

Diary dates for February and March, 2017

1 st March	10.00 Ash Wednesday
24 th March	11.00 Start of Lent Bible Study
25 th March	10.30 Council Meeting



Prayer of the month

The following was given to me by Olive Browne:

Evening Prayer of St Augustine

Watch Thou, O Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep tonight, and give Thine Angels and Saints charge over those who sleep. Tend Thy sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Thy weary ones. Bless Thy dying ones. Soothe Thy suffering ones. Pity Thy afflicted ones. Shield Thy joyous ones. And All for Thy love's sake.



Prayer focus

Spiritual discipline – what Lent could mean to you, to me, to us ?



Verse of the Month

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
Isaiah 12:2



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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February, 2017

Dear Friends,

Present absence

I'm missing the summer sun. I miss walking in shorts, barefoot on the beach, feeling the sun warm on my face, arms, legs.

But it's only a question of time, a matter of waiting for Spring to come, then Summer, and the good weather will return to the Brittany coast.

And if we are not at present enjoying the sunshine this winter, then someone else somewhere else will be and just because the sun is absent here, it will be, can be, present elsewhere.

On 14th November, Radio 4 was full of news about a super moon that night. The full moon would be the closest to the earth since 1948, the year before I was born, and I was excited by the prospect of going down to the statue of Eve by the 4.5* Hotel Castelbrac and looking across the estuary of the Rance to the full, golden disc of the moon grandly rising above St Servan, over St Malo.

Three times after sunset I went out and, each time, the night sky was cloud-covered and the super moon hid behind banks of cloud. I was sad not to see it but the moon was there even though unsighted by me.

And the thought occurred to me that there are times when God may seem absent in our lives. When most we need the encouragement of feeling He's there for us, it's then we may feel alone, abandoned. But like that super moon, He is there even if we can't see Him or feel Him.

I guess it's accepting the fact that Jesus says 'I am with you always' even if we can't see it at the time we're feeling low.

Father Gareth

Notices

- **Notes from the Council** (26th January) will appear in the March edition of our magazine.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the March edition of St Bart's is ***midday on Thursday 23rd February***
- **Church Finances for December**
Income: 5,404€ Expenditure: 5,670€



Readings in church

February 5th 4th Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 58 v1 - 9a	Psalm 112 v1 - 9
1 Corinthians 2 v1 - 12	Matthew 5 v13 - 20

February 12th Septuagesima

Deuteronomy 30 v15 - end	Psalm 119 v1 - 8
1 Corinthians 3 v1 - 9	Matthew 5 v21 - 37

February 19th Sexagesima

Genesis 1 - 2v3	Psalm 136 v1 - 9
Romans 8 v18 - 25	Matthew 6 v25 - 34

February 26th Quinquagesima

Exodus 24 v12 -end	Psalm 2
2 Peter 1 v16 - end	Matthew 17 v1 - 9



Lent Bible Course – 2017
‘Being Disciples – Essentials of Christian life’
Rowan Williams

*The first Bible Study this year will be on a FRIDAY
thereafter every Thursday at 11.00 following Holy Communion at 10.30
and followed by a bring-and-share lunch at 12.00*

Session 1	24th March, 2017 Being disciples
Text	John 1 v35 – 39
Session 2	30th March, 2017 Faith, hope and love
Text	1 Corinthians 13 v8 - 13
Session 3	6th April, 2017 Forgiveness
Text	Matthew 7 v7 – 9
Session 4	13th April, 2017 Holiness
Text	2 Corinthians 3 v17 – 18, 4v6)

This year’s Lent study is based on the first four chapters of Rowan Williams’s excellent short book about Christian Essentials. If you have a chance to read it beforehand and each chapter again before the appropriate session, it would be really useful but, hopefully, you should be able to benefit simply from being present. So why not come and, if you can, do some homework before you do.

*Father Gareth ,
January 2017*

Love

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, 27th February is dedicated to the metaphysical poet-priest, George Herbert. Last February, at our regular Thursday service, the Revd Mark Vidal Hall drew our attention to his favourite poem by Herbert:

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.



René-Solange Dayres-Goffinet
Sociétaire des Gens de Lettres de Paris
Fondatrice de L'Association Les Poésies francophones
Initiatrice du mouvement littéraire La Poétique
Le Prix Théophile Gautier
L'Académie Française
'Pille le Soleil'

Sadly, Solange, Alain's wife, died in the early hours of the morning on Christmas Day last year. As she lay in her bed in the Soin Palliative in St Servan, the bells of the church of Sacré Cœur rang out for the start then for the end of the Midnight Mass, the first service to celebrate the Incarnation, the birth of Christ. Gently, asleep, with Alain at her side, she stopped breathing.

Her funeral in French took place in church on the following Wednesday, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. It was well attended and included Martina Craveia Schütz, the Mayor of Dinard, among those paying their respects.

During the service, a couple of her poems were read. The following, the first, was read by her grandson, Alexandre, who was visibly moved by the words and the knowledge that Solange had died.



'Je suis un pauvre de Dieu'

Je suis un pauvre de Dieu
et mes mains nues
ont l'odeur de la terre

d'une terre spoliée
d'une terre louée

Little gems 1/11

Sent to us by Peter Campbell

Advertisement in a shop:
Guitar, for sale – Cheap - no strings attached.



What Father Gareth hasn't said yet 1/11

Word play from David Norris.

Venison for dinner again?
Oh deer!



Success

*This balanced series of definitions of success
has been sent to me by Ken Ivin
What do you think?*

At age 3, success	is	not piddling in your pants.
At age 11, success	is	having friends.
At age 17, success	is	having a driver's license.
At age 35, success	is	having money.
At age 50, success	is	having money.
At age 70, success	is	having a driver's license.
At age 75, success	is	having friends.
At age 80, success	is	not piddling in your pants.



Deaf to God

None so deaf as those who don't want to hear;
none so blind as those who don't want to see.
That is why there are those who deny that God is,
who do not want to see or hear what is out there,
out there, outside their door, waiting to be let in,
in the water, on the land, in the air and in the sky,
all around us, singing of the love of God for Man.



Wise Words

Quotations and quips, submitted by the late Donald Soum.

Believe those who are seeking the truth; doubt those who find it.
André Gide

Evil is something you recognise the moment you see it; it works
through charm.
Brian Masters

Success is relative. It is what we can make of the mess we have made
of things.
T S Eliot



Quickies 2 - 5/5

A further series from our Church Warden, Bill:

In a take-away door

Open 24 hours a day – except from 1.00 a.m. to 7.00 a.m.



je n'ai ni herbe ni pierre

Je suis un pauvre de Dieu
et mes mains nues
tournent et retournent la terre

jusqu'en l'ombilicale
existible eau vive

afin que naisse au monde le lieu
où mon fils chantera mes mains nues

Extrait 'Les Métamorphiques'

Solange was taken south to where she grew up to be buried in a family
plot.

Our sympathy is, understandably, with Alain and his family at this time
of their loss

'May she rest in peace and rise in glory.'



Book of Common Prayer

'Quotation of the month' – 10/20

I *N* take thee *N* to my wedded Husband, to have and to hold from this
day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and
in health, to love, cherish and to obey, till death us do part, according
to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

Solemnization of Matrimony

Why port (or, the left-hand side of an aircraft) ?

Ron Kirk's gracious recall of the memory of the great Albert Ball, Great War flying ace, calls to mind what I believe to be a little-known history.

Aircraft had been used for bombing before the Great War, but their chief mission in 1914 was reconnaissance, and reconnaissance had always been the preserve of the cavalry. That's right, the guys riding horses. So the first pilots recruited for what was then the Royal Flying Corps, and, in 1918, became the Royal Air Force, were roped in from the cavalry.

Cavalrymen (I've never heard of any cavalry women) habitually wore a sabre attached to the left-hand side of their belt. Thus it was customary, when mounting their horses, to place the left foot first in the stirrup, so that the sabre was out of the way when swinging the right leg over the saddle.

If you look at pictures of the early scouts – Sopwith Tabloid; Blériot XI; Fokker E-III; BE 2c – you will see open cockpits with, usually, scalloped entrances symmetrical both sides. Nevertheless, all these cavalrymen-turned-pilots had the fixed habit of climbing in on the port side, even though they were no longer carrying sabres, but instead mostly a revolver.

(‘Port’ is the left-hand side of a sailing or flying vessel in respect of the bow or nose. Next time you’re in an Airbus A330, walking aft to find the loo, the port side will be on your right, but is nevertheless still ‘port’ related to the direction of travel.)

Scouts evolved into what by the 1930s were called ‘fighters’ (American ‘pursuit’; German *Jäger*, a word that also means ‘light infantry’) from

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a contribution to the Easter Flowers in church this year and at the same time remember a loved one, then David or Bill or I would be delighted to receive your contribution and the names you wish to be remembered (if you can, 5€ per name or whatever you can afford).

Father Gareth



It happened in St Bart's 8/8

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

In the days when we were able to collect kneeler kits from the factory, one lady was worried that her order had not arrived, (we had not returned). She said that she must have it, so we posted it to Sybil for it to be collected in church. We returned to France and the kit was still in the vestry. Eventually owner and kit were reunited, only for her to say that it had not been made up. Someone offered to do the sewing and eventually it was produced and the lady was asked if she wanted a special dedication before it went into a pew. “It’s not for the church, I want it for a foot rest at home” was the reply.

Lent bring-and-share lunch and one lady was enjoying the wine. One of the other ladies said, “I thought you didn’t drink.” We still chuckle at the response, “It’s all right, there are railings all the way home.”

John Marshall



Odd Words
'Listen back'

Are you ever up early enough to catch the BBC World Service when your radio is tuned into Radio 4 ?

The other morning, I caught the 5 o'clock news – 6.00a.m. here in France – and heard a form of the verb to listen that I've never heard before – 'listen back'. The announcer was directing the audience's attention to the possibility of catching up with or listening again to past programmes in the series to be found on the BBC I Player. Useful but instinctively the verb didn't feel right.

Surely what was meant was to listen again or I guess to listen for the first time. The use of the preposition 'back' implies something in the past, something retrospective, so I guess essentially it is correct English. But to an old ear like mine this new phrase felt odd.

What do you think ?

Gareth Randall



Definitions of Wisdom in French 1/6

Michael Frankel sent me these little gems

D'un commun accord, tous les villageois ont décidé de prier pour avoir de la pluie. Le jour de la prière, tous les gens se sont réunis, et peu de temps après, il tombait des cordes, mais... seul un petit garçon avait un parapluie.

C'est ça la FOI.

the time that Allied and Central Powers (German, Austrian) scout pilots began firing at one another with their revolvers. (Whether anyone ever scored a hit firing a .455 Webley from one moving platform at another moving platform over a distance of many metres is not a matter I have ever encountered in recorded history.)

From then, scouts began carrying machineguns, and the development into the fighter began. But the aviators were *still* ex-cavalry and they *still* climbed into their flying machines from the left. This went on until the 1920s, when the first enclosed cockpit was invented. And how did the pilot enter the aircraft ? From the port side.

Sure, you got exceptions. Aircraft such as the de Havilland Mosquito of 1942 and the B52 of the late 1940s were accessed from directly beneath the fuselage. But the habit was there and it had stuck.

That is why – never mind the starboard-side emergency exits on your Boeing 777 or whatever; and never mind that trainers such as the Cessna 152 have a door on both sides – you *still* climb aboard an Airbus or a Boeing from the left.

Incidentally: Whenever I've climbed, as an RAF cadet, into the cockpit of a Chipmunk trainer, it's been from the left. Same applies when I have climbed into the cockpits of a Tornado F3, a MiG 29 and an Algerian-war-era T28 ground-attack single-prop fighter.

David Boggis



Crackers 1/11

Snippets from Xmas Crackers given me by Jim MacCormack

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert ?

Lost !

Film Review of the Month
‘The Last Temptation of Christ’ – Martin Scorsese 1988

When it was released back in 1988, before I started my training for the ordained ministry, I was not in the least tempted to see it. It is not faithfully rooted in scripture but inspired by the novel of the same name by Nikos Kazantzakis (1955).

The film is shocking. Not just the pointless flashes of nudity and simulated sex but in the person of Christ (Willem Dafoe). Uncertain of his vocation, his mental state feels more like a case for a psycho-therapist. That as a carpenter, Jesus makes crosses for the Romans on which to crucify Jews seems incredibly silly. When Jesus does embrace his calling, there is real power and charisma but, sad-to-say, this Christ is once more blond, blue-eyed and physically fit.

The only reason I bothered to watch it was a mention of the character of Judas (Harvey Keitel – whose portrayal earned him a nomination for the Golden Raspberry Award for the worst supporting actor) in a recent book I read on the twelfth disciple. Certainly, this Judas is nothing like the biblical Judas – a real friend to Jesus. A Zealot who had come to kill him, Judas is won over by Jesus, stands by him, and betrays him because he’s asked to do God’s will.

Pontius Pilate (the late David Bowie) is an upper-crust English politician in an American film so that makes him well dodgy; the Virgin Mary is marginalized; Nathaniel is in near the end; Jesus’ baptism takes place after Jesus calls his disciples; there are two cleansings of the Temple at the gateway arch to which stands a statue of a Roman Emperor; the Court of Gentiles looks more like a street market.

But it’s the last temptation which is truly diabolic – words fail me ! Not the Jesus I love, in whom I believe, who is at the centre of a 2,000-year-old faith. Not a film I’d recommend, so will you try to see it ?

Gareth Randall

Questions
‘Populism ?’

Have you ever heard the word ‘populism’ before ? And if you have, do you know what it means ?

Well, when I was a boy, I would have loved to have been popular among my class mates and my teachers but populism has nothing to do with one being popular but rather appealing to the views of the majority of the population so you get elected – rather like Donald Trump did last November – or you get what you want in a referendum by tapping in to popular feelings – rather like Brexit last June.

Now the appeal to the majority lies in what is being promised. The promises by those who are heard and believed are deemed to be honest, true, well intentioned, but fact is that fact and verity do not necessarily have to play any part in what’s on offer.

We live, it seems, in a world where politicians enjoy a reputation for being untrustworthy, if you believe the latest opinion poll carried out in the UK towards the end of 2016.

So do we vote for what we want in the hope that we will get what we were promised or do we just accept that there is a difference between what is said and then what is done ?

I guess the answer may lie in how cynical, world-weary we are ?

Gareth Randall

PS

According to my Collins Dictionary, ‘populism’ means: a political strategy based on a calculated appeal to the interests or prejudices of ordinary people.

Respect

*The following were received in response to my letter
published in our January Magazine*

From Ken Ivin

In my earlier life, Gareth, the other individuals who were respected were the Funeral Directors. Amongst those who were not were insurance people – nothing much has changed. Back then, those who were respected were shown into the front room; those who were not into the less important rooms. Back then, did you know that in Victorian times ‘front rooms’ had pine doors which were moulded on both sides? Lesser rooms were moulded only on one side!

From Claude François

I really liked your strong statement about respect in the last newsletter.

Respect without love is still respect but love without respect - to me - is not real love. This applies in particular to issues thrown to deciding bodies like parliaments, committees, general assemblies or whole populations through referenda or - worse - kept from deciding bodies - without due knowledge, consideration and discussion of the elements of the decisions or their consequences and alternatives.

This is probably the main flaw of democracy, i.e. the one who controls the agenda, the motions and the minutes has the upper hand. This applies to most war declarations (especially the 1870 Franco Prussian and the 1914 First World War declarations), to the French EU constitution or Brexit referenda or even to some decisions much closer to us.

In the Brexit case, I find it hard to give any credibility to the idea that Brexit should take place without discussion in Parliament about all the legal decisions that have been taken and implemented in the past by Parliament in the EU context. To my mind, respect has many facets.

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Extra Film Review of the Month ‘Les Enfants de la Chance’ – Malik Chibane 2016

Based on a true story and released in late November, I saw ‘Les Enfants de la Chance’ in early December in Dinard.

With International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27th January, this film is a timely reminder of the way Jews were treated in France – La Rafle – captured in another French film of the same name and well worth viewing.

On the whole, a gentle film but not without violence, shock, unkindness. July 1942; a Jewish family in Paris; four kids sleep in one double bed! Maurice Gutman (Matteo Perez), a ten-year-old boy, ‘hero’ and focus of the film. He has the ‘luck’ to be injured in a street fight – a broken hip, the result of being thrown down a flight of Paris steps by an older boy.

Luck? Yes, Maurice is lucky because his injury saves him from being rounded up by the French Gendarmes – La Rafle – in which his mother, brother and sisters are taken off, ultimately to Auschwitz, where they will be exterminated.

Maurice, luckily, ends up in a children’s ward in a hospital in the country where the doctor (Philippe Torreton) tells him how lucky he is for his x-ray has revealed tuberculosis in the bone ready to break out. Is this so or might it be the doctor saving the life of dislocated French Jewish boy by his hospitalization?

Much of the film is delightful, French boyish humour in their hospital ward which made me smile, even laugh out loud. But there is, outside, a real threat and nastiness ready to break into their lives.

It is a film about luck but since it’s in French without English subtitles, are you going to be lucky enough to be able watch it?

Gareth Randall

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'Judas Iscariot – Redeemed ?'

My Call

“Come.”
So come I did.
We'd met.
I liked him.
He liked me
and he said,
“Follow me.
Come with me
Come, be
one with me,
one of us,
one of twelve.”
How could I
not go,
not say yes ?
His call,
irresistible,
touched me,
touched my heart
and excited me,
made me feel good,
connecting me
with what I wanted,
so wanted to be:
one of his,
one of them
who followed him.
So I left behind
what was mine
to be his,

his student,
his follower,
his man,
a companion
with others
on our way
to the truth
and real life
till death
us do part
whatever,
whenever,
however.



Praying Hands: A footnote

Words from Father Gareth have once again stimulated my imagination: The reference to Albrecht Dürer's 1508 *Betende Hände*, Praying Hands. If you want to view the original work, visit the Albertina Museum in Vienna.

If you wish to encounter a tribute to the artist in person, fly to the smallish, friendly airport of Nuremberg, Bavaria. (Well, Franconia, to be precise.) Nuremberg airport has adopted the name of Albrecht Dürer.

Curiously, the Hindu greeting, 'Namaste,' is accompanied by placing your palms together, fingers pointing upright.

David Boggis

