

Diary dates for August and September, 2017

20th August 11.00 Patronal Festival
7th September 10.30 Council Meeting
24th September 11.00 Harvest Festival



Prayer of the month

Almighty and everlasting God,
who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace
truly to believe and to preach your word:
grant that your Church
may love that word which he believed
and may faithfully preach and receive the same
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 Bartholomew



Prayer focus

What it might mean to be a Christian martyr.



Verse of the Month

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:2



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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August, 2017

Notices

Dear Friends,

Nathaniel Bartholomew

In the Christian calendar, St Bartholomew's Day is 24th August. We mark the day with a lunch in the church garden after our regular 11.00 service on the nearest Sunday, provided it's not the Sunday of the Braderie in Dinard which makes parking near the church impossible.

Bartholomew is our patron saint's surname – Bar Tolmai, son of Tolmai. Nathaniel is his given name at his circumcision and means 'gift of God'. Nathaniel is only mentioned in John's gospel where there is also no mention of Bartholomew. In the other three gospels, the reverse is true. What links the two names is Philip, one of the twelve disciples, friend to our saint and mentioned alongside him as a pair in the Synoptic gospels' lists of the disciples.

It makes me smile to think our church is named after a saint whose first name means a 'gift of God' for that precisely is what our church is: God's gift to us – a place where we can meet Him through meeting with each other, a place where we can be in touch, be touched, connected through worship, quiet prayerfulness, hearing God's word and listening to joyful music.

The day before I sat down to write my letter to you, Johanna Konta beat the second seed, Simona Halep, to become the first British woman to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals since Virginia Wade in 1978. She was encouraged to give of her best by the vocal support and positive presence of the crowd of spectators who had given of their time and money to be present, part of the match. As our stewardship campaign draws to a close, are you prepared to do the same for St Bart's?

Father Gareth

➤ **Deadline** for submission of material for the September edition of St Bart's is *midday on Thursday 31st August*

➤ **Church Finances for June**
Income: 4,049€ Expenditure: 3,702€



Readings in church

August 6th Transfiguration

Daniel 7 v9 – 10, 13 - 14

Psalms 97

2 Peter 1 v16 - 16

Luke 9 v28 - 36

August 13th Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 37 v1 – 4, 12 - 28

Psalms 105 v1 - 10

Romans 10 v5 - 15

Matthew 14 v22 - 33

August 20th St Bartholomew

Acts 5 v12 – 16

Psalms 145 v1 – 7

1 Corinthians 4 v9 – 15

Luke 22 v24 – 30

August 27th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 3 v1 - 15

Psalms 26 v1 - 8

Romans 12 v9 - end

Matthew 16 v 21 - end



A French pun ?

Given what he believes, why might a priest be expected to eat liver ?

A question of 'foi' & 'foie' ?

Quotations of the month

Never speak ill of yourself;
Your friends will say enough on that subject

Talleyrand



What Father Gareth hasn't said yet 7/11

Word play from David Norris.

Broken pencils are
pointless.



Crackers 7/11

Snippets from Xmas Crackers given me by Jim MacCormack

What would you call a cow who can play a guitar ?
A Moo-sician.



Little gems 7/11

Sent to us by Peter Campbell

Behind every great man
is a surprised woman.



Notes from the Council

July 20th

It's summertime and the Carters and the Marshalls are back with us; Dinard fireworks the previous evening; and, in committee, we addressed a variety of issues, some old, some new, all signs that our church has a long history, a vibrant present and, God-willing, a great future.

So what were we discussing ? Stewardship – our renewal of the intention that we should by our time, by our effort and by our money guarantee that our present has a future. Safeguarding – that all who come to our church may be properly cared for by what we do and how we organise ourselves. Organ – that music, which is at the centre of our worship, be properly maintained and appropriately managed. Teaching English – the possibility of lessons for the French to acquire a greater mastery our language.

Of course, the usual items were also considered: church finance; the fabric of our church; the church flat; the church garden; the church library; ecumenism; communication. There are so many concerts in July and August and two church lunches which should put us in good heart.

Sadly, we did not have time to consider the celebrations of our 150th anniversary in 2021 of the opening of St Bartholomew's back in 1871 but, in principle, Chris Curtis's kind invitation to use Les Essarts in St Brieuc as a venue for our celebrations was welcomed with enthusiasm.

The meeting, as ever, began and ended with prayer.

Father Gareth



**Annual Report for the Friends of St Bartholomew
2016 - 2017**

As President of the Association of the Friends of St Bartholomew at the end of my third year in office it gives me great pleasure to deliver the annual Presidential Report.

This month we have had a major focus on the renewal of our stewardship campaign. The present and the future of St Bart's depend both on a sound financial basis and a healthy income. We enjoy being part of the fellowship of an open Christian family, rooted in an Anglican Church, long established here in Dinard. We have enjoyed the rich legacy of the past and if we are to leave a sound healthy church for those who come after us, we really do need to put our money and effort where our heart is.

Our church is a place where we can meet not only for worship and fellowship, but also to enjoy eating and being together and to hear good music not just from our organ, recently renovated, but also from the rich variety of concerts which are taking place this summer.

As you are aware as Friends, we are responsible for the fabric of the church and we own the church building, the library and garden, and also the chaplaincy flat. As Friends, we need to manage all of these carefully so that we remain a viable and effective church here in Dinard now and in the future.

The building continues to be cherished and well maintained by Bill and his son Chris, Eric Lambert, David Morgan and Roger Berry - to whom we are very grateful. There are plans to upgrade the doors at the entrance to the church and replace the carpet in the central aisle. Already this year, the sound system has been renewed and new folding tables purchased.

**Book of Common Prayer
'Quotation of the month' – 16/20**

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for the 4th Sunday after Easter



Wise Words

Quotations and quips, submitted by the late Donald Soum.

Any idiot can face a crisis – it's day-to-day living that wears you out.
Chekhov

Sex is the only mysticism offered by materialism.
Malcolm Muggeridge

Nobody who does not rise early will ever do any good.
Dr Johnson



Well bread

My mum loved eating bread and here in France I am lucky to eat freshly baked bread, pain au céréale, and it is the taste of heaven.

From the lectern 5/10

*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 Scottish lad left Aberdeen to study music at university in London. After a couple of months, his parents came south to visit him at his hall of residence and asked him how things were going.

“Fine - except the student who lives on one side of me keeps banging his fists on the wall while the one on the other side, keeps banging his head on the wall.”

“Oh dear, not good ! So what do you do ?”

“Nothing - I just keep playing my bagpipes.”



Vavasseur

In a cap
in the street
on his own
on his phone
a boy
in black
looks peaky



Sandwich Tern

Curiously, the bird known as a Sandwich Tern is not one we'd eat between two slices of bread or one that might try to steal your lunch from the beach but a bird that derives its name from the seaside town in Kent.

Many people appreciate the free access to the large collection of books available in our Library, which is ably managed by our Librarian, Dr David Norris. Our garden is also much appreciated by all who take advantage of its peace and shade - the Friends have contributed to the cost of the gardener to help to maintain it as well as providing help with the gardening!

Finally let me once again on behalf of the Friends thank three people in particular: Dr David Norris, our Honorary Secretary, and Mr Ian Phillips, our Honorary Treasurer, who both play a vital part in the smooth running of the Friends - we greatly appreciate all that they do for us. Last, but not least, Father Gareth Randall, who gives so much to the church and to all of us and plays a key role in its success.

In these challenging days of Brexit for those of us living in France or still living in both countries St Barts provides stability due to its long established presence in Dinard.

I conclude my annual report confident that not only will our Association continue to thrive but so will our church of which we, as Friends, are faithful stewards both by what we do and what we give.

Professor Janet Darbyshire, CBE



Old or Young An insight in French

Etre vieux :
c'est être jeune
depuis plus longtemps
que les autres –
c'est tout.

How the Taxis got their T(h)urn

Much as I dislike arguing with Father Gareth, let alone the OED, I fear their information about taxis and cabs may need to be taken farther back in time.

The tale I relate is one I first heard long ago in a German language class, and is backed up historically by Wikipedia, citing a bunch of sources, mostly written in German.

It goes back to the princely House of Thurn and Taxis, a German noble family that was a key player in the postal services in Europe in the 16th century, well known as owners of breweries and builders of many castles. (I've sampled some in the family seat of Regensburg and it's not a bad brew, even compared with other German ales.)

The first of the line to make his name was the Italian Ruggiero de Tassis, who around 1450 organised a postal system between Bergamo and Vienna. Rewards included elevations in status at the imperial court for Ruggiero and his successors, one of whom, Francisco de Tassis, became captain of the post under Philip of Burgundy in 1502. The two fell out over payments, and that was the first time the postal service was opened to the public.

That meant you could catch a ride on the post carriage, which by now was linking the rich Habsburg Netherlands to the Spanish court via France. As the business spread throughout the Holy Roman Empire, the Tassis family, now Frenchified into 'de La Tour et Tassis' instead Germanised their name into Thurn und Taxis.

So now when you boarded the post carriage, you were in a 'taxi'.

Questions 'To – Two – Too' ?

If you're a native English speaker, then you probably know the difference between the three types of the same sounding but differently spelt words above. If English is not your mother tongue, then possibly you're still at ease with these three homonyms. But what do they mean?

Well, the first 'to' has two meanings. One is as a preposition to express direction, to go to a place, or to send a letter to a person. The other 'to' is to indicate the infinitive of a verb as in 'to express', 'to go' or 'to send'.

The second 'two' only has one meaning: 'two' is the written form of the number 2 and simply means 1 + 1.

The third 'too' also has two meanings. Firstly, 'too' suggests too much or too little, expressing the notion of quantity, number or volume whether there's more than enough or insufficient. Secondly, too can mean 'as well' or 'also' – for example, 'I love you, too.'

So I trust the two minutes it's taken to read this article has not been too long or wasted !

Gareth Randall

Quip

*Speaking to Pauline Eyre on the telephone last month,
she shared this inflated pun with me:*

Why would the singer, Beyoncé, not want Roy Castle as her father ?
She might then be known as a
Beyoncé Castle !

Odd Words
'Out of one's shoes'

Radio 4 as ever – 'Midweek' – and someone uses a phrase I've not heard or seen before, a phrase literally translated from the German that catches my attention: 'to be out of one's shoes'. Essentially, he means to be uncomfortable, to be out of one's comfort zone, displaced and, therefore, uneasy in oneself.

Love it – and I thought the Germans didn't have a sense of humour ! And it reminds me of a passage in 'To Kill a Mockingbird' where Scout is invited by her father, Atticus, to imagine what the world looks like to their neighbour, Boo Radley, what life might look like from his point of view, standing on his porch. We, the reader, are being invited to stand in his shoes and to see things from his perspective.

Love it – and so, as someone who loves to go barefoot, to stand in someone's shoes, or to be out of one's shoes, is surely something to be desired !

Gareth Randall

P.S.

Since my 'O' Level German is not strictly fit for purpose, I checked with my friend Renata who comes from Switzerland and she tells me the phrase, 'Sich in seinen Schuhen unbehaglich fühlen' is fairly old-fashioned. Nowadays, someone would probably be more likely to use "Sie fühlte sich nicht ganz wohl in ihrer Haut" (she did not feel comfortable in her SKIN).



By 1866, the businesses were owned by Prussia, which nationalised the post the following year. The remaining business – carrying passengers for hire – developed into what we now know as taxis.

PS. Anyone who's ever flown an aircraft would take issue with Father Gareth's OED 1914 definition of 'to taxi'. When you line up with the runway centreline, point the nose at the other end and give the throttle full whack, there's no way that is 'to taxi' – it's a full-blooded takeoff run. Even more full-blooded in the case of my good friend former RAF Flight Lieutenant Phil Keeble (who has just published his memoirs as "Reheat Sunset") who used to do it in Tornado F3s with double afterburner plumes blazing out behind him.

Taxying is what you do when you're moving your wingèd steed from wherever the last pilot parked it to the end of the runway to burst the surly bonds.

Incidentally, Royal Air Force manuals spell the verb as 'to taxy'. To me, that reads better.

David Boggis



From Der Spiegel

*Caption in a recent Der Spiegel, published about the time
of the US withdrawal from the Paris environment deal*

Weltklima: Donald Trump erklärt der Vernunft den Krieg
'Donald Trump declares war on reason'

David Boggis



Abraham and Isaac

A big thank you to Bob White, one of our congregation, a newly qualified Reader in the Canterbury diocese who preached at our Sunday service on 2nd July. His sermon focused on Genesis 22, a story I'm sure you know well, but it made me ask the following questions of the text.

When God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, whom he loved and who was a God-given promise, what did he feel ? Why did Abraham obey God without question or argument ?

When the boy was bound and laid on the wood as a sacrifice, what did Isaac feel ?

What was the relationship between father and son thereafter ?

For Jews, the story establishes a total rejection of the Canaanite practice of sacrifice to the gods of fertility.

For Christians, the story is a model of what God the Father in the person of God the Son was prepared to do for us.



Be right then write !

A new series for the magazine – let me have a verse from the Bible that you love that has made a deep impression on you together with a short paragraph of why you love it so.



Décongélation....

*This excellent piece of advice was sent to me by Michael Frankel -
a good test of your French and your prudence*

Cela vous est-il déjà arrivé de rentrer de voyage et de constater que toutes vos horloges étaient dérégées ? Il ne faut pas longtemps pour réaliser que tout cela est dû à une coupure de courant. Et il est très difficile de savoir combien de temps cette panne a duré et si elle a pu endommager les produits qui se trouvaient dans votre réfrigérateur. Ils ont très bien pu être décongelés, être périmés, mais avoir gelé à nouveau.

Mais à partir de maintenant, rappelez-vous d'une chose que vous pouvez utiliser chaque fois que vous quittez votre domicile. Cela peut sembler étrange, mais tout ce dont vous avez besoin c'est d'une tasse, d'une pièce de monnaie, et d'eau !

Mettez une tasse d'eau dans le congélateur. Attendez une heure pour que l'eau gèle, puis ajoutez une pièce de monnaie sur le dessus avant de laisser le tout dans le congélateur. De cette façon, quand vous rentrez chez vous, vous pouvez savoir si votre nourriture a mal tourné, puis gelé à nouveau, ou si elle est restée congelé tout le temps où vous étiez partis. Si la pièce est tombée au fond de la tasse, cela signifie que tous les aliments ont eu le temps de décongeler, et que vous devez le jeter. Mais si la pièce est toujours sur le dessus, c'est que tout va bien.

C'est aussi une bonne idée de laisser cette tasse systématiquement dans le congélateur – comme cela, si l'électricité s'arrête, vous serez toujours sûrs de pouvoir consommer ou non vos aliments en toute sécurité!

Simple, efficace et pas cher ! Un autre avantage: cette technique est favorable à l'environnement car elle vous permet de ne pas jeter inutilement de la nourriture tout à fait consommable.

**Film Review of the Month
'Moonlight' – Barry Jenkins 2016**

I missed seeing 'Moonlight' in Dinard around the time of the Oscars this Spring. I ordered it from Amazon and it dropped into my mail box some time in June and I watched it at the end of that month.

'Moonlight' is an interesting and challenging film. Set in the States in Miami in Florida, 'Moonlight' is the story shot in three time frames, focusing on Chiron as a boy, lad and young man: first as an 11-year-old known as Little (Alex Hibbert); then as a 17-year-old known as Black (Ashton Sanders); then as the 25-year-old Chiron (Trevante Rhodes).

The challenge for Chiron is coming to terms with who he is and what he is. The son of a single mum who is drug-addicted, Chiron is bullied at school because he seems different to and from his classmates – they call him a faggot. Surprisingly, help comes from an unlikely quarter, from the local drug dealer, Juan (Mahershala Ali) and from a boy his age, Kevin – likewise played by three actors: at 11 by Jaden Piner; at 17 by Jharrel Jerome; at 25 by André Holland. Each actor brings a sensitive interpretation to the character of Chiron who, as the poster advertising the film suggests, is one person made up of three characters.

The film is powerful but authentic. As a teacher, the school Chiron attends seems short on pastoral care and discipline. Bullying, the threat of violence, an unstable family life, underscored by music composed by Nicolas Brittel which enhances and underpins the meaning and value of what we see.

Well, you may well find 'Moonlight' hard to watch but, essentially, it is an optimistic vision of how, despite not inconsiderable obstacles and difficulties, Chiron does become the person he is truly meant to be.

Gareth Randall

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Warsaw to Kiev 2: Tank trap

Forlorn, breath misting on the station platform in Belarus, we watched our train slowly disappear with all our possessions, except passports with no Belarus visa, still on board.

At least we weren't the only ones who'd been thrown off the train. There must have been fifteen of us, one of them a former East German in his late twenties, loudly complaining about how this never happened to him when he was on his old DDR – German Democratic Republic – passport.

We waited for officialdom to arrive and tell us what to do. No officialdom arrived. We wondered how on earth we were to be reunited with our rucksacks. No answers suggested themselves. One by one, we drifted off to the bleak waiting room to wait. And wait.

No one came for us. An hour passed. My middle-aged bladder began to make itself felt and I found my way to the station loo. It had a single his-and-hers entrance: you split up once inside. The single entrance was attended by a Belarusian lady the size of a Sikh bodyguard only without the beard and turban. Beside her she had a little table with a plate full of coins on.

I walked in. As I went about my business, I wondered how I was going to get out again. Never having expected to be in Belarus, we had of course no Belarus currency. Bluff it out, I thought – just walk straight out and ignore the Belarusian-Sikh bodyguard.

As if. Hardly had I stepped into the entrance-exit doorway when an arm like a tree trunk dropped across, barring my way. It could have stopped a tank. It darn sure stopped me.

TO BE CONTINUED

David Boggis

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'Judas Iscariot – Redeemed ?'

The Kiss

He lets me kiss him,
a kiss of greeting
the way friends do.
My kiss - a sign
to the guards
in the dark
of the garden
that it's him.
My lips lightly
touch his cheek
and, as they do,
such power
flows from him
to me,
through me
like a river
swollen by rain,
or high tide
at full moon
on the shore.
Overwhelmed
by his presence,
by his love,
I feel bad
who I am
what I do,
giving my friend
to those who hate him,
to those who'll hurt him.

Am I such a fool
to think I know best
what he's meant to do ?
No, I'm responsible
for what's to come.
Not good.
Not kind.
What on earth
should I do,
can I do,
now ?



Bartholomew

What is known of him ?
A name in a list;
a friend of Philip;
a disciple of Jesus;
silence; legend;
Nathaniel named in John,
of Cana in Galilee,
promised a vision,
Jacob's ladder,
of angels
ascending,
descending;
Apostle to the Armenians,
martyr, skinned alive.

