ago !

Roger Berry

Film Review of the month
Dead Poets Society – Peter Weir 1989

Sadly, Robin Williams died last month. He committed suicide, the balance of his mind upset. I loved him as an actor, fondly remember him in 'Good Morning Vietnam', 'Good Will Hunting', 'Mrs Doubtfire' but it was my Dead Poets DVD that I took from the shelf to revisit what is in my eyes an outstanding performance by him.

I first saw the film at the Barnet Odeon some 25 years ago with the late Revd Ray Williams, my first vicar at King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar. Ray was a parent at Owen's School where I was then Director of Studies. I taught his children and was one of his Readers at KCM.

Robin Williams plays John Keating, an inspirational teacher, who challenges the values of this most traditional of American 'Prep Schools' but his unconventional methods actually challenge his pupils to start to think for themselves. The central character, Neil, discovers a passion for acting which ultimately leads to the clash with his over-controlling father and the tragic outcome.

Against this serious side, there is genuine humour, a rich appreciation of the absurd, of adolescent angst, friendship and companionship.

There is much to admire in the film, not least Peter Weir's eye for a beautifully crafted visual scene: a flight of birds over the lake; a sunset; a silhouetted piper; boys in duffle coats silhouetted at night in the wood like monks.

Curious, the film which culminates itself in a suicide should be the one that I cherish as a memory of Robin Williams.

Gareth Randall

The final leg

We are now on the final leg of our journey and from Llwynypia to Blaenrhondda with the ubiquitous remnants of the coal mining area all around one. With the greatest of respect to the residents of Llwynypia - and here I have to be careful for my brother lives there - 'there is not much going on.'

I do however remember the Ivor Hael pub just by the train station and where bitter was one shilling and one pence and best bitter one shilling and three pence. Then Llwynypia used to have its own hospital but a new hospital known as the Royal Glamorgan is to be found near the Royal Mint in Llantrisant. I have always argued that a blue plaque should adorn the walls of the old hospital for the author here was born at the hospital on the second of September 1944!

Then another period of my life just twelve months and in 1961 where I spent a sort of gap year with twenty-eight young ladies at the Pontrhondda Commercial College. The skills I acquired be it touch typing or Pitman's shorthand have never deserted me. I also as a young man acquired consummate skills in other directions.

We move up the valley through Ystrad and then to Pentre and where the Rhondda Borough Council used to have its offices. Its motto is Hwy Clod Na Golud which means Fame outlasts wealth.

Now to Treorchy and nearby at Cwmparc was the home of the Mother of our Priest Gareth. Until Dr Beeching became involved it was possible by train through the Rhondda Tunnel to go to Aberavon on the coast and further indeed to Swansea where one used to feast on the cockles of Penclawdd. This is no longer possible but I did journey this way many times and to see the touring Australian Cricket side at St Helens in Swansea and where they played Glamorgan. We won on

both occasions. Of course St Helens was the ground when Gary Sobers, as he then was, hit six sixes in an over and Wilf Wooller, the Commentator, remarked ‘it’s gone all the way down to Swansea.’

There are still mountain roads in place and I still defy anyone to improve on the view from the Rhigos Mountain down the Rhondda Fawr.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this journey and it has brought back so many memories and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

Here, I think we should leave the last word to Sir Tom Jones and his song ‘The Green Green grass of home’ and in particular ‘Then I awake and look around me at the four grey walls that surround me and I realise I have only been dreaming. There is a sad old Padre and hand in hand at daybreak we touch the green green grass of home.’ It is a popular misconception that this was about Wales but it was from the deep south of America.

In my youth, the mountains of the Rhondda were dotted with tips of waste coal and the rivers polluted from the black gold. Today those scars which were borne so bravely by the mining communities have now disappeared and we do have the ‘Green Green Grass of home’

I have not been dreaming.

*Ken Ivin
Chepstow, Monmouthshire
February 2014*



Questions Lost meaning ? A question of faith ?

So you think you know what a word means ?

On Boxing Day, the guest editor for the day on the Today Programme, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web, wanted ‘Thought for the Day’ to be presented by an atheist. Thank God the BBC Charter does not allow for such a move, this particular spot being reserved for a person of faith.

Now the chap chosen to present an alternative thought for the day was a minister of a North London Unitarian church who argued that though he was an Atheist – I thought Unitarians believed in ONE God – he was a man of faith though in his case the articles of faith on which he based his life included a belief in the non-existence of God.

And here you have something curious. Faith is widened in meaning to embrace not simply articles of religious belief i.e. our Creeds, but the criteria which determine how we make sense of life and behave. In such a light, scientists like Richard Dawkins are just as committed to a belief system as the religious folk whom he delights in denigrating.

But to my mind, with my background, my picture of faith is neatly embodied in the moment that Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on the water towards his friend, Jesus. Faith is what Bartholomew was martyred for. Without faith, would we be who we are ?

Gareth Randall



Iraq

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has published three prayers today for the people of Mosul, highlighting the common suffering of both Christians and Muslims in Iraq:

Holy God, your Holy family was driven into exile and many holy innocent boys were massacred, we hold before you today the suffering people of Mosul.

Amen

Hold in your loving arms, all those who have been caught up in this conflict. We pray for those forced to flee their homes, all who have lost friends, family and possessions and who now face an uncertain future. Bless our Christian brothers and sisters who have seen the destruction of their churches and communities and for our Muslim neighbours who have also experienced destruction and suffering.

Amen

Lord, in this city where Christians and Muslims have lived together for over 1400 years, we pray for healing, peace and restoration. Bring light out of this present darkness and hope from despair, that guided by your Holy Spirit, all your children may find a new way forward together based on your love for us all.

Amen



Another little gem

My thanks again to Pauline Eyre who passed on this one !

What did the paper clip say to the magnet ?

Oh I do find you so very attractive !

The Bartholomew Gospel

16 Arrested

They 'arrested Jesus and tied him up.' John 18 v12

That night, in the Garden of Gethsemane, they came to arrest Jesus.

Gethsemane in Aramaic means an oil press and in the garden so named, there were some ancient olive trees – understandable really given its location near the Mount of Olives. It was our private place to which we could withdraw from the noise of the city. It was our secure place, known only to us. Here we felt safe.



When we got there, we were already tired out. It had been a good but long day. Jesus took the Three further into the Garden and left what was left of the Twelve by the entrance in the dark where we had little choice but to snatch some sleep wherever we could. With us was a lad, the son of the house where we'd just eaten together, who'd simply tagged along as we left.

According to Peter, James and John, Jesus needed to be alone. But he told them to stay awake and to keep watch while he went further in to pray. Jesus was not a happy man. He wanted to be sure that the cup of suffering (his words) that he was about to drink, was in fact God's will for him. By this time, Peter, James and John, like us, were totally exhausted. Waiting in the dark, could they stay awake? Now Jesus was alone with God; alone, knowing what was about to happen to him; alone with the thought of the pain to come – mental, physical, spiritual, emotional. Without his friends, the cup was his alone to drink. No wonder three times he found them sleeping. In truth he was alone.

When he woke them for the third time, he looked dreadful, his face covered in sweat as if he'd been literally sweating blood. He told them to get up: the hour had come and they came back to us just as we were getting to our feet, disturbed by armed men with torches entering the Garden. In front of this detachment of Temple guards, pointing the way to them, was our friend, Judas. As was the custom among our people at the time, Judas went straight up to Jesus to greet him with a kiss.

It was his signal to them. The guards stepped forward to grab Jesus. Peter drew a sword he'd recently acquired and with a glancing blow cut off the left ear of one of them. Jesus' voice stopped everyone in their tracks. He told Peter to put away his sword and promptly healed the man's ear. Then turning on the soldiers, he said, 'Am I a criminal that you come to arrest me like a thief in the night? You could have arrested me any time while I taught in the Temple during the day. But let God's will be done.'

And it was. They arrested him. In panic, we fled. We ran away, out into the dark. At first the boy was slow to move. One of the guards grabbed him but with the agility of youth, he twisted and turned and slipped naked from the man's grasp, leaving his loose cotton garment boyless in the man's hand.



In the dark, I found Philip and with him found the terrified boy. We covered him with one of our garments and together took him back to his mother's house to wait for the following day.

In the meantime, at a distance, Peter was following the men leading Jesus away.



In a garden, long ago, a man had betrayed God by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil offered to him. In a garden, here and now, a man had betrayed the Son of God with a kiss, by accepting the silver offered to him.



Wisdom from the Nineteenth Century

In the late 1800's, some thought that progress had peaked, here are some quotes from that period.

In 1876, in editorial remarks about the telephone, a Boston newspaper asserted, "Well informed people know it is impossible to transmit the voice over wires and were it possible to do so, the thing would be of no practical value."

In 1878, after viewing the electric light at a world science exposition, a British Professor remarked, "When the Paris exhibition closes, electric light will close with it and no more will be heard of it."

In 1897, a British Physicist declared, "Radio has no future."

In 1899, on the eve of the twentieth century, Charles H Duell, the commissioner of the US Office of Patents, urged President McKinley to abolish his office, arguing, "Everything that can be invented has been invented."

Roger Berry

