

On May 5th Cécile celebrated her 80th birthday. She invited her friends who worship with us at Prasada and also the members of her English class to share it with her. It was a privilege to have our Visitor Edward Holland among our guests, also David Sharpe once chaplain at Saint John's Saint Raphael and Peter Jameson who was her vicar when she was headmistress of Saint Clement's School Nottingdale. Others, who live here part time, made a special effort to be there. In all there were 70 guests.

The celebrations began with a Eucharist in the Chapel of Saint Barthélemy in Montauroux. This chapel was donated to the village by Christian Dior in the 50's when he bought a chateau here and discovered that the chapel was thrown in! It has now been restored and is used mainly for concerts and exhibitions. However from time to time we hold services there if the congregation is expected to be too big for our chapel. In fact Cécile celebrated her first Mass there close on twelve years ago. Cécile celebrated the Eucharist and Bishop Edward preached an excellent sermon. One of many accolades was the fact that he spoke clearly and the English students were able to understand him.

After the service we drove to one of our favourite restaurants which is situated in Fayence. Some of our guests already knew it and others are also resolved to pay it another visit. The weather had been rather doubtful but fortunately it was nice enough for us to eat in the lovely courtyard surrounded by shrubs and flowers with a water feature including goldfish in the midst. In the background were the hill villages of Fayence and Tourrette. The food matched up with the ambience, beautifully served with attentive waiters accompanied by the good local wine from the vineyard next door to the restaurant. The meal concluded with a magnificent birthday cake. In the course of the afternoon which concluded at about 5p.m. Cécile was presented with a variety of gifts. Many plants for the garden including a large rhododendron presented by the English students and a beautiful vase from other friends which looks lovely in Chapel. Father David Sharpe proposed a toast as indeed he had at my 70th birthday.



Some friends at the restaurant with Fayence in



Cécile celebrates in the Chapel



Chef Yves and Cécile with birthday cake



Bishop Edward Holland with Robin and Michael. Michael was 80 today as well.



The two most important guests



Cécile's friends gave her a vase made in Moustier Sainte Marie



The congregation in the chapel of Saint Barthélemy Montauroux.