

The Rectory St James the Least of All (To make you smile)

My dear Nephew Darren

So, now you have enjoyed your first Summer Fete. Don't say I didn't warn you. It may be small consolation but remember that they only happen once a year.

I negotiated our own last week. As usual, the band from our neighbouring parish of St Eusebius played. There has been much bad blood in the past between our two villages. The trouble started on the day that St James the Least of All never told St Eusebius that the Vikings were coming up the river. We may have long since buried the hatchet, but both sides remember where they put it. Tension between the two communities down the centuries has moved on from occasional slaughter to something a little more refined. Just as I began my opening speech to crown the Rose Queen, the band struck up with the National Anthem. When the hog roast started, they played "smoke gets in your eyes" and when it came to the necessary music for the maypole dancing, they all disappeared into the beer tent.

With great Christian charity, we shall bide our time. In September we have the annual football match between the two churches' Servers. Last year, in addition to winning the match, the St James' boys sent three of their side off with concussion. Naturally, I visited them in hospital.

Miss Prendergast, as always, played Gypsy Rose Lee. If the tall, dark, dear lady tells me one more time that I am about to find romance with a tall dark lady, while she flutters her eyelashes at me, I swear I shall throttle her with a bell rope. Besides, I already have a beautiful dark lady in my life – and my Labrador is devoted to me.

The only real hiccough came when I bought 12 packets of fudge from Mrs Masheder to present to our choirboys. Yet again, she had misread salt for sugar in the recipe. After I presented the packets at Mattins the following day, a formal complaint was rapidly made by a parent to the police that the Rector was attempting to poison their children

St. Barts Weekly News

Rector: Rev. Canon Jonathan Gordon 01442 871547

Priest: Rev. Michael Eggleton 0758 5600408 or 01442 823273

Readers: Peggy Sear and David White

Sunday June 14th Second Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 76, 63, 427, 553

12 noon Holy Baptism

Readings

Genesis 18: 1-15
Psalm 116:1,10-17
Romans 5: 1-8
Matthew 9: 35-10.8

6pm Evening Prayer
Psalm 45
Deuteronomy 10: 12-11.1
Acts 23: 12-end

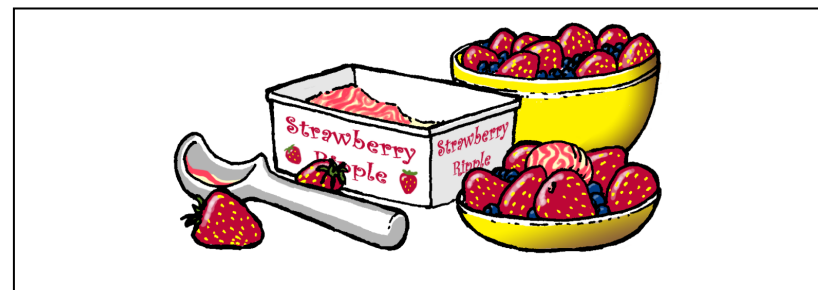
Sunday June 21st Third Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion BCP
10am Parish Eucharist
Hymns: 76, 63, 427, 553

Readings

Genesis 21: 8-21
Psalm 86
Romans 6: 1-11
Matthew 10: 24-39

6pm Evening Prayer
Psalm 49
Deuteronomy 11: 1-15
Acts 27: 1-12



Cream Tea Time

Join us again at the church for an
afternoon of teas and cakes and
plenty of good conversation

**EVERY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT
JULY AND AUGUST 2-4PM**

**ST. BARTHOLOMEWS
CHURCH WIGGINTON**



Prayers of Intercession

Lord as we come to you in the quietness, we pause to think of all the signs of your presence with us this week - the smile of a stranger, the taste of a summer fruit, or some comforting words from a friend. Sometimes we are so focussed on how hard life can be and how difficult our calling as disciples seems that we forget to praise and thank you for all the large and small signs of your presence. So now, in the stillness we take that time...

Lord, we rejoice that you have called us to be your followers; and more than followers, we are your friends. But we know that with that joy comes responsibility: to take your love into our everyday lives and be witnesses for you wherever you send us. So, we think of those places now and commit them to you.

First, we focus on our homes. Lord, sometimes it's harder to be your follower at home than outside it. It's at home that we are so often our worst selves. Forgive us for times when we are grumpy, angry, unhelpful or unkind to those we live with. Help us to share our love for you with those around us by being people of gentleness and kindness.

Lord, we turn now to our lives outside the home. Lord Jesus, you know that these can sometimes be the hardest places to witness to you. Lord, give us the courage to tell just one person this week about you. We imagine ourselves in that place now and ask you to show us one person that we could encourage with the good news of your love this week.

Lord, we focus now on the wider community. May this church be a beacon of light to those who live and work nearby. Help us to be a place of welcome and security for all who enter our doors. Give us courage to be your witnesses in this neighbourhood. May this church be a place that is talked about for all the right reasons.

