

Eune Pâraisse Bein Bénie.

Est-che qué ch'est possibl'ye tch' il y-a déjà deux ans qué j'tais à vos pâlé dé les deux chents ans dé not Chapelle Wesleyenne à St Martîn – la premièthe Chapelle dé 1820, où-est qu'est Ash Cottage au jour d'anniet – et les missions en Jèrri et Dgèrnesi du Révérend Jean dé Quetteville, parmi d'autres? Mais, bein seux, à seulement 200 ans, ch'est la 'p'tchiote' dé nos églyises pârouaïssials.

La pâraisse à rêjouit dé tout pliein d'aut'e chapelles et d'églyises, pour un mille d'années. Bein seux les preunmièthes – p'têtre treize dé ieux – 'taient toutes Catholique Romaines. L'taient toutes bein p'tites et pus au mus associés avec eune Abbaye à tchique distance, ou tchique fanmil'ye en partitchulyi et lus mênage. Et d'avant qué j'procède pus lien, i'm' faut dithe qué lé bieu livre dé not Paraisse m'a 'tait îndispensabl'ye acouo eune fais.

Pour vais ches p'tites chapelles ichin, jé d'vions értouôner les adgules dé l'hôlouoge par onze chents ans, quand les Nouormands devîntent Chrétiens pour la preunmièthe fais! Châque Dînmanche nous éthai trouvé la Mêsse à êt'e célébrée à Rôzé, à Ste Catherine, à Faldouet, au Mangni d'Rôsé, au Vièr Châté d'Gouôrray, etc., etc. Mais par achteu, apart des cheinnes au Châté et l'Mangni, i'sont presque toutes dispathues, sauve eune crouaix en granit ichîn et là, tch'a 'tée dêcou'èrte à la carre dé tchique clios.

La seule exception est p'têt'e la Grande Églyise dé St. Martîn-Le-Vièr, construite à travers les siècl'yes par dessus eune preunmièthe p'tite Chapelle bein muchis par achteu souôs lé sanctuaithe dé l'églyise d'anniet. Établ'ye au centre dé la pâraisse, ou prînt bein d's années à s'agrandithe, prenant la forme d'eune crouaix avec eune tour carrée au centre, mais sans lé cliochi ou lé mèrtcheux qué nous y vait anniet. La preunmièthe fais qu'oulle est mentionnée est en 1042, mais oulle est bein pus vielle qué chenna!

Auprés la Réformation ou prînt eune forme Cauviniste jusqu'au dgiêx-neuvième siécl'ye quand ou vînt souôs les soins du diocèse dé Salisbury et pis dé Winchester, et dreinement, Salisbury acouo eune fais. Ou d'vînt eune Églyise dé tchique importance en Jèrri et ses Recteux ont încliut huit Doyens dé Jèrri – Mabon, Poulet et Bandinel parmi ieux – et trais Vice-Doyens.

Ches tréjous eune tristesse quand les diverse Églyises ont 'té en dgèrre ieune avec l'autre ou lus gouvernements, mais quand même i' y-a eut dé bouôns êffets par fais. Quand le Huguenots eûtent à tchitter la France, plusieurs grandes fanmil'yes, comme les Dé Fayes, Sinels, Guitons, Dé Gruchières et les Vouaisins, s'installîtent dans les îles.

Auprés la Révolution en France ch'tait les ordres Catholique tchi trouvitent un sanctuaithe en Jèrri et aidgîtent hardi est Catholique d'ichîn à célébrer lus chultes, sustout dans la ville. À la compagne ch'té pus difficile. Sans eune chapelle ou églyise dans l'vaîsinné, les travailleurs sustout, sans transport, n'avaient autcheune chance d'aller à la Mêsse. Ils applyitchîtent à l'Évêque dé Southwark à lus aidgi.

Entre 1847 et 1855, un Père E. Hallum condit des tchultes Catholiques dans la pâraisse et lus aidgit à bâti la p'tite Chapelle dé Notre Dame dé St. Martîn à Faldouet avec eune p'tite école, auprès dé Carteret View ou'est tch' il 'tait louogyi. En 1856, il fut suivi par un autre prêtre, Père Joseph Guiramand, et malgré tchi n'tait pas janne, il y restit pour bein d's années. Quand la p'tites chapelle à Faldouet d'vînt trop p'tite i' lus aidgit à bâti la belle Églyise dé Notre Dame dé l'Annonciation et des Martythes du Japon qué j'connaissons au jour d'anniet.

I' y a accouo d'autres églyises à Gouôrray. Tandis tch'il y a tout pliein d'chouais, les Anglicans, Catholiques et Méthodistes, Dgieu mèrcie, travailles hardi bein ensembl'yes dé nos jours. Eune pâraisse vraiment bénie.

A Parish Well Blest.

Is it really two years since I was telling you about the two-hundred-year history of our Methodist Chapel at St. Martin – the first Chapel erected where Ash Cottage still stands today – and of the missionary endeavours in Jersey and Guernsey of the Rev'd Jean de Quetteville, among others? But, of course, at only 200 years, it is very much the 'baby' of our parish's churches.

The parish rejoiced in lots of other chapels and churches over the past thousand years. Of course, these earliest ones – perhaps thirteen of them – were all Roman Catholic. They were all very small and more-or-less all associated with a distant Abbey or a particular family and their entourage. And before I go any further, I must say how indebted I am to our splendid Parish book once again.

To see these little chapels, we would have to turn back the hands of our clocks some eleven hundred years ago when the Normans first converted to the Christian faith! Each Sunday you would have found Mass being celebrated at Rozel, St Catherine's, Faldouet, Rosel Manor and the Old Castle at Gorey, etc., etc. But by our day, apart from the ones at the Manor and Castle, they have all but disappeared, except for an occasional granite cross dug up from the corner of some field.

Perhaps the only exception is the Parish Church of St. Martin the Old, built through the centuries over a first small chapel, now well hidden under the present chancel. At the heart of its parish, it took many centuries of expansion before it reached its cruciform shape with, at first, a simple square tower, without the steeple that now graces it. The first written record of it is in 1042 but it is much older than that.

After the Reformation it adopted a Calvinist form of Protestantism till the nineteenth century, when it moved more fully to diocese of Salisbury for a while and then Winchester, and recently of course back to Salisbury. It became a church of some importance in the island as no less than eight of her Rectors became Deans of Jersey – Deans Mabon, Poulet and Bandinel among them – and also three Vice Deans.

It's always a matter of sadness when various church denominations are 'at war' with each other or with their nation's government, and yet good has sometimes come from this. When the Huguenots had to leave their French homeland several great families like the De Fayes, Sinels, Guitons, De Gruchys and Voisins came and settled in the Islands.

After the French Revolution, it was various Roman Catholic Orders who found sanctuary in Jersey and helped local Catholics greatly to celebrate their services, especially in the Town area. In the countryside it was more difficult. Without chapels or churches in the neighbourhood, working people especially, without means of transport, had no chance of attending Mass. They appealed to the Bishop of Southwark to help them.

Between 1847 and 1855, a certain Father E. Hallum conducted Roman Catholic services for them in the parish and helped them to build the Chapel of Our Lady of St. Martin along with a small school, near Carteret View where he was lodging. In 1856, he was succeeded by another priest, Father Joseph Guiramand, and even though not a young man, he served for many years. When this little chapel at Faldouet became too small, he helped them to build the beautiful church of Our Lady of the Annunciation and the Martyrs of Japan, that we know today.

There are yet other churches in Gorey. While there remains plenty of choice, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists, thank goodness, work very well together nowadays. A Parish truly blessed.

David Marett

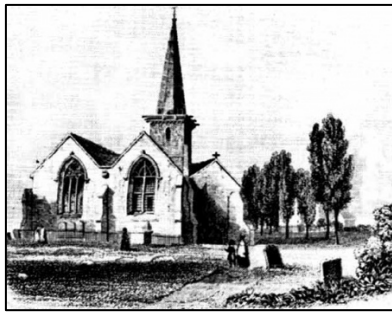
Possible Illustrations



A reconstruction of the original 1820 Methodist Chapel



A cross, remnant of an earlier Chapel perhaps



Parish Church with the Chancel below the steeple



St. Martin's Parish Church



St. Martin and the beggar in 'younger' days



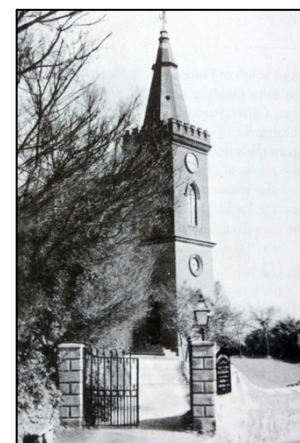
The Church of Notre Dame de St. Martin at Faldouet c.1851 from painting by Michael Richecoeur



The church of our Lady today



Worshippers of the past by Edmund Blampied



Gouray Church