

St Bart's



May, 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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May 2016

Dear Friends,

In-betweeners

We're in-between Easter and Pentecost. Lent is done and dusted, Ascension Day gone before you've had chance to read this month's St Bart's and there's Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi and a long, hot and sunny summer, I trust, to come.

So the question I ask myself and you is what exactly it might mean for us to be in-between, to be in-betweeners ? In between what exactly ?

Well, I guess for a start we're in between birthdays - we're all inevitably, inexorably, getting older. And with age come the associated problems of health, fitness, memory, concentration and flexibility.

Then, we're in between where we are here in France and our roots back in the UK where once we were. Are we settled here, here for the foreseeable future, or are we going to go back to the 'home' we've left ?

And, of course, as Christians we're between this life and the next. The promise of Easter is the life of the world to come. The promise of Pentecost is the promise of new life here and now - informed, inspired and enthused by presence of the Holy Spirit - with the energy and the will to love God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

The great thing about being in-between is we have something to look back on and something to look forward to. But best of all, surely, is the present of the present - the here-and-now which we should appreciate while we still have it. We could all drink to that !

Father Gareth



Notes from the Council

May 5th

Ascension Day, just back from my holiday in England and straight back into the thick of it for this first meeting of our newly elected Council.

Having, as always, opened in prayer, having noted apologies for absence, we tackled the several matters arising, principal among which was Safeguarding, the clarification of procedures and the need for me to post the notices in church re our policy as promised asap - a matter of priority along with mowing the church grass which interestingly enough I did straight after lunch.

Not only did David Morgan present a current picture of our finances but also talked us through how the disabled access to the church was being improved through the hard work of Chris Hughes, building a ramp to the transept door. Appropriate signage was now being sought.

Carolyn Hewitt, our Communications Officer, kept us up-to-speed on projected events and she was thanked for her effort and hard work on our behalf. The successful poetry afternoon in April encouraged

David Norris to offer the possibility of a follow-up in the summer on summer including the chance to write a haiku then and there.

But for me, the highlight was the proposed visit of the choir of Elizabeth College Guernsey to sing at our service on 8th May - a chance to renew St Bartholomew's connection with a school at which our former Priest-in-charge, the Revd Dr Alan Charters, had once been chaplain.

Father Gareth



Notices

- **A big thank you to the Friends** for funding a massive initial tidy-up of the church garden in time for Easter. It looks wonderful and, I trust, will encourage you, if you can, to join David and Bill and our regular working parties in maintaining such an attractive setting for our place of worship.
- **Lent Appeal** raised £175 for the Christian school in Ramallah.
- **Sponsored sermons** on hard texts in Lent raised 400€.
- **Concert in church** on 8th April raised 550€ for St Bart's.
- **Shakespeare and Charlotte** raised 160€ for St Bart's
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the June edition of the St Bart's Monthly is *midday on Thursday 26th May*.
- **Church Finances for March**
Income: 3,256€ Expenditure: 5,511€



Easter Flowers in church

One of the nice, recent customs in St Bart's is to fund our Easter flowers by asking for a small donation to cover the costs and at the same time giving us a way to remember those we love who have died.

Sadly, this year, I failed to remember in time to give you all the necessary reminder so few were able to take advantage of the idea. To stop me doing the same in 2017, I've already written the article to alert folk in the template of the February 2017 St Bart's !

But here are the names we are remembering this year:

John Dyer

Roy Dyer

Chris Leighton

Patricia McCormack

Gladys Munday

Philip Newbound

John Noton

Alma Randall

Thomas Randall

Isabel Robb

The Vidal Halls



PS

Understandably, Victor was in no position to do the flowers this year but a big thank you to Corrie and Carolyn for ensuring the church was blessed with arrangements of flowers.

Father Gareth



*Walking with Peter 5**At what cost ?*

I've given up everything
to follow you, Lord.
Everything once I had:
my family, home, my job
to say yes to you, to do
what you would have me do
when you called me to you.
So how much has it cost
to follow you, my friend ?
Today, a good Jewish boy
came to you to ask
what he had to do
to inherit eternal life.
You clearly liked the lad
but he clearly didn't like
what you had to say to him.
He wasn't prepared to do
what you asked him to:
to keep the commandments
was no problem for him –
he did that already –
but Jesus' challenge to him

was to give up everything,
give his wealth to the poor,
give his riches to the needy,
then come and follow him,
be one of us.

No chance; no way;
not possible for him
to give up what he has
when God's been so good,
so very gracious to him.

Well, if the rich
can't get to heaven,
what hope is there for us ?

But Jesus promises us
100 times as much
as we have given up
for sake of him.

So who is truly rich ?

The wealthy,
burdened with goods,
or the poor,

freed for the Kingdom ?

The prospect of eternal life
surely makes us rich.



Ascension-tide

Through our stained glass,
Jesus ascending into heaven,
the sun, sinking in the west,
transforms colour into liquid light,
delight in this gateway to heaven.



JOY

Jesus
Our
You



Did you Know ?

San Indalecio is not a saint widely known in Anglican circles. However, for our Anglican Parish of Costa Almería and Costa Cálida he holds some significance. According to ancient tradition, in the first century Indaletius (as his Latin name goes) was sent along with 6 other missionaries by Saints Peter and Paul to evangelise Spain. Indalecio evangelised the region near present day Almería and his remains lie beneath the high altar of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in that city. He is the patron of the region, and his feast is 15 May.

Bishop David



Difficulty or Encouragement ?

A number of us in the Lent group this year have been exploring further thoughts and ideas about 'difficult' passages in the Bible following on from Gareth's sermons.

The resulting thinking has been lively and enlightening. Often group members interpreted the passages quite differently from each other. We took the risk of staying with, not running away from exploring these differences. We came to realise that each of us spoke from our differing histories and earlier influences as we each tried to respond to God. Gradually, we started to understand each other better and get a clearer recognition of each other. We began to see that the Bible writer was talking about loving God, our neighbour and (a surprise to some) ourselves, and pointing ways to do that.

The 'rocks' on which we had based our faith and, occasionally hurled at others, began to look more like stepping stones: stones that came from all our rocks.

Christians, in general, meet with difficult ideas every day. Long-held beliefs are challenged by a fast-changing world. People around us in turn often find our ideas 'difficult' too.

The Church of England, Bishops, Synods and lay people have given a lot of time and energy listening and sharing views about ways of expressing love, issues of sexuality and marriage, and same-sex attraction, with many individuals and groups who do not share or who cannot understand the Church's way of thinking and behaving. Last year's Synod at St Jacut focused on the history and theology of marriage alongside Bible study on passages about love. This was part of the process and was not intended to find instant solutions to the many 'difficulties' but to encourage people to listen and share ideas with respect and seeking enough shared thinking and understanding to move forward hopefully.

In the political world, who thought that Britain would welcome Chinese diplomats to the UK or that President Obama would be talking with the Cuban government and visiting Cuba itself ? Perhaps hard situations and difficult times enable God to show us ways we have never previously thought of on our own.

Paddy Vidal Hall



A bad day ?

As I wrote last month, I have just finished reading a book by a friend of mine, Julian Keevil, which in essence is a chronicle of a romance between his grandfather, Sir Ambrose Keevil, and grandmother, Lady Dorothy. They were married the previous September and the War was due to end in November. He had been injured before including a loss of an eye through a bayonet wound whilst fighting in Salonika and the Middle East.

In the following letter he writes:

October 7, 1918

20 CCS

BEF

I haven't been able to write for some days and this will only be a small note, as the Boche has succeeded in hitting my right shoulder. I am now in a Casualty Clearing Centre so there is nothing to worry about. I hope to be in Blighty in a day or so. Poor old McGinty, my servant, has gone "West", as indeed nearly all the Battalion. I was hit with a bit of a shell on 4th October in the left arm but as nearly all the officers have been "done in" I was not as bad and stayed on. I got slightly

gassed on the fifth and yesterday I got a machine gun bullet through the right shoulder and had to come away. It's very difficult to write, so excuse the short note. Please forgive the scribble, but it is not easy to write with a sling and many bandages.

We can all grumble from time to time and lose our sense of 'context' and perhaps become too negative in our outlook when in fact we are blessed with so much.

Ron Kirk



Danish apple pudding

One of the hundreds (it felt like it!) of recipes we found to deal with the glut of apples from our garden in Sussex. It's best made with cooking apples but any apple will do. Our trees were very old - like the cottage - and sadly by the time we left in 2014, there were only two trees still standing from nineteen when we arrived in 1975.

- Cook some peeled, sliced apples in butter and a little water, sweeten to taste and leave to cool.
- Fry some breadcrumbs, preferably brown, with chopped or flaked almonds (no garlic in this one!) until browned and crisp and leave to cool.
- Just before serving, layer the apple mixture and breadcrumb mixture so that the breadcrumb mixture remains crisp.
- Serve with cream, crème fraiche, yoghurt or anything you like !

We have lots more apple recipes!!

Janet and Geoff Scott



Film Review of the month

'Ilo Ilo' - Anthony Chen 2014

Caméra d'or for best debut feature at Cannes

In my Xmas stocking last year, I found a DVD of 'Ilo Ilo', a difficult film to watch which well repays the effort.

Set in Singapore in 1997, in Mandarin with English sub-titles, it centres on a Chinese family living on the second floor of an apartment block with a new Filipina maid from Ilo Ilo, the island that gives the film its title in English - in Chinese, it's 'Ba Ma Bu Zai Jia' - 'Dad and mum are not at home'. 'Ilo Ilo' is a four-hander: mum (Yeo Yann Yann), dad (Chen Tian Wen), son (Koh Jia Ler), and maid (Angela Bayani).

Relationships and having to earn a living in hard times are the twin themes. Jiale, the 10-year-old son, is badly behaved at school, difficult at home; a real nightmare. Hwee-Leng, his mum, is stressed out at work in admin, desperate to keep her job when all around her are being made redundant; pregnant and rather distant from her son and husband. Lim Keng Teck, father and husband, losing the plot, his money, his job, his wife's respect. Teresa, the maid, leaving her

family behind in another country to earn enough to pay for their upkeep.

The film is an eye-opener, a journey of finding oneself, of finding love and affection, warmth and companionship. Is there a happy ending? Well, it's for you to say if you are strong enough to watch 'Ilo Ilo'.

But why not give yourself a treat - you are in fact well worth it.

Gareth Randall



Heard on Radio 4

on the former Bosnian Serb leader,

Radovan Karadzic:

'A man,
good at persuading others
and deluding himself.'



Extra Film Review of the month

'The Bourne Identity' - Doug Liman 2002

'The Bourne Identity' comes in a three DVD box set together with its two sequels: 'The Bourne Supremacy' 2004 and 'The Bourne Ultimatum' 2007.

I was brought up on James Bond, first the books by Ian Fleming then the early films with Sean Connery so, in a way, watching this was like a return to my childhood though the violence is harsher, the attractive females are fewer and the gadgets are replaced by a pervasive sense of electronic surveillance. 'The Bourne Identity' is not so much of a 'who dunnit?' but a 'who exactly is the person who dunnit?'

The sense of not knowing is established from the start with an unconscious, wounded stranger (Matt Damon) rescued from the Mediterranean by a French fishing boat out of Marseilles. Thereafter, it is a frantic search for his identity which takes him to a numbered back account in Zurich, an apartment in Paris, a country house in Germany and finally back to Paris for the film's climax. I must confess to liking Matt Damon ever since I saw him starring opposite Robin Williams in 'Good Will Hunting'. In this fast-moving

plot with lots of physical violence to two-dimensional figures, Matt Damon emerges as a fundamentally moral CIA assassin of remarkable ability called Jason Bourne.

It is curious how contemporary American distrust in its own intelligence agencies should be reflected in this Hollywood film which focuses on a rogue department head wanting to conceal the CIA's involvement in an abortive attempt to assassinate an inconvenient, deposed, African dictator by eradicating their embarrassing operative. If you like action, don't mind violence and want to escape from reality for 104 minutes, then 'The Bourne Identity' may be the film for you.

Gareth Randall



Odd Words

Perichoresis

περιχωρησις

Trinity Sunday this year falls on May 22nd. Once again, at the heart of our faith, we are being presented with mystery. The profound insight our belief in Christianity brings us is an understanding of deity that defies logic: that our God is at one and the same time One in Three and Three in One.

It's Saturday 12th March. I'm listening to Brian Draper on 'Thought for the Day'. He's speaking of the exceptionally fruitful relationship between the recently deceased Sir George Martin and the Beatles. Half way through his three minutes, he catches my attention big time by changing gear and talking about the relationship between the Three Persons of the Trinity.

The word he uses is rotation - the word in Greek is περιχωρησις (perichoresis). What is encapsulated in the idea is the flow of mutual love between the Three that allows them at one and the same time to be wholly individual and totally united. In touch, connected, in communion, the essence of one flowing into the essence of the

other, each complete by the unreserved presence of each alongside each other.

St Bernard of Clairvaux shares this image of the Trinity in one of his sermons on the Song of Songs: the Father who kisses; the Son who is kissed, and the Holy Spirit as the kiss itself: to kiss; be kissed; the kiss.

My old Head Master, David Bolton, who celebrated his 20th birthday this year, challenged me some 40 years ago to explain the mystery of the Trinity. Of course, he's right - it can't be done - but Perichoresis is a great idea !

Gareth Randall



Questions

Ironing ?

What do you think about ironing ? Is it a chore, a has-to-do, or is it something you actually enjoy doing ?



Happily married ?

*Our Church Warden, Bill, tongue-in cheek,
shares these reflections with us:*

My wife and I know how to make a marriage last. Twice a week, we go to a nice restaurant to share good food, good wine and good company. She goes Tuesday and I Friday.

I take my wife everywhere but she keeps finding her way back.

I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. She said somewhere I haven't been in a long time so I suggested the kitchen.

My wife had every electric gadget imaginable: electric blender, electric toaster, electric bread maker but she needed somewhere more comfortable to sit so I bought her an electric chair.

I haven't spoken to my wife for ages - don't like to interrupt.

Remember marriage is the principal cause of divorce.



Quotation of the month

Cymbeline

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home has gone and ta'en thy wages;
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney sweepers, come to dust.

The quotation from one of Shakespeare's late plays I used as a valediction towards the end of my sermon at the funeral in London of a mother of a life-long friend on 30th October 2012. Later, my friend Phil, then mentioned that he wanted it read at his funeral.

The image is beautiful; end times when all is duly done and dusted - nothing to fear; home-coming, having been properly paid for our labour of love. But what I love is the sweet, hidden pun on 'chimney sweeper' - a dialect word for dandelion.



Burglar beware

Rifling through a drawer, a burglar heard, "Jesus is watching you."
but there was no sign of anyone, so he carried on.

Again he hears, "Jesus is watching you. "

"Who said that?" he said.

"Me, Moses," came the reply.

Looking around he sees the voice is that of a parrot in a cage in the
corner.

"What sort of folk call their parrot Moses?"

"The same folk as call their Rottweiler, Jesus "

John Marshall



Wise Words

Quotations and quips, submitted by Donald Soum.

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

Tom Stoppard

When I was little I wanted to be somebody. Now I wish I'd been more specific.

Lily Tomlin

It is easier to fight for your principles than to live by them.

Alfred Adler



Quickies - 2/6

A fresh series from our Church Warden, Bill:

On a Church door

No trespassing without permission



Lancashire Jokes 5/12

What do the donkeys on Blackpool beach get for lunch ?

Half an hour.

Lorraine Atkinson



Well Bright 3/5

Lynette Jarvis forwarded these little gems

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me
how I spell it.



Aphorism ?

If travel truly broadens our minds,
do we then need to buy bigger hats ?

Signs of the times 2/9

These play on words were sent to us by Geoff Scott

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for,
You've come to the right place."

In a Non-smoking Area:

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take
appropriate action."



SALT

How would you describe nowadays here in France
salt that has lost its taste (Mt 5 v15; Mk 9 v50; Lk 14 v34) ?

It's past its SEL-by date



Readings in church

May 1st Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16 v9 - 15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21 v10, 22 - 22 v5

John 5 v1 - 9

May 8th Sunday after Ascension Day

Acts 16 v16 - 34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22 v12 - 14, 16 - 17; 20 - end

John 17 v20 - end

May 15th Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Acts 2 v1- 21

Psalm 104 v26 - 37

Romans 8 v14 - 17

John 14 v8- 17

May 22nd Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8 v1- 4, 22 - 31

Psalm 8

Romans 5 v1 - 5

John 16 v12 -15

May 29th First Sunday after Trinity

I Kings 8 v22 - 23, 41 - 43

Psalm 96

Galatians 1 v1 - 12

Luke 7 v1 - 10



Diary dates for May and June, 2016

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
12 th June	12.00 Picnic in Church Garden to celebrate the Queen's 90 th birthday



The weak ahead

Son-day
Moan-day
Choose-day
Wet-day
Thaw-day
Fry-day
Sit-day



Verse of the Month

The soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 18.1

Book of Common Prayer

'Quotation of the month' - 1/20

One of the treasures of the Church of England is the BCP, our Book of Common Prayer. Fruit of the Reformation, the desire to worship God in English, the language of the people, the first two (1549 & 1552) were produced in the reign of Henry VIII's son, Edward VI. But the one we were using when I was a boy was that of 1662, the one introduced after the Restoration during the reign of Charles II.

I hope you enjoy these snippets - windows onto our past.

Father Gareth



Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart.

Morning Prayer – after the beginning Sentences



Prayer of the month

O Lord Jesus Christ who hast created and redeemed me, and hast brought me unto that which now I am, thou knowest what thou wouldst do with me; do with me according to thy will; for thy tender mercy's sake.

Amen

Attributed to King Henry VI (1421 – 71)

Translated from the Latin by Eric Milner White (1884 - 1963)



Prayer focus

The life of the world to come.

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