

Diary dates for February and March 2016

7 th February	12.30 Fat Sunday Lunch
10 th February	10.00 Ash Wednesday
18 th February	11.00 Start of Lent Bible Study
19 th March	10.30 Council Meeting
24 th March	10.30 Maundy Thursday
25 th March	11.00 Good Friday
27 th March	11.00 Easter Day



Prayer of the month

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection,
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and forever.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday before Lent



Prayer focus

re Lent



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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Dear Friends,

'By their fruits . . .'

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is early this year – February 10th. We mark the occasion at St Bart's with our usual Thursday service brought forward a day and you could mark the day, too, by coming to Holy Communion and, if you wish, by having your forehead marked with a sign of the cross in the ash of palm crosses, blessed at the start of last year's Holy Week and burnt to ash by me on Shrove Tuesday.

Lent is a time for spiritual discipline, for reflection, for giving up something, and for taking on something new: forty days, six weeks, but not including the Sundays which are, as you appreciate, feast days.

As we approach Lent, I am challenged to reflect on the terrorism practised by some fundamentalists. Surely, the distinguishing badge of any faith which believes in a loving God is the respect that we accord all people who are made in His image. According to Jesus, love of God is best shown through love of neighbour as we love ourselves.

I'm not sure how best we can judge the various doctrines of the major world religions but this is a rule of thumb that Jesus taught – 'By their fruits shall ye know them' (Matthew 7 v16) or by the Golden Rule – 'Do unto others as ye would be done by' (Matthew 7 v12).

Lent is almost on us, so what question(s) will you be asking yourself and will you be surprised by the answer ?

Father Gareth



- **Advent Appeal** for migrants raised £100
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the March edition of the St Bart's Monthly is ***midday on Thursday 25th February***
- **Church Finances for December**
Income: 7,379€ Expenditure: 5,162€

Readings in church

February 7

Exodus 34 v29 – end
2 Corinthians 3 v12 – 4 v2

Quinquagesima

Psalm 99
Luke 9 v28 – 36

February 14

Deuteronomy 26 v1 – 11
Romans 10 v8b – 13

1st Sunday of Lent

Psalm 91 v1 – 11
Luke 4 v1 – 13

February 21

Genesis 15 v1 –12, 17 – 18
Philippians 3 v17 – 4 v1

2nd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 27
Luke 13 v31 – end

February 28

Isaiah 55 v1 – 9
1 Corinthians 10 v1 –13

3rd Sunday of Lent

Psalm 63 v1 – 9
Luke 13 v1 – 9



Verse of the Month

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.

Isaiah 61.1

St Bartholomew's Church, Dinard
Lent Bible Course – 2016
The First Epistle of John

*Every Thursday at 11.00 following Holy Communion at 10.30
and followed by a bring-and-share lunch at 12.00*

Session 1	18 th February, 2016 Introduction
Text	1 John 1 v1 - 4
Session 2	25 th February, 2016 Wrongdoing put right
Text	1 John 1 v5 - 1 John 2 v6
Session 3	3 rd March, 2016 In the right
Text	1 John 2 v7 - 28
Session 4	10 th March, 2016 Children of God
Text	1 John 2 v29 – 3 v24
Session 5	17 th March, 2016 Test – Love - Testify
Text	1 John 4
Session 6	24 th March, 2016 In conclusion
Text	1 John 5

*Father Gareth
January 2016*

Notes from the Council - January 21st

January is necessarily cold and dark but our meeting found those of us who were able to attend in good heart and in good spirit. As usual, our meeting opened and closed in prayer, giving thanks again for the privilege and responsibility of being stewards of St Bart's.

Paradoxically, the church finances are in a healthy state, having paid for our organ's refurbishment, though the actual amount of money earned through fund-raising last year has fallen substantially from its peak in 2012. David, our treasurer, wisely pointed to the need to address the potential problem and Carolyn, our Communications Officer, outlined a programme of possible events for the coming year which have the potential to address the issue. My favourite are two which concern celebrating our Sovereign's 90th birthday – a picnic in the church garden in June and the publication of a Queen's Cookbook.

A service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in St Bart's on 20th January, led by the Revd Dr John Marvel with Pasteur Gilbert Baume preaching the sermon.

Our organ will receive its post-restoration service by Andrew Cooper in February and a concert to mark its restoration was discussed.

Our secretary, David, will be writing to thank Helen Cocaigh who is going to resign her place on the Council wef our AGM but Helen will still represent us at the Archdeaconry Synod along with Paddy.

Our Safeguarding Policy will be revised in light of the changes to Diocesan guidelines which came into force in December and will be circulated for approval at our March meeting.

Father Gareth

Worcester Cathedral Health and Wellbeing Day

Saturday 7th November 2015

The Festival of Healing, as it had been called, was organised by the Well Christian Healing Centre of Royal Leamington Spa and its leader the Revd Anne Hibbert was the principal speaker at the event. Attended by about 75 delegates, it was held in the Chapter House of the Cathedral and supported by stalls set up in the Cloisters by The Well and other charities advertising their particular contributions to Christian healing and providing supporting literature. The meeting started with a prayer.

Anne Hibbert spoke for about one and a half hours, illustrating her talk with videos and slides. Her theme was “God heals a broken Heart”, quoting Proverbs 14 v30 and 15 v13 “A tranquil mind gives life to the flesh but passion makes the bones rot” and “A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken”. She used these to emphasize that the mind must be in a fit state to receive healing before it will be effective. Psalm 34 v18 backs up her theme when it says “The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit”.

The familiar story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus from Luke 24 v13-38 was then turned around a little by Anne who said it really was about the road from Jerusalem. Luke says that the resurrection “seemed like an idle tale” (v10) to most of Jesus’ followers and Anne thought that the two disciples in question were broken in spirit and were getting away from the trauma of the last few days when Jesus caught up with them on the road. The important thing was that he asked them about what they were discussing. He listened to the reasons for their sadness before explaining that all had been foretold by the prophets. Healing is allowing Jesus to walk with us and talk with us when we need his presence to solve our problems and our hearts feel as though they are breaking.

Lancashire Jokes 2/12

A Yorkshire man went into a hardware store and asked to buy a sink.

“Do you want one with a plug ?” asked the assistant.

“Have they gone electric ?”

Lorraine Atkinson



Conversation d'un vieux couple D'Alsaciens

Par un beau soir d'été, les hirondelles se sont tues. Assis à la terrasse, près de sa femme, le vieil homme, écoutant le silence, déguste son verre de gewurztraminer.

Soudain, il dit : « *Je t'aime tellement, je ne sais pas comment je pourrais vivre sans toi.....* »

Sa femme lui demande alors : « *Est-ce que ça vient de toi.. ou est-ce le gewurztraminer qui te fait parler..... ?* »

Et là il répond : « C'est moi... qui parle au gewurztraminer... »



If flattery gets you nowhere,
would it be foolish to live in an apartment block ?

'Deliberate Mistake' ?

The prize for first spotting 2 errors in the January St Bart's goes to Ian Phillips who rightly identified this year's Carol Service would be on ***Saturday 17th December*** not the ***18th*** and the Council Meeting in March being on ***March 20th*** when it should be ***March 19th***!



Quotations of the month

Confidence is not about believing you'll win.
It's about being comfortable with the fact that you might lose.

Adage quoted in the Quartz Daily Briefing



A black Tuesday

Dark, wet, raining;
Chill wind blowing;
Winter's morning
mourning
the loss
of Summer,
the absence
of Spring.



School humour 6/7

What did the carrot suggest to the crisp ?
They go for a dip together.

Pauline Eyre

Anne went on to explain with great frankness how she came to establish the healing centre. On the Thursday before she was due to be married on the Saturday, she was visited by a young lady who told her that she had been having an affair with Anne's fiancé, giving her sufficient details so that Anne knew what she was saying was true. The wedding was cancelled and Anne ended up on the brink of suicide until she found God and healing. This resulted in the Spa being reopened and renamed as the Well.

The next half hour was spent in group discussions and at the feedback meeting it seemed as though a majority of the delegates had suffered emotional problems and, like Anne, were able to testify to cures through the church. That is until a man aged 50 from Brierley Hill stood up and explained how he had had an aggressive brain tumour and been told that he had just a 20% chance of surviving an operation. He had been baptised as a child and was married in church but until his illness had not been to church at all. In total despair he decided to start attending and, to his surprise, found people to be very friendly. Everyone prayed for him and he was operated on and has since had further treatment and is fit and well. He and his two teenaged sons attend church regularly and he and one of his sons were confirmed last Easter Eve at Worcester Cathedral.

The day concluded with a Eucharist celebrating Wholeness and Healing which also included the sacraments of anointing with oil and laying-on-of-hands as well as prayer ministry. Bishop Graham presided and Rev Anne Hibbert preached continuing on the theme of The Road from Jerusalem. She supported her arguments with quotations from Psalms 17 v22 and 147 v3 and Isaiah 61 v1. Most people agreed that the day had been very worth while and left renewed and inspired.

Just after the start of the day when Anne Hibbert was speaking, there was a strange interruption. The great door to the Chapter House was flung open and in walked Worcester's very own Miss Shepherd, straight out of Alan Bennett's play. Complete with her rucksack which was large enough to contain all of her belongings, she marched to the front row and made herself comfortable. The day was mild for November but not nearly warm enough for the small shorts she was wearing. Her legs were covered in scratches as though she had just walked through a patch of brambles and she was more in need of a good bath than healing. During the day she said not a word to anyone except when she was allocated to our discussion group. Then we did manage to get a few words from her and gathered that she had lived with her parents who had now both died.

It was strange that such a group of Christians were baffled by this intrusion and no one in the group, which included two Bishops and at least a dozen clergy, knew what to say or do. She did not stay for the communion service and went her way seemingly happy to have spent some time in the warmth.

Geoff Carter



Up-to-date

It's the morning of Tuesday 5th January outside the newsagents in La Place de la République. I'm standing by the magazine rack, idly looking at the English mags which are, sadly, last week's copies. Pierre Payan comes up to me wanting to buy a Radio Times so I'm able to tell him that this week's edition is not there. But there is a single, forlorn copy of the double Christmas issue which I say to him is about as useful as my last week's sermon – and he has the grace to laugh!

And the clouds parted. And a mighty forefinger pointed down straight at the painter. And a voice of thunder, echoing all around, gave out an unmistakable instruction:

'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!'

David Boggis



Help needed

I am writing a bilingual book about the English-speaking colony living in Dinan in the 19th and early 20th centuries and am keen to include as many old photos of that time as possible. One main chapter of my book will be about the Anglican Church, *Christ Church Dinan*. If anyone has any old photos, particularly of the interior of the church and its stained-glass windows, I would be most grateful to see them and hopefully include them in my book. I am also keen to receive any interesting information and photos / newspaper cuttings etc about the people who lived there and indeed any aspect of the life of the "colonie anglaise de Dinan" which might be of interest to the readers. Of course all images and sources will be fully acknowledged in the book. I live in Jersey but am in the Dinan area around once a month for my work. Many thanks in advance. Diane Moore.

I can be contacted by email at dianemoorejerry@yahoo.co.uk or by post: St Jacut, La Route de Vinchelez, St Ouen, JERSEY JE3 2DA



Gambolling ?

Sheepishly buying a Lotto ticket on a roll over Saturday ?



The Painter

A few years ago, in one of the remoter and less affluent parts of the UK, there lived a man who had his own, one-person, business all his life – as a painter, specialising in the exteriors of buildings.

As he grew older and more skilled, and the business carried on ticking over, he taught himself more and more little tweaks to make a few pence more on a job, or save a few pence on materials. And he found that if he added a drop of water to his paint, it went that much further and saved him that much money.

Well, he'd been doing this for years, and had gained a reputation in his none-too-affluent community as a fellow who could be relied on to do a decent job at a fair price. So he was the guy they went to when one of the local non-conformist chapels needed a lick of paint, all over.

So our man starts at the shorter end of the chapel, dobbing a judicious drop of water into the paint as he always did. Next day he painted another section, the following day another, until he had only the little steeple and porch to paint.

Absorbed in his work as usual, our painter completed the steeple and porch. So busy was he that he never noticed the thick clouds gathering overhead and beginning to drift lower. Then, just as he finished the last stroke of paint on the steeple, he gave a big sigh, put a hand to his aching back, and looked up...

...Just as the heavens opened and a huge rain storm poured down.

Down scrambles our man from the steeple, just in time to avoid the thunder and lightning. And there, before his eyes, the paint that he's just put on starts dribbling and running down, starting from the top of the chapel that he's just finished.

February 2nd

The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2nd February) draws our Christmas cycle to an end. On this day we light extra candles, and as Simeon and Anna greeted the Christ Child, the light of the world, in the temple, we pray that we may be filled with the light of his love.

"The true light has come, the light that enlightens every one who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brothers and sisters, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour".

(From a sermon by St Sophronius of Damascus, circa 560).

Bishop David



Fund raising

This Lent, I'm going to preach a sermon series on 'Hard verses':
14th Feb – Mt 10 v34; 21st Feb – Lk 14 v26; 28th Feb – Heb 3 v1;
6th Mar – Mt 23 v9; 13th Mar – 1Jn 3 v6; 20th Mar – 1Jn 5 v16.

If you'd like to sponsor one (25€ in aid of church funds), then let me know. I hope to do something similar for Advent but then you get to choose the verse/passage on which I'll preach.

Father Gareth

In response...

If I may be permitted a couple of observations: regular readers, as myself, will have noticed that Father Gareth frequently drops in the occasional rhetorical question or observation into his homilies in this newsletter. In fact, *does* anyone notice them? They so often seem to provoke little or no response in subsequent issues, which to me seems a shame, since in themselves they offer plenty of fuel for debate.

Take the January 2016 issue. I find more than one point that can usefully be taken further.

In considering the virtues of saying sorry, Gareth notes: 'To deny being wrong, in the wrong, may be one way of dealing with being at fault, of making a mistake. If we are perfect, then surely we will never make a mistake.' Am I right in seeing a bulge in the cheek where the tongue sticks in?

Of course none of us is perfect. Of course we all make mistakes. Sometimes we do downright wrong by other people. That's one reason the shared confession in our regular services is so critically important.

On the other hand, I know people – and I'm sure you do, too – who are unable ever to say sorry. (And I sincerely pray that I may never be in that unhappy position.)

I am thinking right now of one particularly close family member of mine. She has a massive problem with saying sorry to anyone, but I hesitate to hold that against her. Because she is chronically insecure. It stems from the way she was brought up and the way her upbringing, in turn, steered her into leading her life.

Yes, she's had a tough time. Yes, she is a superficial thinker because

Recipes for you to try

Over the next twelve months, Janet and her husband, Geoff, are offering us a series of easy-to-cook recipes.

Ginger log

Another Darbyshire family recipe which appears regularly at parties! The quantities are not recorded exactly - it depends on how many people you are feeding!

- ✓ Ginger nuts - at least one packet
- ✓ Double cream - about 250ml
- ✓ Stem ginger in syrup about half a small jar
- ✓ Sherry or sweet wine



- Whip the cream until firm and fold in ginger syrup to taste
- Chop the stem ginger finely and mix with the cream
- Dip each ginger biscuit in sherry or wine and then sandwich with the ginger and cream mixture

The aim is to stick them together to form a "log" keeping enough of the ginger and cream mixture to coat the outside. This is better if left for a while for the ginger nuts to soften.

Janet and Geoff Scott



Hidden puns

Radio 4 News - 18th January - highlighted the growing problem of obesity in the UK and the need for a tax on sugar.

Book/Film Review of the Month
'The Education of Little Tree'
Forrest Carter - pub 1976
Richard Friedenberg – 1996

I don't think I've ever written a book review for our magazine: I do read, honestly I do, but a film review a month, and sometimes more, seems sufficient to/for/from me. But for Christmas last year, I received three books and three films of the three books and so I felt inspired to try to give you a hybrid – a film/book review.

Whenever you read a book then see a film, the default position is usually the film is not as good – a classic example is surely 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' – a great book but a less than good film. So perhaps the trick is to see the film before you read the book.

Well, the film of 'The Education of Little Tree' is wonderful. It's not only the setting: the mountain country, backwoods America, set in the Depression but hardly depressing. It's not only the actors and the acting: Granpa (James Cromwell), Granma (Tantoo Cardinal), Little Tree (Joseph Ashton), Willow John (Graham Greene). It's also the storyline – an orphan boy brought up by his grand-parents and, as the title suggests, his education into what it truly means to be a Cherokee. It's also the spirituality and world-view of a Native American Indian.

Well, if the film is good, the book is even better. Okay, the visuals are not in the eye but in the mind but there is so much more in the book: extra characters; extra events; extra depths – humour; sadness; beauty; badness – what it means to grow up, to be loved and to be part of a family. Not everyone or everything emerges with credit, not least a narrow type of blinkered Christianity, but to see the one and then to read the other is so well worth the effort – ENJOY !

Gareth Randall

anything *below* that surface terrifies the wits out of her. She doesn't make it easy for *me* to get along with *her*. But, thank God, I can see, as she cannot, that if she admitted the slightest fault on her own part, her fragile world would disintegrate in mid-air around her. She cannot be wrong. Therefore she cannot say sorry.

It's not always arrogance and self-satisfaction that hinders a person from saying sorry. It might be far more deeply pathological than that.

Further, Gareth (delightfully, to me) lists some of the things that give him joy and asks: 'Enough of me – what matters to you ?'

How long's a piece of string? I could fill several issues, answering that one, and I bet you could, too. But let me run this past you, in extremely condensed form.

Some of my most cherished ambitions never materialised. I never sold a best-selling novel, never got the private pilot's licence I hankered after, never really got to the top of my profession – just when things were looking promising for the next promotion, a nervous breakdown got in the way.

Yet all those ambitions were purely selfish, and the things that are *really* important really have come to pass. I've enjoyed pretty good health all my life (even in mental health I've held the demons to a draw); I've stayed married to my first true love for well over forty years; we have a daughter (with two kids of her own) who has buckets of energy and a top-class intellectual level; our finances are comfortable; we live on one of the world's most beautiful coasts. On top of that, my wife and I once walked the whole 800 km from Frankfurt-am-Main (where I was working) to Genoa, Italy; and we've been privileged to travel to many, always fascinating, places. God has blessed us.

That word 'autodidact': has anyone read Sartre's *La Nausée*? A-Level for me; haven't read it since and don't intend to. *La Nausée* includes a character known only as 'the autodidact', and Sartre never mentions him without a sneer.

Mind you, Sartre had a black belt in sneering. In this case, I believe the sneer is totally misplaced.

Here I go, blowing my own trumpet again. At school, I was arts-side: all language A-Levels and they've stood me in good stead. But I went over Newton's Laws of Motion in the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force and that sparked a lifelong interest in physics. Geography was just another boring subject until I started learning map-reading (CCF again).

In short, I rate myself an autodidact in several areas of science including sub-atomic physics and psychology/psychopharmacology; and whenever we travel, I come back knowing, say, how Yamaguchi hangs together with Hiroshima and Kobe, or how long it takes to drive from Frankfurt to Berlin or El Paso to Tucson.

So please don't knock the autodidact. You may well be one, too.

David Boggis



Fat Sunday Lunch

(The last blow-out before Lent !)
Choice of home-made soup;
Sausage - crêpe or bread;
Desserts; Wine.
In church - 12.30 7th Feb - 10€

Extra Film Review of the Month 'The Butler' – Lee Daniels 2013 BAFTA Award – 2 nominations; Screen Actors Guild Award – 3 nominations

One of the more uncomfortable facts about this year's Oscars is the surprising lack of a Black presence among the films nominated. 'The Butler', based on a true story, is an excellent example of Black talent telling us, as it does, the uncomfortable story of C20 race relations in the USA through the eyes of a White House Black butler, Cecil Haines (Forest Whitaker).

'The Butler' succinctly charts the difficult road by which President Obama was the first Black man to be elected president. There are some great mini depictions of Eisenhower (Robin Williams), Kennedy (James Marsden), Johnson (Liev Schreiber), Nixon (John Cusack) and Reagan (Alan Rickman).

But it is the black presence which is the real focus of the film: the background Cecil Gaines came from in the South – his 'promotion' to 'house negro' – his headhunting by the White House. There is the tension within his family, his less than faithful wife (Oprah Winfrey) his politically aware and activist, oldest son, Louis (David Oyelowo); his soldier son, Charlie (Elijah Kelley) killed in the Vietnam War.

I think I could have been a good butler – the idea of service suits me and, as a profession, it is an opportunity to be diligent, discreet, part of the family. Gaines, by his service, challenges the stereotype of a feckless Black. 'The Butler' is not comfortable and is challenging but ultimately it asserts true central Christian values that Man is created in the image of God and as neighbours we should all love one another regardless of colour. So if you want to be more inclusive than this year's Oscars, why not watch this DVD? Buy one or borrow mine!

Gareth Randall

Film Review of the month
(recommended viewing for St Valentine's Day)

'Romeo and Juliet'
Franco Zeffirelli 1968
Baz Luhrmann 1996

I'm ironing so I'm watching a DVD. I've taken down the Baz Luhrmann version of 'Romeo and Juliet' watch up to Act II and the party at the Capulets' and then eject it in favour of the Franco Zeffirelli version I'd first seen up in the West End back in September 1968 just before I started my last term in the Sixth Form. Twenty years on, nearly half a century later, the contrast between the two make me smile.

The American version – Verona Beach – is a tarted-up update with kids behaving badly, drugs and violence, not to mention sex. The Zeffirelli version is beautifully dated – a period, costume-drama, shot in Verona, beautifully spoken.

One thing that struck me in the two extracts I watched was the difference in the two boys. Di Caprio made a name for himself; I didn't remember Leonard Whiting's name. His, I believe, was a one-off performance, but there is an innocence about him that contrasts sharply with the knowing arch-smile that Di Caprio flashes his Juliet when first their eyes meet through an aquarium.

Well, times do change and I must be getting old so what do I know about anything? Not a lot – except I've lived long enough to have seen things change and to notice.

Gareth Randall



Odd Words
'Cathexis'

It must come as no surprise to you if you read what I write or hear what I preach that I am in love with words. The meaning of words, their rich ambiguity in different contexts and usage, their sound and rhythm - all captivate me.

So whenever I come across a new word, I like to find out what it means. 'Cathexis' was new to me and I saw it first last year reading a fascinating book on psychology/spirituality, 'The Road Less Travelled', by an American psychoanalyst called M Scott Peck. It's very readable, insightful and though I didn't agree with all he wrote, it was an intriguing view of what it is to be fully human.

But the word 'cathexis' is in my Collins English Dictionary and there I read it's C20 in origin, meaning the 'concentration of psychic energy in a single goal', from new Latin and Greek meaning 'to hold fast' coined to render the German word Besetzung, 'a taking possession of' (which David Boggis tells me also means 'occupation' like that of France in 1940).

So what does it mean in practice? If you are still with me, then you have one of the traits of 'cathexis'. It is the ability to focus, to devote yourself (time, effort and money) to a goal single-mindedly. For some their garden; for others their family; for us our Organ restoration – whatever we choose to devote ourselves whole-heartedly

Cathexis for a Christian could well be your search for a right relationship with God the Father through the incarnation of God the Son encouraged and inspired by the presence of God the Holy Spirit alongside you? How true is that for you?

Gareth Randall

Walking with Peter 2
Storm on the Lake

“Jesus, wake up !
Don't you care
we're going to drown ?”
We were caught
out in the dark
on the lake
in a storm.
The end of a long day.
Crowds of people.
Jesus teaching.
Truth in story,
pictures in words -
'sowing seeds',
'bearing fruit',
'lamplight' -
our experience
embodying fact:
how to live,
how to do
what God wants.
By the end,
we were tired.
All we wanted
was to get away,
eat then sleep,
Instead, the wind had got up
and now was blowing a gale
and we were going nowhere
except down to the bottom !

While we panicked, Jesus slept
so we shout to wake him up
and he simply stands up
and tells the wind and water
to behave and they do.
Like naughty children
caught misbehaving,
they fall silent and still
in the presence of their Master.
And we fall silent, too,
gob-smacked by this sign
that Jesus really is
who we think he Is,
the Son of God,
our Saviour.



Kids in Church 6/7

Peter Campbell forwarded these little gems to us !

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked.

'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied

The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

