

Diary dates for June and July, 2017

4 th June	11.00 Pentecost
20 th July	10.30 Council Meeting
23 rd July	12.00 Friends AGM



Prayer of the month

Almighty God,
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you in their death as in their life:
grant that your Church,
inspired by their teaching and example,
and made one by your Spirit
may ever stand firm on the one foundation
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 St Peter and St Paul



Prayer focus

How much do we listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?



Verse of the Month

So we have known and believe the love God has for us. God is love,
and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

1 John 4:16



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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June, 2017

Dear Friends,

The Son of God

The Summer solstice – 21st June; Midsummer’s Day – 24th June; summer is truly with us.

I love the warmth, the light, the long days. Gone the winter sadness and now the joy of being in the sun.

And I’m struck that two of the Christological titles of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, are ‘Son of God’ and ‘Son of Man’. No pun intended here but in this possible play of words in English is the hidden suggestion that Jesus is indeed the light of the world.

Here in St Bart’s, we are fortunate to have some excellent stained-glass windows and from where I sit in church to lead our worship, I have a clear view above the font of Jesus, the light of the world. This version of Holman Hunt’s celebrated picture presents that wonderful truth – that Jesus brings light to the dark places of the our world and that the darkness is not able to extinguish his light. Lantern in hand, he knocks on the door, waiting for us to open and let him in.

And Jesus’ challenge to us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 v14 – 16) is that, as Christians, we in turn bring light to those around us, that we mirror his light in how we live our lives.

So let me invite you this month to reflect on how we, how you, can best be truly light-hearted in how we live our lives.

Father Gareth



Notices

- **Lent Appeal** Our thanks to all who contributed to 637€ raised for our Lenten appeal and to Carolyn Hewitt for suggesting the idea and to Eric Lambert for providing the log. It will continue a feature and focus for giving during the summer.
- **Deadline** for submission of material for the July edition of St Bart’s is *midday on Thursday 29th June*
- **Church Finances for April**
Income: 4,539€ Expenditure: 6,082€



Readings in church

June 4th Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Acts 2 v1- 21	Psalms 104 v26 - end
1 Corinthians 12 v3b - 13	John 7 v37 - 39

June 11th Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40 v12 - 17, 27 - end	Psalms 8
2 Corinthians 13 v11 - end	Matthew 28 v16 - 20

June 18th First Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 18 v1 - 15	Psalms 116 v1, 10 - 17
Romans 5 v1 – 8	Matthew 9 v35 – 10
v8	

June 25th Second Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 21 v8 - 21	Psalms 86 v1 - 10
Romans 6 v1b - 11	Matthew 10 v24 - 39



Quotations of the month

The main problem in getting old
is the future is not what it used to be

Bob Monkhouse

Definitions of Wisdom in French 5/6

Michael Frankel sent me these little gems

Nous voyons le monde divorçant, souffrant, injuste, un peu partout,
mais, nous nous marions.

C'est ça L'AMOUR.

What Father Gareth hasn't said yet 5/11

Word play from David Norris.

I'm reading a book about gravity.

I just can't put it down !

Crackers 5/11

Snippets from Xmas Crackers given me by Jim MacCormack

What do you get if you cross an apple with a Xmas tree ?

A pine-apple

Little gems 5/11

Sent to us by Peter Campbell

Sign in a bar:

'Those of you who are drinking to forget,
please pay in advance.'

Notes from the Council

May 4th

The first meeting of the new Council – familiar faces ready to manage the year ahead and, in confident anticipation, let me here in writing on your behalf, thank those who serve our church.

There was as ever much to discuss: finance, fabric, organisation, organ, organist, stewardship, activities, library, flat, garden.

Conscious of what we have and of what we need to receive/earn to maintain our church, a new stewardship awareness-raising would be undertaken this July to encourage folk to give generously to the life, witness and work of St Bart's.

The number of planned events – concerts; meals; functions – are growing including, not least, an opening shot once again for the Dinard British Film festival.

How best to celebrate our 150th anniversary of our foundation in 1871 on St Bartholomew's Day 2021 was touched on and will be explored at our July meeting.

There are plans to replace the church amplifier; the main doors to the church; the fridge freezer in the chaplaincy flat; and to purchase more demountable, portable tables for church functions.

After the meeting, I met with Karen Blampied who has been commissioned to write a third icon for us, one of St Michael, and it was agreed that it should be dedicated on Sunday 30th September 2018.

The meeting began and ended with prayer.

Father Gareth

Did that matter ?

Whilst Linda and I are now firmly ensconced once more in Chepstow and having had a love affair with both La Belle France and indeed Spain, we are I suppose now in the true sense of the word 'downsizing'

In 2001, we owned a house in Percy (Manche) and, of course, Percy is the family name of the Dukes and Duchesses of Northumberland and when the Percys formed an army in Percy, he (William the Conqueror) gave Northumberland to them !

Indeed, I have a book which plots the lifestyle of the Percys so if anyone would like a read of Lord and Serf, please let Gareth know and I will post it.

At that time, we owned a house with the best vista in Normandy and with acres of land and, for trice-annual holidays with one's dogs, it was wonderful. We made friends and mainly French and Henriette remains until this day one of our dearest friends.

I am not sure what she made of this Gallois with two Bassett hounds and who did not like Calva ! That comes from our then retired restaurateur and neighbour from Paris who believed that one could not walk the dogs at 8.30 without some sustenance to start the day. In the end, I changed my route !

However, then and now, we advance the principle of trying as best we can to distribute whatever building works we have within the village that we decided to place our heads.

Does that matter ?

Mary Poppins required !

A French family living in Pleurtuit are looking for an English mother tongue nanny to look after their two girls aged 3 and 5 after school come September. Around 12 hours a week, with a generous salary for the right candidate.

I have been doing this job since last September and really enjoy it but I am sadly moving back to the UK.

If this appeals to you or someone you know, please email me on lulabel_177@hotmail.com and I will pass on your details. Thank you!

Lindsay Bate



Wise Words

Quotations and quips, submitted by the late Donald Soum.

We often forgive those who bore us but we cannot forgive those who find us boring

La Rochefoucauld

Convictions are more dangerous enemies of the truth than lies.

Nietzsche

Erotic poetry never corrupted a person of pure heart.

Ovid



**Odd Words
'Post-truth'**

Has a really year gone by since the referendum vote on Brexit ?

Nearly.

What disturbed me then, disturbed me later, disturbs me now, is the misinformation that we are receiving from those who feel it right to assert what's right in their eyes but does not necessarily reflect objective, verifiable truth – simply an expression of anything that they think will support what they want to be so.

Words start to be devalued, arguments debased, if we cannot rely on the truth of what is being said. Hence the phrase that caught my eye in an article in the Church Times last November (11/11/16) by Paul Valley entitled 'Beware the dangers of post-truth'. In it, he highlights the then President-elect of the United States, Donald Trump.

Let me quote the heart of Valley's criticism: 'Throughout the presidential campaign, Mr Trump told lie after lie . . . When professional fact-checkers PolitiFact scrutinised his speeches, they found that 70% of his factual statements were 'mostly false', 'false' or 'pants-on-fire' untruths. Washington Post checkers examined the speeches, too, and found much of the remaining 30% also untrue.'

What hope for us, then, if our world is not based on the rock of truth ?

As your priest, I pray that what I say, that what we believe, may be a true reflection of God's love, God's Son, God's Spirit. If not, what is the point ?

Gareth Randall

Then, in Percy, we lost the head of a carpentry business and who with his sons had completed all the works on our lovely Maison de Maître.

I duly arrived at the church in the main square of Percy on a July morning, dress code appropriate, black and white predominating.

It was warm even for the Manche and, on entering the wonderful church, I was embarrassed by a myriad of dress codes including T shirts and shorts and casual clothing. I stood out and quickly reduced my presence and an open shirt and a lack of a jacket was more in alignment with our French neighbours.

Did that matter?

Ken Ivin



From the lectern 3/10

*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.*

In a pub near Anfield before a match, two strangers met over a pint and one casually said to the other that he wanted to go to the match that day but they were sold out. "No problems," said the other, "I've a spare seat. Come with me." So he did and it turned out they were some of the best seats in the stadium and naturally, he wondered why it was empty.

"It's my wife's seat but she died recently."

"I'm so sorry. Didn't one of your family or friends want to come?"

"Yes, they did - but, unfortunately, they're at the funeral."

Flak in Iraq

In aircraft-flying circles there's a well known cliché often applied to aviators who've been around the block a couple of times: 'Oh, he/she's been flying since Pontius was a pilot'. Even today you can still find the odd, mistaken, reference to 'Pontius Pilot'.

Which gives me the perfect excuse to dredge up, yet again, the true story of the heroic Italian Air Force participation in the First Gulf War of 1991, the one that turfed Saddam out of Kuwait. Because I think I may know the name of the particular Italian pilot concerned, and I bet it was something like 'Ponzio'. (I'm guessing at a modern Italian rendering of 'Pontius'.)

Italy, like the UK, was using the Panavia Tornado GR4 aircraft - which carries a pilot and a navigator and a lot of things that go bang - to attack targets on the ground. They had eight of them based in Saudi Arabia. One night, all eight took off for an attack on Iraq.

Hardly were they all airborne when one of the eight went technicco, turned back, and landed. The remaining, magnificent, seven flew on to the routine rendezvous with the airborne tankers that were to top them up with fuel for the mission.

It was a bumpy old night over Saudi. Of the magnificent seven, six failed to plug into the tankers. That meant they, too, had to turn back for base, since now they didn't have enough fuel to complete the raid.

That left just one - the pilot who I suspect was called Ponzio. Well, Ponzio had his fuel, and he had his courage, and he had his navigator to direct him to his target. So off they went to Iraq in their Tornado GR4, the last of the eight...

Questions 'Credible?'

Is our faith credible? Is what we believe believable?

I guess I trust it is. The motto of my last school, Dame Alice Owen's, whose Trustees are the Worshipful Company of the Brewers, is shared with them: 'In God is all our trust'.

But is it credible to believe in God, to trust in Him, to hope for a life in the world to come?

Well, I'm a priest so my answer ought to be yes and, of course, it is. But why?

Simply because it makes sense of the way I make sense of the world. Intuitively, I sense that there is more to life than just eating, drinking and making merry. But through the thought of the joy to be had in eating, in drinking and in being merry, I sense a divine purpose and providence to our lives.

Of course, there is the problem of evil and suffering, the difficulties raised when bad things happen to good people, the fact that we are open to pain, to death. If we are able to experience joy, then we are also open to feeling pain, being sad. If we can choose, then we can choose badly.

I don't think the universe is the product of random chance but is one of design. I believe in a God who loves us enough to give us life. Our Creator is like a father to us and through his Son, He has opened a door and shown us the way back home to him.

Credible? Well I do think so. But what about you?

Night Light

During the last month or two, at least three members of the congregation have fallen when making their way to the toilet during the night.

It strikes me that some of these falls may be avoided by leaving a light on during the night. To those concerned about the cost, a 40 watt bulb burning all day and night for a year would cost about 28€ or considerably less if switched off during daylight hours. Surely a small price to pay.

David Morgan



Holiday let in St Suliac

- A charming room in one of the most beautiful villages of France.
- Up two flight of stairs, suitable for fit travellers !
- Double bed, private bathroom with Wi-Fi and linen included.
- Access to fridge and kitchen on a common agreed basis.

Cost per night: 46€ without breakfast.

Please call or send sms to Prisca Michel 📞 06 26 53 57 22



...And got shot down straight away by heavy flak.

That might sound like a tragic ending. In fact, though, Ponzio and his nav ejected safely and the worst that happened to them was that they spent several unpleasant weeks enjoying the hospitality of the Iraqi Ba'ath Party. They've been long since back in La Bella Italia.

And I am not making this up...

David Boggis



Godly humour 2/3

Barry Jordan's son, Nathan, sent us this treat for after Easter !

"There's good news and there's bad news," the Priest told the congregation. "The good news is that we have more than enough money for all the current and future needs of the Church. The bad news is that it's still in your pockets."



Book of Common Prayer

'Quotation of the month' – 14/20

O God, our heavenly Father, who by thy gracious providence dost cause the former and the latter rain to descend upon the earth, that it may bring forth fruit for the use of man; We give thee humble thanks that it hath pleased thee, in our great necessity, to send us at last a joyful rain on thine inheritance, and to refresh it when it was dry.

Thanksgiving for Rain



Film Review of the month
‘Misunderstood’ – Luigi Comencini, 1967

‘L’Incompris’ (‘Incompreso’) was released on DVD in 2011 and I purchased a copy from Amazon France hence this Italian film with an English lead can be viewed in Italian with French subtitles ! Well if that does not deter you, then you are in for a treat provided you prefer a psychological exploration of a relationship to CIG action!

This is a father-and-son drama in which the Italian wife of the British Consul for Florence has recently died and Sir John Duncombe (Anthony Quayle) has spared his sons, Andrea (Stefano Colagrande) aged 9, and Milo (Simone Giannozzi) aged 4, knowledge of her terminal illness.

Sir John is typical of one view of the English aristocracy, all stiff upper lip, afraid of emotion and of giving his son the hug he clearly needs. He steels himself to confide the secret of their mother’s death to his older son on the strict understanding Andrea does not tell his brother who is too young and too delicate to bear the truth. Curiously the proverb ‘little pigs have big ears’ is ever true - Andrea already knows.

The film is an exploration of the tension in a household materially rich but desperately poor when it comes to emotional intelligence.

I won’t give the ending away but it will be interesting to note when you guess what the inexorable outcome will be. Suffice it to say, I cried (so what else is new?). It is a great film to see if you want to see a film set in Florence, beautifully shot and observed with Italian as the language spoken and Mozart Piano Concerto no 23 second movement as the principal soundtrack.

Gareth Randall

And, BTW, did you know that Heckler & Koch of Oberndorf am Neckar, Baden Württemberg producer of the rifles the Brit police carry at Heathrow was majority-owned by BAe Systems until 2002 ? And that, while I’m on it, Saab Gripen fighter was until 2011 majority-owned also by BAe Systems ? Cue Bob Dylan . . .

David Boggis



She Is Gone

Janet and Geoff Scott sent us the following poem which was read at the end of the funeral service for their friend, Dr Mary Ruth Venning, in Grantham on 20th February this year:

You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
or you can open your eyes and see all she has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can’t see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she’s gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
or you can do what she would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Biretta

I was prompted to wear my biretta again for the Easter service given there was a prizes for the best Easter bonnet but again I never won anything but it did produce this email which I'm copying into our June St Barts some six weeks on.

The funny hat you wore today is called a biretta, with a lower-case initial followed by the letter 'I'.

The Italian small-arms company is called Beretta, with a cap (proper noun) followed by the letter 'E'. (Think: bEret.)

To date, Beretta's most successful product is the Beretta 92 family, which comprises a whole bunch of related handguns, mostly in 9mm calibre. Their success derives from a US Government contract in the early 1970s for a pistol to replace the old (and still highly beloved) Colt .45 M1911A1. '1911' refers to the year in which it was introduced into service. The reason was this.

The era concerned was one in which US Forces were enrolling increasing numbers of women. Many of them couldn't hit anything with a 1911 Colt .45, and some of the poor little souls broke their wrists trying. Hence the Beretta 92, with its 9mm ammo, which causes far less recoil because the propellant charge behind the projectile is that much less. Old Grunts sneer. So would George Orwell have done, had he heard of it. He is on record in 'Homage to Catalonia' as saying you can't knock the other guy down reliably with anything less than a .45.

Mind you, Orwell was history at the time the Israel Defence Forces commissioned a monstrous pistol called the Desert Eagle, with a calibre of .50. That's right, half an inch. The Israelis don't kid around.

One important difference was that the Beretta 92 could carry 15 rounds fully loaded, against a mere seven for the Colt.

Extra Film Review of the Month 'Fountain' – Darren Aronofsky 2006

A second gift from Michael Frankel, this DVD is a multi-layered story. It's a Sci Fi/Fantasy/Spiritual Quest in three parallel times: Span-'ish' Conquistadors, Queen, Inquisition, in search of . . . ; contemporary doctor whose wife is dying of cancer in search of a cure; a futuristic space explorer searching for . . .

'Fountain' stars Hugh Jackman and Rachel Weisz who each play one of the three male and female leads. Are they parallel lives, three of the two same souls, three incarnations of the one pair ?

'Fountain' is dark, brooding, with flashes of light, confused and confusing. A mixture of Christianity and Buddhism with a touch of the Aztec or Inca, 'Fountain' invites enquiry into the age-old question of life, death and mortality. Is death the source of life ? Certainly, there is a tree of life in the centre of this tale – sought out, sought after, its sap with remarkable powers of regeneration.

Did I like it ? Bit of a curate's egg, definitely good in parts but uneven, sloping off on the odd tangent.

Will you like 'Fountain' ? Depends on taste; reviews are mixed with the balance tipping just in its favour. Well, it's a bit different and probably easier to follow and to understand if you're not multitasking and doing the ironing at the same time as trying not to lose the plot !

Gareth Randall



‘Judas Iscariot – Redeemed ?’

Handover

I can't take anymore.
I just can't go on
following someone
who's clearly lost it.
This Son of David,
who's born to restore
the Kingdom to Israel,
is now a man who says
pay tax to Rome,
render to Caesar
what is Caesar's,
who predicts an end
to the House of God
here in Jerusalem.
Where is the dream
he sowed in my heart ?
The Kingdom of God ?
The bread from heaven ?
The light of the world ?
The shepherd of our people ?
The gate ? The path ?
God's true vine ?
He's lost his way.
He's lost the plot.
But if I hand him over
to the High Priest's men,
it may bring him to his senses,

may force him to act,
call a legion of angels
to come and save him
and crown him Messiah,
not a suffering servant !
Unworthy though I am,
let me truly serve God
by trying to save His plan.



Letting go

As part of our Bible Studies in Lent, we explored the theme of forgiveness. The week after that particular study, listening as ever to the Radio, I was struck by the phrase ‘to let go’.

Central to our faith as Christians is an understanding of forgiveness - the need to forgive and to be forgiven in order that we can best function in community as kith and kin. ‘To let go’ was telling me what it truly means to forgive – to let go of the hurt, the anger, the sense of being wronged. To forgive is to free oneself, to be able to move on and be light-hearted rather than to be trapped in the dark of reliving a wrongdoing without end. Forgiveness is about healing and moving on



St Alban's Day – Dinard

Mild the day,
still the wind,
full the sea,
overcast the sky,
good to be here