

St Bart's



Easter, 2016



Services

Sunday 11.00 Holy Communion (with hymns)

Thursday 10.00 Holy Communion (said)

A warm welcome to all who worship with us.
After the service coffee is served.



Priest-in-charge

The Revd Gareth Randall

For further information concerning baptisms,
marriages or funerals:

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April, 2016

Dear Friends,

Growth

One criterion, which encourages me to stay here at St Bart's as your priest, is the feeling that our church is growing as a community, in the community.

One criterion for a successful business is economic growth. Apple posted record profits in January but with the warning that their volume of sales of I-phones in China would be diminishing.

Does size truly matter ? Is it important that things get bigger, larger, grow ? I'd love to have strong thighs and muscular biceps but a beer belly perhaps is not what I want !

Easter is about the gift of new life in God, from God. The empty tomb is a sign that Jesus has risen. One man died for all mankind. 'Through Christ shall all be made alive,' St Paul once wrote.

So once again as we move on from Easter to Pentecost, let me invite you to reflect on quality not quantity. The grace of God is sufficient for all not because it is measured in kilos or litres but by love.

Our response to the Resurrection and the promise of life in the world to come might well be measured not in size or number but by our renewed efforts to make things better, as best we can.

Father Gareth



Notes from the Council

March 19th

Spring is here and spring was in our step as the Council met for the last time before our AGM on April 3rd. It was good to see again Council members, whose main home is England, back in France for Easter and everyone was thanked for their service as faithful stewards of St Bart's.

Having opened in prayer, we tackled the many matters arising, ranging from clarifications though corrections to updates - organ, boilers, dates for our diary, work in progress and work outstanding.

Our Treasurer's report, including a copy of the audited accounts by Ron Kirk, was circulated but our main focus at this meeting was the approval of the new Diocesan Safeguarding policy. Val Carter, our Safeguarding Officer, was again thanked for her care in handling so sensitive a set of responsibilities. The approved policy will be posted in the Elizabeth Hannay Room and details will appear on our Website after the AGM. Copies, too, can be obtained from me if anyone would like to have a personal copy.

Carolyn Hewitt, our Communications Officer, outlined some of the exciting events this year, not least an afternoon on 20th April at 14.30 to mark the bi-centennial of Charlotte Bronte's birth as well as the anniversary of Shakespeare's death; lunches in church garden in June; the publication of our new cookbook and several concerts over the coming months.

The meeting closed with the news of projected work on the church garden in time for Easter by the Côte D'Emeraude on Maundy Thursday sponsored by the Friends; then with, of course, our usual prayers.

Father Gareth



Notices

- **APOLOGIES** - owing to being on holiday at the end of April, our May St Bart's will appear on May 8th
- **Sponsored sermons** - in Lent, my sermon series on hard texts raised 300€ for church funds - thank you !
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the May edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on Thursday 14th April*
- **Church Finances for February**
Income: 2,061€ Expenditure: 3,052€



SHAKESPEARE & CHARLOTTE

An afternoon to celebrate the life & work of William Shakespeare -
on the 400th anniversary of his death !
And not to forget the birth of Charlotte Bronte
200 years ago tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL at 2.30 pm



Nehemiah Project

My son, Marc Richeux, is celebrating his 50th birthday this year by running the London Marathon on 24th April. He is the vicar of a South London parish, and is running in support of the Nehemiah project with which he has been involved for 20 years. It helps people out of addiction to drugs and into work and fruitful lives.

If you would like to contribute, you can do so via the Internet

www-justgiving.com/owner_email/pleasesponsorMarcRicheux

or hand it to me in church on the previous Sunday and I will send it on to Marc. He would be grateful for any contribution you feel able to make.

Many thanks

Judy Richeux



Online Haberdasher

For all your sewing and craft work needs, contact Jolanda Rippe at

www.Mercerie-bretagne.com

and take a look at her treasure trove of latest fashion accessories, knitting kits, felts, tapestries, braids, buttons, wools, embroidery silks, cottons galore, all you'll ever need. If she hasn't got it, Jolanda will do her best to find it for you! Delivery in France within 48 hours. No charge if collecting from any of her Market Stalls: Wednesdays at Matignon and Broons. Thursdays at Lamballe. Saturdays at Plancoët and Dol de Bretagne. Sundays at Saint Lunaire (a great place to go to after Morning Service at St Bart's.)



*Walking with Peter 4**So right – so wrong*

Caesarea Philippi,
walking on our own
in the countryside.
when Jesus asks,
“Who do people say I am ?”
We say, “John the Baptist,
Elijah or one of the prophets.”
Then he asks us,
“What about you ?
Who do you think I am ?”
Before anyone
has a chance,
without hesitation
I jump straight in,
“You’re the Messiah,
the Son of God.”
And he says,
“Well done, Simon;
how right you are.
For you are Peter
and on that rock
will I build my Church

which will last
come what may.
And you will have
the keys of the kingdom,
and the ability
to forgive wrong-doing.”
Then he tells us
what being the Messiah
in practice will mean –
that he will suffer
then die
that we may live.
And I’m upset,
scandalised,
so I tell him,
“No way !
That’s so not going to be !”
But he tells me
just to shut up
because it’s the devil
talking through me.
The way of the cross
is a ‘has-to-be’,
a God-given, agreed.
And I feel stupid.

I only said what I said
out of friendship
to protect him,
to keep him safe
and I'm told off
for being his friend,
told off because I care,
care enough to try
to make things better.
I guess my heart's
in the right place
even if my brain isn't !
How right, how wrong,
can I be ?



Charitable Giving

Do you like giving money to charity ? A starting point might be perhaps Acts 20 v35 and 2 Corinthians 9 v7 where 'each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' The Revd Brian Davies, however, tells me that the address was made to the assembled believers and not the world !

Today's UK newspapers deal at length with the question of Charities and, for some considerable time, I've had grave doubts as to the meaning, purpose and indeed direction of so-called Charitable Causes.

I am I suppose at odds with Corinthians in that I give sometimes reluctantly or not at all. There are those amongst us who hold that charitable giving is a by-product of being a Christian. I don't agree: charitable giving is a human trait, not reserved exclusively for those who believe.

The Bible also says that one should not seek plaudits for one's giving and here it is not my intention so to do. Though I was only confirmed in September 2010 in Foussais Payre by Bishop David, prior to that wonderful day, I freely and openly gave to Charity.

Indeed, I have memories of the Salvation Army visiting workingmen's clubs in the Rhondda with their newspapers and collection boxes and it was very much part of our lives. Yes, we had Methodists, United Reform, Baptists (the best !) and of course the Roman Catholics and they all went about their 'business' quietly and without, as we say in the Rhondda, 'fuss'. The Salvation Army was always on our streets helping those who needed help and, indeed, the local men of the cloth were active but quietly so. It was not big business.

Then when I was in banking, before going to the law, I had a client who was an absolute gentleman: gentle, kind and considerate. I thought highly of him and valued our relationship. Then, once in Chepstow High Street, there was a Salvation Army brass band and one of them proffered a collection box. I gladly contributed and, looking at him, I saw he was my client. We said nothing then or later but our relationship was cemented.

There is no emotion in banking - it is simply facts and figures but also another term 'we are in safe hands', and that was exactly how I thought of my client. My judgment was correct ! But I'm not sure that could be applied to a number of the larger charities.

In today's newspapers, the Salvation Army comes out 'top' in relation to its charitable approach. The salary of some is just £15,500 per annum with a handful earning £60,000 pa. Compare and contrast

with Which, where the top CEO earns £814,000 per annum. The research suggests that Bishops in the Church of England earn £50,000 per year. All of this, to my mind, says that everything is out of sync and that there are greater rewards than money.

Business costs are top-sliced, so before a penny (yes there are reserves and investments) is given to charitable causes, overheads are taken care of first.

As a nation, the UK freely gives for the Poppy appeal and Linda and I are no different. I suppose it is our history, our culture and November in Whitehall. Indeed, I am reduced to tears and very emotional, looking at all of those who proudly show their respect to those who are no longer with us. Moreover, we lived in Normandy for many years and we have visited most if not all of the final resting places of those who simply gave us the opportunity to prosper. There is a small cemetery called Jerusalem where there is a chance to go and sit down and reflect.

They, of course, gave but they gave much more than money - they gave their lives. Indeed, they had no choice but today we have choices as to where our charitable donations go.

I need to see a positive relationship between giving and the cause and very obviously to the Church is a fundamental part of my belief

and equally to the Poppy appeal and other causes very close to me such as the Dogs Trust and the like.

However, even the demographics of the Big Issue are changing and I am now reluctant to donate and certainly I am becoming much more aware of where my donation goes and the likelihood of it making a difference.

We're bombarded with the banner headline that £2 per month will provide children in Africa with clean water. Demands are constant and we can become neutral at best and at worse uncaring.

To Linda and me, it seems we're being forced to decide to give, but underpinning all of this must surely be our Christian beliefs ? HM Government yearly provides substantial overseas aid to various good causes and this comes in part from our taxation, VAT payments and the like. Over those substantial sums we have no control whatsoever and if one was to apply 'Charity starts at home' . . .

My late sister-in-law was taken care of by the Velindre Cancer Unit in Cardiff. Indeed, today, my niece's husband is receiving his treatment at Velindre, just outside Cardiff. As a family, understandably we support Velindre as best we can.

Yesterday I had finished my Tesco shopping and just outside the main doors was a lady collecting for Marie Curie. I walked past and I am ashamed I failed to recognise the importance of her Charity and gave myself a long hard talking-to. Today, whether or not she is there, I will be making a donation to her Charity.

Then, in my in-box today, a request for a donation to the Gwent Wildlife Trust supported by my late, great friend, Mike, an atheist, who wanted me to 'lead' his humanist funeral ! Their donation is in the post. So I ask myself why did I give to the Trust but not for Marie Curie ? Simply because Mike was important to Linda and me, an integral part of our lives.

It's not necessarily a question of money but preference. So when God said that he loves a cheerful giver I obviously do not qualify in that my approach is not 100%. Let's hope on balance the good one does outweighs the bad. Indeed now my view is you can't micro-manage donations to charity, you can only wish for the best and give what you can when you can.

Yesterday, in an email, Brian Davies wrote that the question of Charitable Giving is a minefield and I think he's right ! With our best wishes,

Linda and Ken Ivin

L'Ancien Temple

29 rue Jacques Cartier

Dinard

One of my favourite shops in Dinard in the old days was the Ancient Temple. I loved wandering around, checking out the treasure trove that Marinette had gathered there in her hallowed walls.

And, indeed, her walls were hallowed. Her emporium looks like a church from the outside - rather grand, severe, in the style of a well-heeled chapel rather than the usual cruciform shape. And so it proves to be.

I had a series of emails from an Anglican historian in France, Barry Williams, in search of information about our first Priest-in-charge here, the Revd Antony Francis Thompson, who may apparently have left us to go on to be the first Priest-in-charge of St Peter's, Dinard Les Bains, in October, 1877.

Dinard les bains ? Never ever heard of it, but according to Marius Mallet's beautifully printed and illustrated detailed book - 'Dinard son histoire', published in 2007, Dinard les Bains was one of at least a dozen names/titles for our resort in the old days.

Then on page 277, we can read this brief paragraph:

Temple protestant de Robert Monteith

En 1876, Monsieur Monteith demande au sous-préfet l'autorisation d'ouvrir un temple protestant de L'Eglise Anglicane. L'autorisation provisoire d'ouverture solennelle est donnée le dimanche 26 août 1877. Le premier chapelain sera le révérend Thompson. En 1901, MM. Chausseblanche achèteront l'édifice. Ils l'agrandissent en façade pour y établir un magasin moderne qu'ils appellent 'Grand Bazar des Nouvelles Galeries.' Plus tard, il devient 'Bazar du temple'. En 1990, Marinette et son fils Erwan, tombent amoureux de ce trésor architectural et ils s'y installent et Marinette crée un atelier floral et de décoration. Erwan le baptisera L'Ancien Temple'.

But, of course, my question and probably yours too is why two new Anglican churches so close to each other ? Why did our priest leave St Bartholomew's to go to St Peter's ? Why ? Who knows ? The silence is deafening !

But on consulting my trusty copy of the Revd Dr Alan Charters excellent history 'Anglicans in Brittany', I find that Alan asserts that the church at what became known as L'Ancien Temple predated ours. (p29/30) and that Thompson 'stayed only sufficiently long to ensure

the church was becoming known to the new British and American residents and an established pattern of worship was taking place. He retired to Guernsey to join his family.'

So who I wonder what actually happened here at the start ?

Father Gareth



The Great War

A dear friend of mine, Julian Keevil, an ex-master of the Tobacco Livery and a Royal Marine, has just published a book recounting the letters of his grandfather, Sir Ambrose Keevil.

Although the context is the First World War, it doesn't dwell on the war, but it is in fact a love story between childhood sweethearts who, through the events of WW1, were eventually brought together into a long and happy marriage.

I thought you would be particularly interested in a passage contained in a letter to his fiancé, dated 9th November 1917, when Ambrose was serving in the Middle East in Palestine and, at the time, was fighting the Turks.

It describes a Holy Communion as they were waiting for a counter-attack by the Turks that gave him great comfort at a very perilous time. The passage reads:

'I must tell you about our communion service this morning. We were 'standing by' all night for a counter-attack and expected to go into action early in the morning.

Our padre said he would do a service before dawn. So imagine us in the grey light about 5 o'clock singing 'Jesus lover of my soul', the captured Turkish redoubts all around, little piles of dead not far off, the swish and burst of shell, and the crackle of rifles and the rattle-rattle of machine guns. He didn't preach a sermon but read the words that were given to Joshua in almost the same place we were standing. "As I was with Moses, I will be with thee. I will not fail thee nor forsake thee for I am the Lord thy God wherever thou goest."

The sun rose in the low base Palestinian Hills and we all knelt at the Communion box (a sugar box), the wine was only rum mixed with water and the bread was days old. Really a simple service. The message was ringing out 'I am with thee wherever thou goest. . . for I am the Lord thy God'.

The book brings home the terrible sufferings of the time born by many brave men.

Ron Kirk

Stress-less

The trick of managing stress –
to enjoy a stress-less day –
is to be able to prioritise
then throw sufficient time
at what has to be done.



Tuna and corn bisque

Serves 4:

- ✓ 3.5 oz tin of tuna
 - ✓ 7 oz tin of corn kernels
 - ✓ 2 oz butter
 - ✓ 2 oz flour
 - ✓ 1 teaspoon curry powder
 - ✓ $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint chicken stock
 - ✓ 2 tablespoon chopped parsley
 - ✓ salt and pepper
-
- Drain the tuna and break into flakes.
 - Drain the corn
 - Melt the butter and stir in the flour and curry powder and cook gently for 5 minutes without browning
 - Gradually blend in the milk and then the chicken stock, stirring continuously.
 - Bring to the boil, continuing to stir and then add the tuna, corn and parsley and gently reheat.
 - Season (with care if stock is already seasoned) and dilute with milk as required

This is one of our emergency stock cupboard recipes ! We tend to use frozen corn and the water in which it is boiled instead of stock. It's a far cry from the crab and lobster bisques of Brittany but makes a very good cheap snack meal with crusty bread - it has been widely adopted by our friends and is apparently eaten extensively in Australia now ! The recipe came from a dinner party cookery book which had recipes from restaurants in the *Good Food Guide* (Hodder and Stoughton 1971).

Janet and Geoff Scott



Back copies of National Geographic

If you're interested in acquiring some, one or many copies of a magazine I love and to which I've subscribed for years, then you can purchase your heart's desire from the table in the transept in St Bart's at 50 centimes a copy or 5€ for a whole year and the money raised will go towards church funds.

Enjoy !

David Boggis



Book Review of the Month
'Houses, History & Humour'
(A British Estate Agent in France)
L Phillips - pub 2015
Available from www.amazon.co.uk
ISBN number 978-1-78610-238-6

Writing under her maiden name, Lynette (Jarvis) has written a book recording, reflecting on, her stay and work in Poitou-Charente shortly after the turn of the Millennium.

It is a must-read for expats here in France, not because it's their/our story, it's very much Lynette's eye-view of her experience, but it will raise a smile as you see how someone else copes with living and working in a country we love among people we like with values so very French.

The book's humour lies in its personal honesty: observation, description, prejudice, places, customs, manners, memories, anecdotes. It is a people-book, rooted in a land. Food, drink, interactions, all make up a very rich tapestry that Lynette weaves for us to reflect on - a mélange of what she finds good and bad, irritating and heart-warming about being here in France.

Sharp, critical, amused and amusing, with helpful translations of the odd phrase in French in bracketed English, 'Houses, History & Humour' will make you think and it will give you an insight into the rich life experience that Lynette brings to this whole new ball game which, in some respects, is more of the same for her.

You do need to read it for yourself to appreciate this record of her peregrinations as a Brit abroad in a sought-after place. She is, as ever, perfectly frank!

Gareth Randall



Film Review of the Month

'La Traviata' - 7th March 2016

Verdi's opera, 'La Traviata', is possibly the most popular opera in the repertoire, a regular feature in each year's programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

I love opera ever since I saw my first as a Sixth Former back in the sixties and when I'm on holiday in London, my friend Renata, a Friend of ROH, usually gets us tickets.

But now you can go and see opera in Dinard direct from Covent Garden but have you? I've only been once before to see 'Tosca' and the Scotts, ever generous, invited me to join them on the first Monday in March and it was a wonderful experience on several levels.

First, you can see the drama in a way that I never can from where we sit up in Amphitheatre, so far removed from the stage, even with the aid of opera glasses. The emotion, the acting, the presence of the characters, are there for all to see. The staging is as I remember it from when we saw it back in London in 2011 but, again, the detail is impressive - for example, the discoloration on the tiles of the fireplace in the living room that is the backdrop for Act 2. Tiny details -

Geoff spotted a hankie popping up when Violetta gave Alfredo her camellia.

But why is this opera as a film projection so good ? Simply because it's the story of love, of sacrifice, of separation and of reunion in death - I was almost moved to tears. The music is wonderful whereas the sound system is good it cannot be quite as impressive as actually being there in the flesh.

Most months there's a ballet or opera on from London in Dinard or elsewhere so why not check it out - you may be well impressed ?

Gareth Randall



SPAM

If your email in-box is anything like mine, you'll be inundated with daily waves of unwanted junk mail. One recently was from a female army sergeant addressed to 'undisclosed recipients' with this simple question - 'Can we talk ?' And I smiled in the knowledge that most can but some choose to remain silent !



Odd Words

'problematic mobile phone use'

It's August and I'm listening to Radio 4. The item on the Today programme is about limited attention span and one of the things identified with our inability to concentrate on what's going on around us is the phrase 'problematic mobile phone use'.

Immediately, my attention has been grabbed and I wonder what exactly might be meant by the phrase. Immediately, I think of the old joke about someone in a crowded railway carriage speaking to someone on his mobile at the same time, unintentionally I imagine, unnecessarily announcing loudly to his fellow travellers that he's on the train!

Perhaps, it's what I saw in a car on the road outside L'Office du Tourisme in Dinard, a woman driving with one hand while the other held a mobile pressed to her left ear.

Perhaps, it's the tendency amongst the young to be texting while in the company of others: for example, a family sitting eating at a table in L'Haute Cloque.

I'm not sure but the phrase interests me. So what does 'problematic mobile phone use' mean to you ?

Gareth Randall



Questions

Sat Nav ?

Can religion, our faith in God, be a spiritual/ethical Sat Nav to help us find our way when we've gone astray ?

Gareth Randall



Family Planning

*This anecdote was sent to me by Dr Michael Frankel -
a chance to exercise your French evaluating a moral dilemma*

La femme d'un pasteur attendait un bébé. Le pasteur, se tenant devant l'assemblée de ses fidèles, leur demanda une augmentation. Après de longues discussions, ils adoptèrent la règle que chaque fois que la famille du pasteur s'élargirait, ils augmenteraient son chèque de paie.

Au bout de 6 enfants, il commençait à coûter cher et l'assemblée décida de tenir une autre réunion pour discuter d'une augmentation de salaire. Beaucoup de discussions animées suivirent: combien d'autres enfants le pasteur pourrait-il encore avoir et combien ça finirait par coûter ?

Après les avoir écoutés pendant environ une heure, le pasteur se leva de sa chaise et dit "Les enfants sont un don de Dieu, et nous en prendrons autant qu'il nous en donnera."

Le silence tomba sur l'assemblée. À l'arrière banc, une vieille dame, ayant du mal à se tenir debout, se leva et enfin dit de sa voix frêle : "La pluie aussi est un don de Dieu, mais quand nous en recevons trop, nous portons des imperméables."

Toute l'assemblée répondit : "Amen !"

Brain teaser

Peter Campbell sent us this puzzle

What have the following words in common ?

(To solve the question you need to be good at lateral thinking.)

1. Banana
2. Dresser
3. Grammar
4. Potato
5. Revive
6. Uneven
7. Assess



And the answer ?

Take the initial letter, move it to the end of the word then read it backwards and the word is the same !

Good or what ?



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.*

I hate housework. You make the beds, do the dishes and six months later you have to start all over again.

Joan Rivers

Gratitude is merely the secret hope of further favours.

François de La Rochefoucauld

Humpty Dumpty - did he fall or was he pushed ?

P D James



Quickies - 1/6

A fresh series from our Church Warden, Bill:

On a window of a second-hand shop

We exchange anything:
cycles, fridges, furniture etc . . .
Why not bring your wife and get a terrific bargain



Quotations of the month

Bad taste is simply saying the truth before it should be said.

Mel Brooks quoted in The Daily Telegraph



Lancashire Jokes 4/12

What do you do if you're driving round Manchester and you see a spaceman ?

Park in it !

Lorraine Atkinson



Well Bright 2/5

Lynette Jarvis forwarded these little gems

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

Class: Maria.



Signs of the times 1/9

These play on words were sent to us by Geoff Scott

Sign in a Vancouver shoe repair store

"We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels"



Lyricallly ill ?

A patient complains to his doctor that he can't stop singing 'The green, green grass of home' and is promptly diagnosed with 'Tom Jones Syndrome'. When asked whether it was a common complaint, he was told 'It's not unusual'.

Ken Ivin



Readings in church

April 3rd Low Sunday

Acts 5 v27 - 32

Psalm 150

Revelation 1 v4 - 8

John 20 v19 - 31

April 10th 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9 v1 - 6

Psalm 30

Revelation 5 v11 - 14

John 21 v 1 - 19

April 17th 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9 v36 - end

Psalm 23

Revelation 7 v9 - end

John 10 v22 - 30

April 24th 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11 v1 - 18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21 v1 - 6

John 13 v31 - 35



Diary dates for April and May, 2016

3 rd April	12.00 Church AGM
8 th April	20.30 Concert Mozart Missa Brevis
12 th April	20.00 'Jésus, Chrétien ou Juif ?' Talk in French in church by Father Gareth
20 th April	14.30 'Shakespeare and Charlotte'
5 th May	10.00 Ascension Day 10.30 Council Meeting
15 th May	11.00 Pentecost
18 th May -	Archdeaconry Synod
20 th May	St Jacut de la Mer



Verse of the Month

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God ? *Micah 6.8*



Prayer of the month

A prayer for our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth

O Lord our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon the earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth; and so replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way: Endue her plenteously with thy heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally after this life she may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Book of Common Prayer



Prayer focus

Why Easter is central to our faith as Christians.

