

## Diary dates for March and April 2016

4 <sup>th</sup> March	15.00 Journée Mondiale de Prière
19 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30 Council Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30 Maundy Thursday
25 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 Good Friday
27 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 Easter Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	12.00 Church AGM



### Prayer of the month

Almighty God,  
who alone can bring order  
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity;  
give your people grace  
so to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, among the many changes of this world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found:  
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 Third Sunday before Lent*



### Prayer focus

Spiritual discipline



## 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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March, 2016

Dear Friends,

***'Most men's love will grow cold.'***  
(Matthew 24 v12 – William Barclay)

How well do you know your Bible ? I thought I did (quite well really – but then you'd expect no less of a priest, wouldn't you ?) so it came as something of a shock to read this unfamiliar verse in a commentary by William Barclay. I checked my NRSV and it was rendered 'the love of many will grow cold' so I looked it up in my King James which read 'the love of many will wax cold'.

Well, however you render Matthew's Greek, the way Barclay puts it graphically tells us an unpalatable truth: that people are not fixed in their affections: that what they love one moment may well become a thing of the past as their love and enthusiasm cools over time, is transitory.

That said, I have two challenges for you (and for me) this Lent:

- To be more familiar with a book we all have at least one copy of somewhere at home;
- To maintain our love for what we love even when the going gets tough.

To do the first, you could come to our Lenten Bible Study on John.

To do the second might prove more difficult, more of an effort.

But, then, spiritual discipline is at the heart of Lent – don't you love it ?

*Father Gareth*



## Notices

- **Our Lent Appeal 2016** – to support Bishop Robert's Lent Appeal for students at a Christian school in Ramallah.
- **Fat Sunday Lunch** in church raised 360€ for church funds – our thanks to Sharon, Carolyn and all who contributed to make it such an enjoyable occasion.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the April edition of the St Bart's Monthly is ***midday on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March***
- **Church Finances for January**  
Income: 7,578€ Expenditure: 8,904€

## Readings in church

### ***March 6***

Exodus 2 v1 - 10  
2 Corinthians 1 v3 -7

### ***March 13***

Isaiah 43 v16 - 21  
Philippians 3 v4b - 14

### ***March 20***

Isaiah 50 v4 – 9a  
Philippians 2 v5 - 11

### ***March 27***

Acts 10 v34 - 43  
1 Corinthians 15 v19 – 26

### ***Mothering Sunday***

Psalm 34 v11 - 20  
Luke 2 v33 - 35

### ***Passion Sunday***

Psalm 126  
John 12 v1 - 8

### ***Palm Sunday***

Psalm 31 v9 - 16  
Luke 23 v1 - 49

### ***Easter Day***

Psalm 118 v14 - 24  
Luke 24 v1 - 12

## Verse of the Month

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ***Luke 1.35***

## Petition

This is just a reminder for those of you wanting to vote in the 'Brexit' Referendum to contact the Electoral Registration Office of where you last lived in the U.K. Just Google to find the address! Or write to The Electoral Registration Officer at the relevant Town Hall.

If, like many, you've been 'Overseas' for a long time, but retain your British Citizenship and want to be included in this and other Referendums/Elections, then click on the link below and follow the instructions to put pressure on the Government to allow long-term absent voting rights:-

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/111546>

## Quotations of the month

It seems to me that what we call a religion  
is merely a house-trained sect, civilised by years of socialisation.

*David Aaronovitch in The Times*

## Wise Words

*In this new, regular feature, submitted by Donald Soum, we'll have a chance to share some of the wise words and humorous quips that have impressed him.*

When you find yourself trapped in a cage with a tiger, you quickly learn in which direction to stroke the fur.

*Chinese Proverb*

An unfortunate thing about this world is that good habits are much easier to give up than the bad ones.

*Somerset Maugham*

Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame.

*Chinese Proverb*

## Questions 'Caring – careful – careless.'

Are you ?

It's the last day of January. Diana Wilson is driving home from an excellent Sunday lunch invite out. The road from Dinard to St Briac is a fast country road – a 90Km per hour speed limit. Near the Travellers' Camp and the turning for the Déchetterie, a dog runs out into the road, into the path of an on-coming car. The driver fails to brake, hits the dog and drives on.

Were they aware of what they had just done ? Did they care if they were ? But Diana does: she stops her car, gets out, goes across to the dog, lying, dying in the road. With a bad back, Diana is unable to stoop down to carry the dog out of further harm's way. Three young French girls do stop to lend a hand, carrying the dog on to the grass, where it dies.

Distraught, distressed, Diana drives home, where the Brat Pack greet her with their usual enthusiastic barking and Diana makes the best fuss ever of her beloved pets !

So my question to you today is: how important is our attitude to animals ? Do we care enough for them ? And if we don't, then how careful are we of human beings like ourselves ? We are all called on to love God through neighbour love but the question asked of Jesus, according to St Luke, by a doctor of the law is: 'But who is my neighbour ?'

What do you think ?

*Gareth Randall*

### 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.



#### Lamb Polo with Persian Rice

- ✓ ½ lb dried apricots
  - ✓ 1 boned shoulder of lamb
  - ✓ 2 chopped onions
  - ✓ 1 oz butter
  - ✓ 1 teaspoon ground coriander
  - ✓ ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
  - ✓ 1 teaspoon ground cumin
  - ✓ salt and pepper
- 
- Soak apricots unless already soft
  - Trim most of fat from meat and cut into 1 inch squares
  - Melt half the butter in a large flameproof casserole, soften the chopped onions and brown lightly, stirring all the time.
  - Turn up the heat and add the lamb.
  - Brown all over and add the spices and fry for 2 or 4 minutes
  - Add the apricots plus water in which they soaked, plenty of salt and pepper
  - Add enough water to just cover the meat and simmer covered for 1.5 hours or until tender stirring from time to time



#### Persian Rice

- ✓ 3 oz rice per person – Basmati or best Patna
- ✓ 2 oz butter

### Kids in Church 7/7

*Peter Campbell forwarded these little gems to us !*

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'



#### Lancashire Jokes 3/12

A man from Sheffield goes into his doctor's with two onions under his arms, a potato in his ear and a carrot up his nose and sadly asks the doctor what's wrong with him.

“Oh, you're just not eating properly.”

*Lorraine Atkinson*



#### Well Bright 1/5

*Lynette Jarvis forwarded these little gems*

Teacher: How old is your father ?  
Pupil: He's 6.  
Teacher: What ? How's that possible ?  
Pupil: He only became a father when I was born.



## A Holy Roof

High winds on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Brittany Ferry sailings cancelled; Ryanair flights diverted. Richard Finch returns to England via Eurostar – for him a 15 hour record journey !

Tuesday morning, Chantal, our femme de ménage, is cleaning the church. She discovers water on the carpet in the aisle and along the pews, stage left of the altar. We inspect the damage and strip the books, cushions and kneelers from the pews in question – the church looks bare !

The Standing Committee is alerted. Bill phones Chris who contacts a local roofer. Thursday afternoon. Damien Allaire comes and climbs up to inspect the damage. Two sheets of zinc which crown the apex of the roof over the central aisle have been blown down to the valley between our two slopping roofs. Deftly climbing up with them from the gully, he carefully restores them, nailing them back firmly in place and at the same time replacing some damaged tiles.

All is safe and sound. Good order has been restored and what was a minor disaster, thanks to the skilful intervention of a local artisan, has proved to be a blessing – it poured down with rain the following morning and there wasn't a drip in church !

### *Father Gareth*

*PS* Another unsung hero, David Morgan, did a double that Friday morning by first fixing Diana's lights then our dishwasher in the Library.



✓ 1 tablespoon salt

- Pour a kettle of boiling water over the rice in a sieve then soak rice for 3 to 4 hours in cold water.
- Wash thoroughly and put in a large pan with lots of water and a tablespoon of salt
- Boil for exactly 8 minutes until the rice is almost but not quite tender.
- Wash under the cold tap and drain
- Put 1 oz of melted butter in a flame proof casserole and put in the drained rice.
- Pour over another 1 oz of melted butter, cover with a tea towel and then the casserole lid.
- Put over a very low light for 15 to 20 minutes

This is one of Geoff's signature dishes which came from a book which we used so much when we were young that all the pages are loose and rather grubby with ingredients ! It was called Poor Cook (Campbell and Conran 1972, Sphere Books) – and we were, then ! He even used to bone the lamb shoulder himself. The dish tastes even better reheated over the next days, so worth making a lot ! You don't need to make the Persian Rice although it is very good – not least the golden crust at the bottom of the pan which is said to be much sought after by the Persians ! You can reduce the soaking time.

### *Janet and Geoff Scott*

#### School humour 7/7

When Doreen took a bulky parcel to the Post Office, the lady behind the counter asked her if there was anything breakable inside. Only the Ten Commandments.

### *Pauline Eyre*

**Film Review of the Month**  
**'Dead Man Walking' – Tim Robins 1995**  
**Susan Sarandon Oscar for Best Actress**  
**Sean Penn Oscar nomination for best actor**

A verse from John's Gospel is the key to this film: '... the truth shall set you free' (8 v32). It was Advent (18<sup>th</sup> Dec) when I read a parallel verse on the St Alban's website – Living God's Love – and I was reminded of the film I'd first seen when I was teaching RE at Owen's. 'Dead Man Walking', the unfortunate phrase the guard articulates when the prisoner is led from his cell to the room where he will be given the lethal injection, is a good context for a discussion on capital punishment.

I have the DVD so I decided to watch it again while ironing and I was not disappointed. I more or less remembered the film but what was striking now was how evil Sean Penn looked as Matthew Poncet, a convicted killer involved in the rape of one and murder of two seventeen-year-olds. Susan Sarandon plays the real-life nun, Sister Helen Prejean, on whose book the film is based, and hers is, as you would expect, an exceptional performance.

But as a Christian, the possibility of repentance and forgiveness was what exercised my mind. It is only when Poncet can admit the truth of what he did and take responsibility for his actions and their consequences that there is possibility of forgiveness and redemption.

'Dead Man Walking' is a thought-provoking film and would be a great choice for viewing this Lent.

*Gareth Randall*



**Misplaced confidence**

A good Christian soul, confident of God's grace and His power to save, sadly drowned in the floods in the north.

His house was in a low-lying area, close to a river in spate. As it burst its banks and flooded the ground floor of his home, his neighbour offered to ferry him to shelter on high ground. He refused in the knowledge God would save him.

As the water rose to the first floor, Mountain Rescue volunteers in a boat came past and offered to take him to safety. Again, he refused, confident God would save him.

Finally, he was forced to take refuge on the roof when an RAF helicopter offered to winch him to safety. He refused, confident in the knowledge God would save him.

He drowned, went to heaven and, at the Pearly Gates, asked St Peter why God had not saved him. Peter smiled sadly and said: "God did try three times to save you through the love of others but each time you refused to come."

*Christine Berthel*



**Humorous diversion ?**

David Boggis asks: –  
'If a tigress is the female of a tiger,  
what is a digress ?'

**Odd Words  
'out of sync'**

How do you spell 'out of sync' ?

Silly question – here it is spelt correctly in front of you !

But what do you do if you know the phrase in your head, if you know what it means but you just can't spell it. You go and look it up in a dictionary – in this case, I went to my trusty Collins English Dictionary.

But here the problem begins – if you can't spell it, how can you look it up to check ? Well, I guess you have to guess.

So that's what I did - I guessed. 'Sink' ? Sounds good but no. 'Cinque' like the ports. No way. Something to do with sequence – right meaning but no good for the spelling. Then it hits me – it's not so much out of sequence but unsynchronised. 'Out of sync' is just that – an informal phrase to describe something not in its correct position in a sequence of sounds.

So to find what you can't spell in the first place, you have to have a reasonable idea of the possible ways it could be spelt, then you need to check them out in your dictionary.

But if I were younger, I guess I might simply have Googled it !

*Gareth Randall*



**Book/Film Review of the Month  
'Spud'  
John van der Ruit – pub 2005  
Donovan Marsh – 2010**

The second pair of a book and its film, presented to me this Christmas by my friend, Phil, is principally set in a boys' public school in 1990. That said, you can expect the usual mix of a new boy settling in at his new school: learning to cope with the unfamiliar; friendships; bullying; being accepted and making his mark. But it does offer its own distinctive take: South Africa as Nelson Mandela is freed from Robben Island; mad parents; discovering girls; a sudden death.

Well, you will love the cast of eccentrics, not least John Cleese, who plays an inspirational English master (The Guv) with a penchant for wine that worries his wife. But the centre of interest must be John 'Spud' Milton (Troye Sivan), through whose eyes and voice this first year unfolds. It is a tale of an adolescent – Everyboy – and who could not fail to feel sympathy for, empathy with, a lad out of his comfort zone: dealing with the joy of being alive and finding your feet when you are still young enough and healthy enough and intelligent enough ultimately to cope and to discover who you truly are ?

The film is good but the book, in the form of a diary, gives a fuller, different take on the same whilst sharing some classic lines: 'I think this is the first time I've ever taken orders from a black person.' Seen through the eyes of our eponymous 'hero', what unfolds is uncomfortably honest, real and absurd, funny but serious, a celebration of being a 13/14-year-old boy.

So if you'd like a trip back in time to a different place with characters you may recognise, then why not give one or other or both a try ?

*Gareth Randall*

### **Walking with Peter 3 Walking on Water**

Night on the Lake,  
rowing in a head-wind,  
straining on our oars,  
making little progress.  
The day's been hard:  
crowds of people, hungry  
for more than teaching.  
A boy's given us  
five loaves, two fish.  
Jesus takes them,  
blesses them,  
breaks them,  
gives them to us  
to give to the people.  
There's enough for all  
and nearly a riot -  
"Jesus for king !"  
We go off in the boat;  
he gets rid of the crowd:  
he needs to be alone  
to pray on the hillside.  
The wind is howling,  
making rowing pointless.  
Then, we see something,  
walking towards us,  
a ghost on the water.  
Terrified, we scream !  
But Jesus calls to us  
and all is well.

Am I stupid or what ?  
I so want to be with him;  
I call to him, "If it's you,  
tell me to come to you."  
"Come." And I do.  
Slipping over the side,  
the waves take my weight;  
and I'm walking on water  
to my teacher, to my friend.  
I'm looking straight at him  
till the wind and the waves  
distract me, break eye-contact.  
I lose sight of him  
and immediately,  
I began to sink.  
"Save me, Lord !"  
He reaches out to grab me,  
lifting me up,  
supporting me  
back into the boat.  
Good to feel firm wood  
wet underfoot again.  
"You're the Son of God !"  
We all say what we all know,  
but seldom say to him.  
Safe on shore,  
all seems unreal,  
like waking up  
from a bad dream  
except Jesus is real,  
truly God's Son.