

## Diary dates for August and September 2016

21 <sup>st</sup> August	11.00 Patronal Festival
1 <sup>st</sup> September	10.30 Council Meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> September	11.00 Harvest Festival



### Prayer of the month

May the light of your presence  
Set our hearts on fire  
With love of you



### Prayer focus

Those affected by terrorism.



### Verse of the Month

The earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea  
*Habakkuk 2 v14*



## 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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August, 2016

Dear Friends,

*In memoriam*

May 21<sup>st</sup>; an afternoon in Dinard; a memorial service at St Bart's for Jean Mansell; a ceremony at the Lord Russell Club to unveil a plaque to Ron Frankel. Ten days later, back in London for the funeral service of the 103-year-old father of a school friend.

And the question that folk may well ask, especially in the light of the first reading at Ernest Fenn's funeral from Ecclesiasticus 44 v1 – 15, is how long will any of us be remembered ?

My answer, were you to ask, would be: we live in the hearts and minds of those who love us. We're remembered for good by those to whom we have done good, who share our blood, who share our lives, our loves, our passions, our place in the world at any given point in time. We live while they live, cherished and remembered in their memory and affection.

With regards to Jean, her name is not only in our Book of Remembrance in church and on-line in the Website but also in the beautiful hydrangea planted in a corner of the church garden in her memory.

We all will necessarily die but the Christian hope is in the resurrection from the dead and the life of the world to come. Given this truth to our way of thinking, then death should only be a fact of life and those we love live on in our prayers, in our memories, and in the hope that one day we will meet again in heaven.

What do you think ?

*Father Gareth.*

**Notices**

- **Deadline** for submission of material for the September edition of St Bart's is *midday on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August*
- **BBQ at Bill's** on 23<sup>rd</sup> July raised 465€ for Church funds-our thanks to all who helped not least three generations of the Hughes family
- **Church Finances for June**  
Income: 4,314€ Expenditure: 4,883€



**Readings in church**

*August 7*

Genesis 15 v1 - 6  
Hebrews 11 v1 - 3, 8 -16

*August 14*

Jeremiah 23 v23 - 29  
Hebrews 11 v29 - 12 v2

*August 21*

Isaiah 52 v9b - end  
Hebrews 12 v18 - end

*August 28*

Proverbs 25 v6 - 7  
Hebrews 13 v 1 - 8, 15 - 16

*Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*

Psalm 33 v12 - 21  
Luke 12 v32 - 40

*Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*

Psalm 82  
Luke 12 v49 - 56

*St Bartholomew*

Psalm 71 v1 - 6  
Luke 13 v10 - 17

*Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*

Psalm 81 v1 -11  
Luke 14 v1, 7 - 14



**A BREXIT joke from Geoff Carter**

Yesterday (27<sup>th</sup> June), on the Today programme, it was said, 'History is useful in that it provides guidance for present circumstances. When the Romans invaded England, the Brits retreated into the bogs for safety until they were up to their necks in mud. This seems to be where we are now!'

## Personal column

Congratulations to:

James and Janet Hyde married here in church on 4<sup>th</sup> July;

Romain and Cassandra Van Lierde married here in church on 9<sup>th</sup> July;

Garðar and Marie-Odile Gunnarsson married here in church on 16<sup>th</sup> July;

Adrian and Sarah Jesson married at Grand Val, Combourg on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Our sympathy to:

the family of Donald Soum whose funeral service was held here in church on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July;

the family of Georges Troubat whose funeral service was held here in church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.



## Lancashire Jokes 8/12

In a butcher's in Wigan one bloke says to his mate "I bet you £100 you can't jump up and touch that piece of meat hanging from the ceiling."  
"No chance – the steaks are too high!"

*Lorraine Atkinson*



## Grace - less

"His mother must be a terrible cook - they say prayers before every meal."

*Linda Brooke, Reader, Christ Church La Manche*

## Notes from the Council

July 21<sup>st</sup>

With The Friends' AGM on the following Sunday, our meeting was conscious of the efforts on our behalf that the Friends make not least in the person of our President Professor Janet Darbyshire, our Treasurer Ian Philips and our Secretary, Dr David Norris.

The Members of the Council considered the wide range of usual concerns. Val Carter brought us up-to-speed on the latest developments and requirements re safeguarding and how, in the light of them, St Bart's was responding positively. David Morgan presented the updated accounts and clarified what exactly constituted our miscellaneous expenses. Bill spoke about the state of the fabric; David Norris the library, David Morgan on the garden. I highlighted a forthcoming Ecumenical meeting in November in which David Norris would play a leading role.

Janet raised the issue of tuning the organ and David Morgan will investigate our contract with Andrew Cooper. Carolyn raised the issues of flowers in church and that would be addressed in September.

With the summer approaching, a whole range of fund-raising activities was identified including Saturday's BBQ at Bill's; a concert by the Guernsey Chamber Choir and Orchestra; a concert by the Julliard School of Music; the St Bart's Day lunch, a stall in the Braderie, a silent film showing and our postponed Queen's birthday lunch after church in September.

The meeting, following on from our regular Thursday service of Holy Communion, opened and closed as usual in prayer.

*Father Gareth*

**Personal Reflections 1/6**

**By Ron Kirk**

**Help for Heroes  
2016 Big Battlefield Bike Ride  
Commemorating the 1916 Great Western Front –  
Ypres to Verdun**

*(Dedicated to My Two Mates:  
Chris Downton and Andrew Burnett)*



**Introduction**

Our prime aim in undertaking this charity challenge on behalf of 'Help for Heroes' (H4H) was to raise as much financial support for those military personnel and their families injured through carrying out their duties on our behalf.

Before launching into how we commemorated the Great Western Front of a century ago it is perhaps worthy reflecting first on how the whole situation in 1916 arose in the first place.



**How did we get into this fine mess, Stanley ?**

Historical Point - World War I or the Great War was a global war originating in Europe that began on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1914 and lasted until 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history. Over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), a casualty rate

**Book of Common Prayer  
'Quotation of the month' – 4/20**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power and commandment to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that do truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Absolution*



**For Sale**

Baby/toddler equipment for sale, all in superb condition.  
Car seat for child from 3 months to 3 years old. 20 euros o.n.o.  
Very lovely wooden high/low chair + comfy insert. 30 euros o.n.o.  
Travel cot 30 euros o.n.o.

Ducal honey pine wardrobe 182 cm tall x 91 cm wide, shelf and rail. 75 euros o.n.o.  
Gas BBQ + almost unused gas bottle & various implements. Outside cover. 75 euros o.n.o.  
Both these items in excellent condition.

[lynettejarvis1722@gmail.com](mailto:lynettejarvis1722@gmail.com) 02 96 41 29 65

## Questions 'The Best of times'

Radio 4; February 24<sup>th</sup>; Professor Laurie Taylor. The programme, 'Thinking Aloud', is exploring what we, as people, might well consider to be the best of times. In a youth-centred culture, it is interesting to note the adult panel tended to dismiss being young as commensurate with the best time of our lives.

So when do you personally think was the best time in your life? Was it as a child? Did you love school? Was it the first time that you fell in love? Was it your marriage to the man or woman you loved? Was it what you did for a living, your job, your profession? Was it spending money, going on holiday, pure physical pleasure one way or another? Was it the new-found freedom of retirement? Is it living here now in France?

Let me just make one simple point. In the last paragraph, most of the verbs used were past tense – suggesting the best of times is something in the past – halcyon days remembered. But the challenge might be to try to live life now, in the present as God's present. Perhaps that's neither grammatically nor philosophically possible but could we enjoy each given moment as the best of times?

What do you think?

*Gareth Randall*



## Quotations of the month

Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder



exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by trench warfare, a gruelling form of warfare in which the defender held the advantage. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, and paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

The war drew in all the world's economic great powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom/British Empire, France and the Russian Empire) versus the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Although Italy was a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, it did not join the Central Powers, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive, against the terms of the alliance. These alliances were reorganised and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

The trigger for the war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914. This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia, and entangled international alliances formed over the previous decades were invoked. Within weeks, the major powers were at war and the conflict soon spread around the world.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, the Austro-Hungarians declared war on Serbia and subsequently invaded. As Russia mobilised in support of Serbia, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France, leading the United Kingdom to declare war on Germany. After the German march on Paris was halted, what became known as the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, with a

trench line that would change little until 1917. Meanwhile, on the Eastern Front, the Russian army was successful against the Austro-Hungarians, but was stopped in its invasion of East Prussia by the Germans. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia and the Sinai. Italy joined the Allies in 1915 and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers in the same year, while Romania joined the Allies in 1916, followed by the United States in 1917.

The Russian government collapsed in March 1917, and a subsequent revolution in November brought the Russians to terms with the Central Powers via the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, which constituted a massive German victory. After a stunning German offensive along the Western Front in the spring of 1918, the Allies rallied and drove back the Germans in a series of successful offensives. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to an armistice, and Germany, which had its own trouble with revolutionaries, agreed to an armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, ending the war in victory for the Allies.

By the end of the war, the German Empire, Russian Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. National borders were redrawn, with several independent nations restored or created, and Germany's colonies were parcelled out among the winners. During the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, the Big Four (Britain, France, the United States and Italy) imposed their terms in a series of treaties.

The League of Nations was formed with the aim of preventing any repetition of such a conflict. This effort failed, and economic depression, renewed European nationalism, weakened member states, and the German feeling of humiliation contributed to the rise of Nazism. These conditions eventually contributed to World War II.

## **Extra Film Review of the Month 'Man of Steel' – Zack Snyder 2012**

Heavy metal it's not but, given to me by a friend this April, 'Man of Steel' is a super version of Superman with the best effects that CGIs can provide. Now if you are as old as me (or older), then you may well remember the old Black and White TV 'Superman' of the late 50s, early 60s – well, forget that – this is a very different expression of the comic book legend and if you really do like high flyers, then this may well be to your taste.

It starts with the end – the end of the planet Krypton and Superman's natural birth to a mum on a planet where new labour is relatively painless with designer babies to order. The boy is saved and shot off earthbound into space but not before the assassination of his parents as part of a failed coup, penal exile of the plotters and the end of the planet. Well the baddies therefrom are on hold till Superman grows up on earth. Clark Kent's growing up is fascinating in a series of interleaved flashbacks – the challenge and angst of a boy who wants to/needs to mask his real powers.

Lois Lane is a very different character – more the modern Alpha female with a lot of spunk and drive that many a man might envy. There is a parallel female baddie in the anti-hero's camp.

Superman, the hero, is very much on the edge, suspected by those he's here to protect. The final confrontation is destruction on a capital scale but though there is mayhem among the skyscrapers, there is no evidence of blood or squashed bodies which helps keep the film's rating accessible to the young in age as well as heart.

I wonder if you are brave enough to watch it? I wonder whether or not you'll find it SUPER?

**Film Review of the Month**  
**'I wish' – Hirokazu Kore-Eda 2011**



'I wish' – Japan, contemporary, family break-up. Two brothers live apart: the elder, 12-year-old Koichi (Koki Maeda), with his mum; the younger, Ryunosuke (Oshirô Maeda), with his dad. The two towns, Kagoshima and Fukuoka, far apart, are about to be connected by the Bullet Train. And there the energy for the plot. If only the boys could see the trains meet in passing, the combined force of the movement would produce the necessary spiritual energy to grant their wish. Feng-shui plus ?

What caught my attention was the insight into everyday, family life, principally through the two boys' eyes but broadening out through their mum and dad, grandparents, school friends and friendly adults. What do I know of Japan ? Cameras, cars, martial arts, Zen, sushi, tsunamis. Not a lot – another world. But through the lens of a camera, my eyes can focus on a different take on ordinary 21<sup>st</sup> century life in an industrial nation.

Okay, so there's no sex, no violence, but there is the desire for meaningful relationships, friendships at school, love of life, growing up and exploring where you want to be and what you want to do.

But at the heart of this film is the idea of the wish: it's what the brothers wish for, what their five friends wish for and how that wish is granted which gives the film its title, its raison d'être, its heart. A modern fairy tale, 'I wish' is certainly a film you may wish to see. I only did because my friend, John Johnstone, was kind enough to buy it and send it me.

What more could you wish ?

*Gareth Randall*

Returning to the challenge, our fund raising aim was in order to provide practical support for our military wounded (mental or physical) and their families, around 230 cyclists aged 17 to 70, set out on what was to be both a physical and emotional challenge in support of H4H.

Amongst us would be disabled servicemen and women, some minus a leg or an arm or indeed multiple combinations of the two requiring them to be locked onto their machines. At the time of writing these committed riders helped raise over £600,000 for our noble warriors and their families.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June our team, 'The Three Musketeers', comprising Arthur Richards, Robert Tritz and myself, Ron Kirk, cycled a total of 515 kilometres, climbed 3,743 metres and burnt off 6,850 calories.

We started at the Menin Gate in Ypres finishing at the Verdun Ossuary Cemetery. Starting in Belgium we passed through Arras, Amiens, St Quentin, Reims finally reaching our finishing point just outside Verdun. This represented the Western Front of 1916, which became the pivotal point for the final outcome of a bloody war conducted on a scale never seen before.

In these personal recollections, I have attempted to capture the history, the enormous courage and sacrifices of our forces of the era coupled with the great charitable works of H4H.

Hopefully in reading my account you will begin to understand the profound effect the experience had on me and my fellow travellers.

### Victor Hugo our neighbour (3)

After Victor's expulsion from Jersey at the end of October 1855, he arrived at St Peter Port, Guernsey, with his son, François Victor. They booked into the Hotel de L'Europe, situated close to the harbour. It was not long before they were renting No 20 in Hauteville Road and, in 1856, he purchased the substantial No 38 in this road of elegant homes. It was a house built by a former corsair. This was just a couple of doors down from my great, great aunts and they got to know the family very well. There was a special affinity between Victor's wife, Adèle, and the great, great aunts. Although Victor stayed there for fifteen years, his wife did not. She came and went, living at times in Belgium. She was probably resident in Guernsey for less than a third of the fifteen years. There were well known marital upsets at Hauteville House and the great, great aunts were a regular shoulder for Adèle to cry on.

Other exiles sailed into the island and used Guernsey as their home or simply just visited Victor. He often provided accommodation for them in a spare room at No 38. Victor called it 'the raft of Medusa'.

The arrival of the Hugo family in Guernsey was looked upon with restrained pleasure by the population. When Victor purchased No38 Hauteville, the local newspaper, La Gazette de Guernsey, noted this purchase with approval, stating "PROOF THAT THE GREAT POET IS HAPPY IN OUR MIDST AND INTENDS TO STAY IN GUERNSEY". The feeling was clearly mutual, he wrote that 'He was charmed by Guernsey and its people. He was delighted to hear the old Norman French spoken.' This was the language spoken by the Norman people when they conquered Britain in 1066. A mixture of Norse and French, it was used by all children at home, although at school they were taught 'good' French. The system pertained until the 1940s.

### 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.

#### Peaches cooked with Amaretto

The peaches and nectarines are here ! A signature dish of our friend David who, luckily, often visits Dinard, comes to St Bart's and cooks this for us. Amaretto is made from the kernels of apricots not almonds as the flavour (of cyanide !) would suggest.

- Stone and cut fruit in halves.
- Grill them cut surface-down until slightly charred.
- Put in oven-proof dish cut surface-up and cover with castor sugar dissolved in Amaretto with a vanilla pod (or a tiny drop of essence).
- I just make this mixture to taste. Best not to have it too sweet, as extra sugar can always be added later.
- Bake in the oven at moderate heat for about 30 to 40 minutes. The fluid should just be getting a bit syrupy.

#### *Janet and Geoff Scott*



#### Quickies - 5/6

*A fresh series from our Church Warden, Bill:*

#### *On a pre-packed pork pie*

This product will be hot after heating.



enable us to avoid a crisis in the short term, so far so good, but at the price of mortgaging the future. Brexit has asked the right questions. It has nothing to do with the UK being part of the EU, really. It has nothing to do either with the migrants crossing the Channel. It has everything to do with the European identity. In the meantime - until Europe redefines its existence - we will live in uncertainty.

*Claude François*



### Wise Words

*Quotations and quips, submitted by the late Donald Soum.*

Reality is the leading cause of stress for those in touch with it.

*Lily Tomlin*

The truth isn't always beautiful but the hunger for it is.

*Nadine Gordimer*

If you laid all the economists end to end, they still wouldn't reach a conclusion.

*George Bernard Shaw*



### Signs of the times 5/9

*These play on words were sent to us by Geoff Scott*

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push."

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

As Victor got his domestic affairs sorted out, the rest of the family followed. On the same ship that Victor had arrived on from Jersey was his for ever loyal Juliette Drouet, his secretary and mistress. She was installed just a few houses down Hauteville Road at La Fallue, a pleasant, small town house. Here, from day one, she had delivered to her the rushed off outpourings of Victor's pen. She would immediately proof-read these and rewrite them out in a neat, readable form, ready if required to go to the printers. Victor threw himself into preparing all his poems that had been stacking up in his precious trunk since 1840. These would become 'Les Contemplations.' Within six months of arriving in Guernsey, 5,500 copies had been printed of the 11,000-line epic. They sold out within days. The well-known association of Victor and Juliette Drouet was a source of some amusement to the Guernsey population. The locals nicknamed her 'Mme la Comtesse'. The literary output of Victor while in Guernsey was phenomenal, masterpiece after masterpiece flowed from his pen. He wrote of himself in Guernsey that 'Exile has not only detached me from France, it has almost detached me from the Earth.' His experiences at the Paris barricades, in Parliament, in love and in the Island appeared as parts of some of his greatest works. Here the great talent had time to dash down those thousands of thoughts that poured out of his brain. The pattern of writing and thinking was set for the next fifteen years.

More in part 4.

*Roger Berry*  
*Guernsey. 2016*



## **The Church in Porto**

### **Peter and Pippa's Ministry in Portugal**

My ministry has been a wonderful adventure. It has taken me to all sorts of places where I have met people who have become lifelong friends. Pippa and I were quite excited when we were asked to go to look after the church in Porto, Portugal, as we had not visited Portugal before. From the moment we arrived, we were made very welcome and we really enjoyed every minute of our time there.

Porto is a beautiful city which is situated on the hills above the river Douro. The old town is full of colour and life. Driving there has its challenges as no one appears to observe any of the rules of the road, but once you have learnt to handle this, getting around is not too difficult.

The Anglican Church in Porto is possibly one of the oldest in the Diocese of Europe, dating back to the 1660s. Porto has always had strong trade links with the UK and the famous Port wine Lodges are situated on the south bank of the Douro. The church was built to provide a place of worship for the merchants who traded in the city. The British merchants met regularly in the ancient 'Factory House' to discuss business and have lunch together. It was the members of the 'Factory house' who started to arrange worship, which at first was held in private houses and then in the ballroom of their meeting place. It was not until 1787 that the king of Portugal allowed the British to acquire land for a cemetery and to build a church.

The restriction was that the church had to be behind high walls and have no steeple or bells so the local population did not know of its existence. In the end the church dimensions matched those of the Factory House ball room where worship had taken place for so many years. The church was not consecrated until 1843; it was then that the church was given the name St James.

Schengen makes it easy to go through borders and the paradox is that countries that are responsible for actual EU border control are not the ones who are going to have to deal with the migrants. But actually, while many people in Britain are concerned about the inflow of foreigners, Brexit does not change much, as long as Brussels does not impose quotas on each member.

No, Britain has wisely refrained from exchanging sterling for the euro, and border controls have remained in place. What would then be the likely consequences of Brexit? As the initiative to implement the leave falls on Britain, not on Brussels, it is likely to be a long process, as any responsible UK government is going to review one by one all the likely consequences of Brexit and renegotiate specific settlements on all issues like free flow of goods, people and funds across Europe, especially bank passports that allow EU bankers to work freely throughout Europe. This before any Brexit is implemented.

So, let's relax. Britain has not left the European Union yet. Actually, most people of Europe share the concerns of UK voters. With their Brexit vote, they have made all people of Europe aware that the EU was not a given, that if they were all happy to be partners of a large market with the freedom to move across their respective borders, they are deep inside questioning the purpose of European identity and the desirability and the costs of such a bureaucratic Europe. Europe therefore is likely to change. The problem is that it does not know in which direction. It is going through an existence crisis. We all have to be thankful to UK voters for having brought up the question. Nobody knows what will come out of it, but one thing is sure, a European crisis has started. An identity crisis.

Everyone is waiting. Many are scared of our own imbalances, scared of a financial crisis, which never goes without a social one as well, our sophisticated bankers have invented "monetary easing" which may

## **Brexit is not what they say**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, a 52% majority of UK voters decided to leave the EU. While Angela Merkel said that things should be handled with serenity and order, François Hollande very quickly announced that it had to happen quickly, and that we should, like with any bitter divorce, get things done quickly. He forgot one thing, that the UK remains a member of the EU until the Government and the Parliament decide to implement the split.

Europe simply does not have the power to kick the UK out that easily. Now, in whose interest is it to have a speedy divorce? Although over four million people asked for a second referendum, it seems that there won't be one, and David Cameron suddenly resigned and Theresa May was brought in. Ms May - who appointed eurosceptic Boris Johnson to that purpose - made it clear that she will take her time to negotiate an accord preserving the free reciprocal flow of goods, finance and people, a process that could last until the end of 2017.

Still, 2% of UK voters did decide to change the course of Europe and impose their views on all of us. Is it fair, does it make sense? Were they informed and conscious of the likely consequences of their action? What were the reasons to cast this vote? What are the likely consequences? Scotland wants to stay in and seems ready to leave the UK, maybe also Wales, Northern Ireland? Then several countries of the EU are thinking of leaving Europe as well, the Netherlands being the first of them. Who really wants to be in Europe today?

Actually, the main reason for the UK vote is just a malaise that is shared throughout Europe. The vast majority of Europeans are concerned about the future; we feel that our European bureaucrats are irresponsible, that they simply waste our money and impose rules on us that make our lives even more complicated. Take the flow of migrants.

Rather like the church in the Manche, a need for a second church was established. For several years services have been held 100 km to the north of Porto in Ponte de Lima. This is a lovely town beside the river Lima and has many ancient buildings. The church services were held in the beautiful Garrida chapel which is part of the Fernando Pessoa University. It featured a very steep flight of steps that led up to the altar and I was always frightened that I would slip and fall down upon the congregation.

We are still feeling rather sad at being parted from our friends in Porto and we look forward to seeing at least some of them at some time in the future as they are promising to visit us here.

I am still amazed how our Christian faith can bring people from different backgrounds and different places that are used to different ways of worship and make them into a loving and caring community. It is one of the greatest gifts that he gives us all.

*Father Peter*

### **It happened in St Bart's 2/8**

*None by name, but memories of some of our locum chaplains.*

We came to steam the carpet and I had also practised on the organ. As we came out of the church, the wife of the chaplain was sitting by the flat's gate with her coffee. She asked if I would look at the oven as the door was coming off. It was a simple case of replacing a bolt at one side. She explained that she couldn't ask her husband as he was only any good with things Holy.

I was playing for a funeral, the deceased was British but with the exception of his son, everyone else in the congregation was French. Somehow they had elected to have five hymns but only the son and chaplain sang. However, the chaplain was not noted for his singing, so throughout each hymn, he stuck doggedly to his one note.

*John Marshall*

**Walking with Peter 8**  
*Pentecost*

It's Shavuot.  
We're twelve again.  
Judas is dead  
by his own hand  
or God struck him down -  
so much for money -  
and, chosen by lot,  
Matthias takes his place.  
Jesus has ascended into heaven  
and we're left, waiting  
for the coming of the Holy Spirit -  
the promise we'll never be alone;  
he'll be with us always.  
We've come together to pray  
with Mary, his mother,  
when we hear a strange sound  
like wind rushing over water  
from the hills around the Lake  
when a storm's about to break.  
Then the room is filled with light:  
tongues of flame seem to divide  
then settle on each one of us  
and I feel the excitement I felt  
when I was with Jesus.  
We shake with laughter  
and talk in languages  
foreign to our ear.  
Like the Jordan in spate,  
we overflow with praise of God.

We burst into the street,  
sharing the joy of knowing God .  
Strangers stop to listen,  
amazed we speak their language.  
But some, on the edge of the crowd,  
sneer at our stumblings,  
diss us as drunks.  
I raise my arms, call for peace,  
and I, an ordinary fisherman,  
speak of the extraordinary,  
of what I've seen first-hand:  
God's love for his people.  
I tell them we live in the time  
the prophet Joel speaks of  
when the Spirit of the Lord  
will be poured out on his people.  
Jesus is our Messiah,  
Son of David, Son of God,  
who came to show us the way  
but we ignored him,  
had him crucified,  
and we're guilty of his death.  
We need to repent and be baptised.  
We need to turn away  
from what's wrong,  
to ask for forgiveness  
for what we've done wrong.  
It's ours for the asking.  
Many did,  
and on that day,  
the Church was born.