

Diary dates for April and May, 2017

9 th April	12.00 Church AGM
13 th April	10.30 Maundy Thursday
14 th April	11.00 Good Friday
16 th April	11.00 Easter Day
4 th May	10.30 Council Meeting
17 th May -	Archdeaconry Synod
20 th May	St Jacut de la Mer
25 th May	10.00 Ascension Day



Prayer of the month

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
We may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent



Prayer focus

New life ?



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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April, 2017

Dear Friends,

Easter

What does Easter mean to you ?

Crucifixion; Resurrection. Death; new life. A painful end; a new beginning.

If Christmas is the start, then Easter is the heart of our Christian faith. We believe God loves us enough to die for us in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus embodies all that is good and points us the way to God our Father in heaven.

Holy Week, that last week from Palm Sunday, from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey to Easter Day itself, with the discovery of the empty tomb, the stone rolled away and the women and the disciples amazed, is no easy journey.

But you can come to church and follow it in part in St Bart's. This year, Palm Sunday, 9th April, with the gift of an African palm cross and entering church singing 'All glory laud and honour'. Maundy Thursday 10.30 April 13th, Holy Communion in church, with the possibility of having your feet washed by me. Good Friday, 11.00 April 14th, Service of Meditation on the Cross rooted in Matthew's gospel. Easter Day, 16th April and the joy of death defeated and the fun of an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnets, and a visit from the Easter bunny.

Four services in eight days ? Why not ? It might make this Easter so much more than a chocolate egg.

Father Gareth



Notices

- **Fat Sunday Lunch 26th Feb** – our thanks to Carolyn for masterminding and executing an enjoyable meal after church in church that raised 267€ for church funds.
- **Soup Lunch** at Diana's on Mothering Sunday raised 400€ for church funds and the SPA. Our thanks to Sharon and her team of helpers.
- **Our thanks** to David and his team for their active care of the church garden on 30th March.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the May edition of St Bart's is *midday on Thursday 27th April*.
- **Church Finances for February**
Income: 2,643€ Expenditure: 4,127€.

Readings in church

April 2nd Passion Sunday

Ezekiel 37 v1 - 14
Romans 8 v6 - 11

Psalm 130
John 11 v1 – 45

April 9th Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50 v4 – 9a
Philippians 2 v5 - 11

Psalm 31 v9 - 16
Matthew 26 v14 – 27 end

April 16th Easter Day

Acts 10 v34 - 43
Colossians 3 v1 – 4

Psalm 118 v14 - 24
Matthew 28 v1 – 10

April 23rd Low Sunday

Acts 2 v14a, 22 - 32
1 Peter 1 v3 -9

Psalm 16
John 20 v 19 – end

April 30th Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2 v14a, 36 - 41
1 Peter 1 v17 - 23

Psalm 116 v1 - 7
Luke 24 v13 - 35

Quotations of the month

Like being in heaven
without going to all the bother and expense of dying
P G Wodehouse on visiting New York



What Father Gareth hasn't said yet 3/11

Word play from David Norris.

I used to be a banker -
till I lost interest



Crackers 3/11

Snippets from Xmas Crackers given me by Jim MacCormack

Why did the shark swim in circles ?
Because it had a nosebleed.



Little gems 3/11

Sent to us by Peter Campbell

On a bulletin board:
Success is relative.
The more the success,
The more the relatives



Notes from the Council - March 25th

The last meeting of the Council before our AGM on Palm Sunday and a big thank you to all our elected representatives who have faithfully discharged their stewardship of our church. Here at St Bartholomew's, we are fortunate to have a team of committed folk who want to guard and develop the heritage of our church which will soon (2021) be celebrating her foundation in this beautiful place 150 years ago.

What was remarkable about the meeting was the warmth of fellowship and shared purpose which enabled us to address and resolve serious issues. In his annual accounts, audited by Ron Kirk, David Morgan was able to report a positive balance, largely the result a substantial bequest left to us in a will and a most generous donation.

The renewal of the carpet in the main aisle was discussed and the possibility of purchasing new collapsible tables for use in outside events to be explored. The key to the removable barrier in the road outside the church was to be obtained. Events for the coming year were explored, not least the special features at our Easter service. The Carol and Crib services were also considered, especially how to encourage more folk to attend the latter if unable to attend the former.

Last year's Safeguarding Policy was again approved for the coming year and the process of the elections at the AGM was touched on. A third icon by Karen Blampied, my gift to St Bartholomew's, one of St Michael, is to be commissioned. The Revd Donald Pankhurst, a former Priest-in-charge of St Bartholomew's, has published a beautifully illustrated book of his graces, 'Grace and Flavour', copies of which are available for purchase from me for £5/6€. Donald is also donating his wedding cope to our church.

It goes without saying that our meeting began and ended with prayer.

**Old Testament prophecies
that became fact in the New Testament**

There are many Old Testament prophecies but I was struck by the number found in Isaiah. Isaiah started prophesying in 740 BC, the year that the king Uzziah died. It is quite remarkable that over seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah was pointing to important occurrences in Christ's life. I have selected just a few which are of particular interest.

Isaiah, chapter 7 verse 14. 'Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Translated as 'God with us')' Read Luke 1, verses 26, 27, 30 and 31. 'And In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the Virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS.'

Isaiah, chapter 40 verses 3 to 5. 'The voice of him crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.' etc. etc. Read Luke, chapter 3 verses 3 to 6. 'And he came, (John the Baptist) into all the country about Jordon, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the Book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight."' etc.

Isaiah, chapter 61 verses 1 and 2. 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim to

**Book of Common Prayer
'Quotation of the month' – 12/20**

Forasmuch as *N* and *N* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a Ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be Man and Wife together.

Solemnization of Matrimony

Candlemas

*In response to my sermon on Candlemas and candles,
Catherine Kergoët wrote the following:*

Candles...
Appealing
Nostalgia,
Dancing
Light,
Evanescent
Spirituality.

From the lectern 1/10

*Bill Hughes, one of two Church Wardens,
usually has an anecdote to share at the end of his notices.
If you missed one or would like to enjoy it again, then this mini series is for you.*

A farmer who owned a pair of horses asked a friend how best to tell them apart. "Simple – just measure them." So he did and, when he saw his mate again, the farmer said he was dead right: the black one was 20 centimetres bigger than the white one.

Odd Words
'fab > fib > fob > fub'

Radio 4 is a great source for new words. 'Thought for the Day', a Saturday in September last year, and the speaker kicks off with a new word – new to me at least – 'fub'.

- Fab I remember from my teens.
- Fib(s) I remember telling.
- Fob is something I have the social skill to do.
- But fub ???

Now fub is something from a different culture to mine, one in which young folk are always connected, their mobiles always switched on, their tablets ever ready to swallow, their I pads rendering them forever perfect pupils.

Fubbing is that moment when the person to whom you are talking loses interest in the present, in those present, in favour of being connected through the air in spirit with their virtual friends. My virtue of being physically present is eschewed in favour of those elsewhere.

Ah well, I guess I getting old but at least there is little danger at present of being fubbed off by most people I know.

Gareth Randall

Definitions of Wisdom in French 3/6

Michael Frankel sent me these little gems

Tous les soirs nous allons au lit, sans aucune assurance d'être en vie le lendemain matin, mais, nous réglons les réveils pour nous réveiller.
C'est ça L'ESPÉRANCE.

the captives, and opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.' Read, Luke 4 verses 18 and 19. (And Jesus read) 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.'

Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 1. 'Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?' Read John 12, verses 37 and 38. 'But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him. That the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?'

Isaiah, chapter 53 verse 3. 'He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.' Read John 1 verse 11, 'He came unto his own, and his own received him not.' Luke 23 verse 18. 'And they cried out all at once, saying, away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas.'

Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 7. 'He was oppressed and he was afflicted yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.' Read Mark chapter 15 verse 4 and 5. 'And Pilate asked him again, saying, answerest thou nothing? Behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing, so that Pilate marvelled.'

Isaiah 50 verse 6. 'I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and

spitting.’ Read Matthew 26 verse 67. ‘Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him.’ Read Mark 15 verse 15. ‘And Pilate willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.’

Isaiah, chapter 53 verse 5. ‘But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and by his stripes we are healed.’ Read, Romans 5, verses 6 and 8. ‘For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ‘But commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ Read Mark 15 verse 15. ‘And delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.’

Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 12. ‘Because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors. And he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.’ Read, Mark 15, verses 27 and 28. ‘And with him they crucified two thieves; the one on the right hand, and the other on the left.’

Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 9. ‘And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.’ Read, Matthew chapter 27, verses 57 to 60. ‘When the even was come, there came a rich man named Joseph. He went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus.’ And laid it in his own tomb.’

Roger Berry



Tuesday

Sky like a painting
light white cloud
like brush strokes
on a bright blue sky

**Book Review of the Month
‘Grace and Flavour’
The Revd Donald Pankhurst**

If you’ve ever sat at table with Donald and Heather, then you may well remember the short, sharp, witty, humorous and delightful graces that Donald penned to bless the meal about to be eaten.

Sadly, in the recent past, health has prevented Donald from coming back to Dinard, to the church and town he loves, to St Bartholomew’s, a church for which he was responsible for so many years, first as a holiday chaplain, then as Priest-in-charge before my predecessor, the Revd Dr Alan Charters.

Now, from the Lake District where he and Heather live in Windermere, comes a small, slim volume, a compilation of his graces delightfully illustrated by Mary Lauritsen and beautifully printed by the Badger Press.

I have twenty copies and if you would like to grace your food with Donald’s words of blessing, then you can buy a copy from me for £5 or 6€.

Gareth Randall



Ambiguity

After a poor showing in a recent UK bye-election, a party leader said that he was ‘going nowhere’ by which he meant that he was going to remain leader but, in English, what he said might also mean that he was not going to do any better.

Film Review of the Month
‘Saints and Soldiers’ – Ryan Little 2003

A gift from Michael Frankel, the DVD I watched while ironing is an American film rooted in the German offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944 which starts with the Malmedy massacre on 17th of that month.

Yes, there is understandable and necessary violence given its theme, but the real interest is in the relationships and tension between first the four American soldiers, then an English pilot shot down, and lastly a German soldier they capture. Essentially, ‘Saints and Soldiers’ is about survival, of trying to survive in the snow-bound forest while awaiting the American counter attack.

Deacon (Corbin Allred) is a marksman of no little skill, a former Mormon, missionary, his faith informs his life. He’s haunted by inadvertently killing women and children who were holed up, unbeknown to him, in a church where a German sniper is picking off American soldiers.

The medic (Alexander Niver) has lost his faith and takes every opportunity to snipe at Deacon. The English pilot (Kirby Heyborne) provides some light relief by being typically English !

But what raised ‘Saints and Soldiers’ above the parapet for me was the way Deacon treats a German soldier (Ethan Vincent) they capture – a young man he knew while a missionary in Berlin before the war !

The end is inevitably dramatic and who survives you’ll need to see for yourself but it is a Christian film about conflict, about recognizably real people – saints and soldiers.

Gareth Randall

In lieu . . .

Easter 2017.

So how would you like to be remembered here ?

It is a sad fact of life that die we all must, we all will, but we have received the gift of life and the majority of folk reading this will, I trust, have lived a good life. We are fortunate to be here and to be part of St Bart’s and to benefit from the legacy of the past. And one gift to our congregation and to the folk who regularly borrow books is a toilet in the middle of our Library.

And that toilet is a gift, the generosity of a lady who was once part of our congregation – Dame Thora Hurd who had an apartment in La Vicomté, overlooking the bay up from La Prieurie. Now, according to her daughter, Janet Rademaekers, her mother had an unfortunate experience - being rained on when she was using the old, outside loo. So Dame Thora gave £20,000 to enable us to have a loo fit-for-purpose.

And, as you know, that toilet has been renovated by Chris Hughes, Bill’s son, then upgraded by the indefatigable Roger Berry. Then thanks to the untiring efforts of John and Wendy Marshall, our loo has been twinned with a couple of toilets in Nepal.

Your generosity and commitment to St Bart’s is always most welcome and much appreciated. Dame Thora bequeathed us an inside toilet. How might you care to be remembered here by those who are yet to come to be part of St Bart’s ?

Father Gareth



Dress Code

Around the turn of the year, two women were photographed shopping at Tesco's in their pyjamas. So does it matter what we wear in public nowadays ?

Of course, I am a product of the 1940's and the Rhondda Valley, and it was driven into me that I should open doors for ladies and, if on a bus, to get up and insist a lady has your seat. Of course, you'd be mad to do this now on the London tube. In the past, I've helped elderly ladies cross the road but there is a case in the Civil Law that deals with it and the question of negligence and, if you add Health and Safety to it, then that might not be wise to do either.

How many MPs appear on TV with shirts open necked à la Blair ? The First Minister in Wales was in Norway in January to see how they 'do' their equivalent of Brexit and prime-time TV showed Carwyn (ex Barrister) open-necked with stubble !

My father's shoes were always polished and I like nothing better on business occasions to wear a good suit, a quality shirt and tie. Clearly old-fashioned !

Will our PM ever attend Question time with studs in her ears and tongue? But no, I fantasise.

Things change – values remain ?

From your Man in Monmouthshire.
Ken Ivin



What is truth ? A lawyer's reply

An interesting article in last month's magazine - and an intriguing question !

My instinct as a lawyer is not to ask, 'What is truth ?' but more importantly, 'Who decides what is truth ?' Who sets out the criteria for the 'reflection of reality' (reality according to whom ?); who decides what standards we set to demonstrate concrete, verifiable facts ? Majority opinion ? Expert testimony ? Or something else, a hybrid of both perhaps ?

That's the interesting thing about law - to get the truth you need the right process. 'Truth' is measured on a spectrum - lawyers speak of a 'balance of probabilities' or 'beyond reasonable doubt' criteria. But does that show truth, or only the most likely truth based upon the standards we have determined ?

Sam Johnstone
Second-year Undergraduate
University of Newcastle



Verse of the Month

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2 v19-20



Only Matthew's gospel tells of the extraordinary Sabbath day visit by the Jewish authorities to Pilate to ask permission to set a guard on the tomb and to seal the stone to prevent rumours escaping that Jesus had returned from the dead.

Easter Eve is a day of rest. Perhaps in the pause between the cross and the empty tomb, it is good to have space to take stock. We can do so in the knowledge that all will be well. But for those Jesus loved, that particular day was one of mourning and of sadness and of loss.



Wise Words

Quotations and quips, submitted by the late Donald Soum.

Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities

Voltaire

Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us worthy evidence of the fact.

George Eliot

Children don't heed the life experiences of their parents and nations ignore history. Bad lessons always have to be learnt anew.

Einstein



'Judas Iscariot – Redeemed ?' Common purse

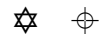
How odd
he should give me
our purse to guard,
me be steward
of our money.
Surely Matthew
is better qualified
than me to do so ?
But his trust's in me
and so our cash
is given me
to look after.
I mustn't disappoint.
I will try my best,
my very best,
to use what we have
responsibly,
carefully,
to meet our needs,
the need of others,
with an open hand
and an honest heart:
attentive,
awake,
always aware
of what is needful
so that, each day,
I do the work
I'm asked to do,
the love of others,
before night falls.

Easter Eve

*'On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.
Luke 23 v56*

*'Early on the first day of the week while it was still dark . . .'
John 20 v1*

Here, in Dinard, it's Holy Saturday. Maundy Thursday, with its foot washing, and Good Friday, with its meditation at the foot of the cross, have passed. And now we pause in expectation of what is to come tomorrow. But with the advantage of hindsight, we all know what will happen – it's a story so familiar to us all. But what I am wondering is what it would have been like for the disciples, the faithful few, as they wake up on that Passover Sabbath knowing the man they believed in and loved is dead but as yet not knowing the fact and the truth of his resurrection which will shortly take place.



Who wakes up where and with whom ?

Mary has been entrusted to John's care. Has she already joined him ?

The twelve disciples had had a base in Bethany just outside the city with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Had the eleven gone there or returned to the Upper Room in John Mark's mother's home, the place of safety to which the young naked lad had fled in terror through the dark streets of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives on the night of Jesus' arrest ?

My guess is that Thomas, at least, was not with them. By Sunday evening, he had certainly taken himself off somewhere else when Jesus came to them in the flesh. And Judas Iscariot ? By now, he is dead.

What were they thinking or feeling ? Your guess is as good as mine.

Some of the disciples are shadows to me – names only in a list. Others are more real – characters, individuals with personalities.

Peter – how black are his thoughts in the light of dawn ? He knows what he has said and done and he has to live with the weight of his guilt and disappointment and shame. A man of courage, his courage failed him before cock-crow.

And John – who was there at the foot of the cross ? He knew the man he loved and who loved him and who had entrusted him to his mother's care was dead. Was there an ache in his heart filled only with the memory of who and what he so valued and now so lacked ?

Did they eat and drink that day ? Probably but if so what ?

And what did they do ? Did they have the strength and courage to go to synagogue or to the Temple to find strength and comfort in worship or were they too afraid or too disheartened ?

And the women, not least Mary, his mother, and Mary Magdalene, what did they do ? Prepare food, cook and clean ? Unlikely, given it was the Sabbath.

Mary may have gone to see the mother of Judas – it would be good to think the two mothers met and comforted each other in their grief at the loss of their sons.

Mary Magdalene may have made plans for the next day - to visit the garden tomb and to anoint Jesus body with spices – a last gesture of her care and love for him in the flesh.