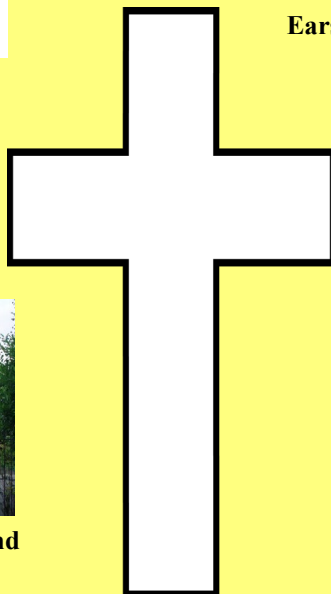




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

July 2020



Our Lady & St. Edmund

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St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

July 2020

Dear All,

Another month has gone round. Time to update the story of these historic times.

A few days after I last wrote like this, we celebrated the festival of Pentecost. The outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on the first followers of Jesus is seen by many as the birthday of the church.

Zoom worship on Pentecost Sunday morning, May 31st, was the last act of Ruth Stradling's placement at Earsdon and Backworth. Ruth spent six months alongside us at St John's and St Alban's, and now returns to her sending church of St Peter, Monkseaton. We pray that Ruth will have received as much herself as we received from her time with us. Sandy Swindells generously sourced a leaving gift for Ruth. Sandy then went the extra mile, not only wrapping the gift, but bringing me an identical dummy gift. This meant that when it came to say goodbye I could appear to pass the gift out of my Zoom square, for Ruth to appear to receive it in her Zoom square.

Ruth then kindly wrote to us: to everyone at St John's and St Alban's, thank you again for your kind welcome and generous support during my placement, and for your card, present and good wishes yesterday at my final service with you. The last six months have been a special time for me and I've learned a huge amount. Although it's been a wrench not being able to meet in person these last few weeks it's been a privilege to witness and be part of the new thing that God has been doing among you in these strange times. You will remain in my prayers as I go back to St Peter's and whatever lies ahead, and I hope that I'll have the chance to see you again before too much longer. With very best wishes, Ruth.

The following day, Monday June 1st, sees the first recorded 'Zoom Daily Prayer' in my diary. A group of six to eight of us meets on Zoom every morning Monday to Thursday to share in praying Daily Prayer for that day. It's led to intriguing conversations about what we might do when the pandemic itself is history. Will we really all make our way into the St Alban's building with all the time and carbon emissions that will entail? Or might we continue to meet to pray on Zoom? Certainly if we had all been meeting in church we wouldn't have had the lovely image of Cathryn Richardson's cat calmly curled on her owner's lap – an icon of the believer at rest in the presence of God.

Not everyone is willing or able to Zoom, so it was very good on Wednesday June 17th to open the doors of St Alban's for people's private prayer. This followed the lifting of government restrictions and I'm very grateful to Keith Slone. Keith accompanied me that first day of reopening, helping to set everything up and to clean everything afterwards. A feature of all three of the first times we have been open like this has been the inclusion of people who are not normally members of the St Alban's congregation. We're on good routes for walkers and cyclists and it's been lovely to welcome a number of guests.

On Sunday June 21st we held a virtual Patronal Festival. June 22nd is St Alban's Day, so we anticipated it by one day. For those who were not Zooming, Sue Mayfield created a characteristically beautiful PowerPoint presentation of the act of worship, wreathed in red roses. Those who were Zooming had the lovely sight of lots of people holding a red rose up to their computer's camera – a lovely virtual posy. Let's pray that, come June 2021 we'll be able to lay our roses, as is the custom, at the replica tomb of Alban in the church that bears his name.

The following day, Monday June 22nd, we received significant news. Michelle Egan, who runs a weekly Toddler Group in the Eccles Hall, had been hoping to open a Playgroup. Thanks to Gil and Pat Hugman, and Richard Hill, lots of work had been done on the Hall during lockdown. This all paid off when OFTSED visited the Eccles Hall on Monday 22nd, and passed it as suitable for a Playgroup offering 56 spaces. Please pray for Michelle as she now continues to plan for an opening in September. Pray for her publicity, that she would see a strong take-up. Pray too that Michelle would be able to extend her hours: due to current other regular bookings in the Hall she will only be able to open on a Monday and a Tuesday. We've been talking a lot in our Zoom worship about the role the church might be able to play in our society's recovery from COVID19. This offer of support for young families certainly fits that category.

And now the government has announced a further relaxing of lockdown restrictions. From 4th July I will at last be able to have a long-awaited haircut. Much more significantly, churches will be able to return to some kind of public worship, provided their premises are COVID-safe. We'll be having a Zoom PCC on Monday June 29th to plan our response. One suggestion is that we continue for now with Zoom worship on a Sunday morning, and turn part of our Sunday afternoon 3-5pm slot for private prayer into a public worship service of prayers, readings and recorded music. Watch this space.

Yours with love, Tim x

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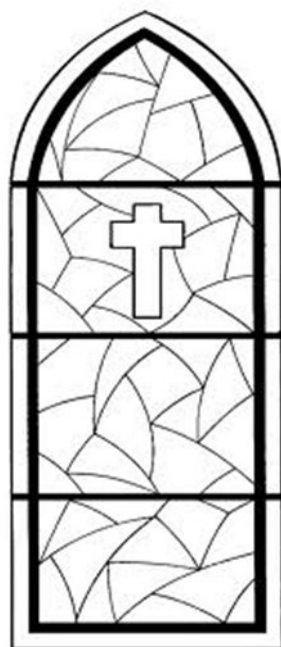
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

Sadly we still have no forthcoming events to advise you about this month, due to the Corona Virus lockdown.

MUG SHOT

After a recent online Zoom Sunday morning service, we attempted to have our Parish Breakfast “together”. Tim took this picture of some of us with our coffee or tea, although in Alan’s picture, and in mine, the mugs were just out of shot !



Please do consider using the services of our advertisers who loyally support our church magazine. If you know anyone who would be interested in taking out an advertisement, please

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As if Covid-19 wasn't enough,
The riots on our streets,
Are making things twice as tough,
Our boys in blue,
Were Not to blame,
So why are we trying to
Name & Shame?
It's so wrong to fight 'The' powers that be,
For something that happened across the sea.
Sad though it was for the unfortunate man,
That died at the hands of an American Policeman,
But we're not at fault,
There's no blood on our hands.
Lets take a step back,
And continue the plan,
Keep things nice and peaceful,
And stay in the race,
And punch this disease,
Right Square in the face!!
It's been a long haul,
But we'll get there, some day,
As long as we listen,
To what our Government has to say,
Stay on the path,
Keep calm and observe,
Social Distancing Rules,
Then we'll get what's deserved,
The freedom to see,
Our Loved ones again,
To Hold them and Hug them,
Re-united Amen!!

Albert J Griffiths

Smile-lines

Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.

**

Last year, some friends took their six-year-old on a car trip to France. To help pass the time on the way down to the Channel, they encouraged their son to practise his new reading skills by calling out road signs.

He fell asleep just before they entered France. When he awoke, he saw the French motorway signs and rubbed his eyes. In a worried tone he whispered, "I think I forgot how to read while I was asleep."

**

Smile-lines

Coronavirus: For the first time in history, we can help save the human race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's not mess this one up!

I need to practice social-distancing – from my refrigerator.

While waiting in a socially distanced queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away. A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away. But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition. The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

**

Quotations

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger. – Anon

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week. – Anon

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. – Anon

**



BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

175 years ago, on 4th July 1845 that Thomas Barnardo, Irish humanitarian and philanthropist was born. He founded Barnardo's, a charity which cares for vulnerable children and young people.

Also 175 years ago, on 17th July 1845 that Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, British Prime Minister (1830-34) died. Earl Grey tea was named after him. He had been given a gift of tea flavoured with bergamot oil. It was known as the Earl Grey's blend.

150 years ago, on 18th July 1870 that the Vatican issued the declaration of Papal Infallibility. It preserved the Pope from the possibility of error when he defined a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Catholic Church.

80 years ago, on 10th July 1940 to 31st October 1940: The Battle of Britain took place. British victory.

40 years ago, on 5th July 1980 that Swedish tennis player Bjorn Borg won the Wimbledon singles championship for a record fifth consecutive time.

25 years ago, on 16th July 1995

that Amazon.com opened its website to the public.

20 years ago, on 25th July 2000 that an Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after taking off for New York. All 109 people on board were killed, as well as four people on the ground.

15 years ago, on 7th July 2005 that the London Bombings took place. A coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport systems during the morning rush hour killed 56 people, including the four bombers. More than 700 were injured. It was the worst-ever attack on Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.

Also 15 years ago, on 28th July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. Its leadership stated that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.



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Welcome to “**The Secret Life of St Alban’s and St John’s Folk**”.

This month we have been talking with Bob and Barbara Rhoades, from St Alban’s church.

1) Where were you born?

Barbara - in Heaton outside Newcastle. **Bob** - in Billy Mill, North Shields.

2) What do you do during the week, when you’re not at church?

Barbara – Sing in choirs, play ukulele, walking, reading.

Bob – Weekly gym sessions, watching wildlife, walking.

3) Surprise us with one of your hobbies, or something we may not know about you

Barbara – Used to sing in a Folk Group in the late 60s & early 70s called “The Inn Folk”. We travelled to gigs in a very old post office van painted blue.

Bob – Used to be in the local Badger Protection Group/ Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

4) What’s your favourite book?

Barbara – Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier. **Bob** – Last Wild Place by Mike Tomkies.

5) What’s your least favourite food?

Barbara – Very hot spicy food. **Bob** – Tinned Tomato soup.

6) Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited

We loved visiting the Inner Hebrides - Isles of Skye, Bute, Mull & Arran.

7) Tell us something that’s on your bucket list

Barbara – a visit to Florence & Vienna. **Bob** – A parachute jump.

8) Sum up what being a Christian/being part of the church family means to you

It brings a focus into our lives and we enjoy being part of the church community.

9) Tell us about something that has had a big influence on your life

Barbara – Growing up at Bainbridge Memorial Methodist Church in Heaton and being a very active part of the church community and the Youth Club. **Bob** – Doing National Service. Also I admired Eric Hosking, a wildlife photographer.

10) What is your earliest childhood memory?

Bob – the freedom of being able to cycle quite long distances with friends quite safely. **Barbara** – Leaving a very old Infant school and being the first class in a brand new junior school very near to our home.

Extra questions for Lockdown:

1) In what way has your everyday life changed at the moment?

Life is quieter; we walk regularly but are careful about social distancing.

2) What are you enjoying most about lockdown?

There is more time to do everything, we are more relaxed and we find people tend to talk to you more when out walking. Also spending more time in the garden. It is particularly nice when friends text or phone you for a “catch up” chat.

3) What are you enjoying least about lockdown?

Barbara - Restrictions on family meetings and not being able to hug our grandchildren. I miss our regular visits to Care Homes with the Silver Stars Ukulele Band and entertaining the residents. Also there is no choir or Mothers’ Union. **Bob** – Missing the family and not being able to attend the gym.

4) Tell us something you plan to do when lockdown is over?

Travel down to Yorkshire to see our son and his family and possibly visit Scotland for a short break. **Bob** - Also get back to routine sessions at the gym.

CHURCH VIEWS FOR JULY 2020 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Dear Readers,

This was accurate at the time of writing, but like Andrew Marvel, “Always at my back I hear Time’s winged chariot hurrying near.” My apologies if it has overtaken me without a signal!

Gerry Latimer

Re-opening of churches - a message from Bishop Robert Byrne.



The Bishop has now announced the following ten churches are to re-open in line with Covid-19 restrictions: St Paul Alnwick, St Mary Hexham, Our Lady & St Columba Wallsend, St Charles Gosforth, St Aloysius Hebburn, St Anne Winlaton, St John Boste Washington, Saints Joseph, Patrick & Cuthbert Coxhoe, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Billingham and St Mary Bishop Auckland.

Tynemouth Priory Partnership

You will see that Our Lady and St Columba’s in Wallsend is included, and the Tynemouth Priory Partnership is most grateful to Fr David Smith and the parishioners for inviting people across the Partnership to visit their church for individual prayer. The church will be open at: Tuesday: 5.30pm - 7.30pm; Thursday: 5.30pm - 7.30pm; Saturday: 10.30am - 12.30pm; Sunday: 3.00pm – 5.00pm. Individuals are expected to be able to “reflect and pray” whilst adhering to physical social distancing rules.

Daily Mass at St Edward’s

Mgr Andrew continues to celebrate Mass each day at 9.00am in St Edward’s Church in Whitley Bay, without a congregation or servers. It can be viewed on the ‘Our Lady Star of the Sea’ group page on Facebook from which this image is taken.



The Bay Foodbank – Parish Donations continue

As the lock-down starts to be released, our Parish is once again collecting food to send to the Foodbank. Our food collection point is at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, West Monkseaton. Donations can be left in the porch immediately inside the main door, which leaves the rest of the church locked down. The main door will be open on Mondays, 10.00am - 12.00 Noon. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the foodbank and donated over the last few weeks.

The gardeners return...



The grounds at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church are a source of great pleasure for parishioners and for the neighbours who often compliment the gardeners on their tireless efforts.

Now the lockdown is beginning to ease, the gardeners are back and the rose-beds are in beautiful bloom.

The Garden of Remembrance is a paved haven of peace, tucked behind its own trellis in a quiet corner of the grounds. The central feature is a rose-bed, and appropriately, the roses are Peace - Britain's most popular variety.

The pergola shelters the benches, each dedicated to the memory of particular parishioners.



Another busy day in the resort.....



And from one of the main car parks in the town, St Edward's striking architecture can be admired.

This time the photographer didn't have to wait for the bus to go, wish the cyclists would get a move on, hope the family would get out of shot. But it was a truly odd feeling in the middle of a warm day in Whitley Bay.

Thank you, Rob Gowdy, for sending this, and photographs. I would have written a piece about it, but really it speaks for itself.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM SMITH

In the May magazine there was a piece under “bits and pieces” about HMS Beagle and Charles Darwin.

As a follow up there is a local Captain whose voyages down-under are about to be repeated. His tall ship has been anchored at Blyth for some time but they have now put up an information board and a metal plaque.



The information board reads something like this:

Williams II

On the 19th February 1819, at latitude 62 degrees west and 40 degrees south, Captain William Smith and his ship The Williams, from Blyth, made the first sighting of land in Antarctica. He was sailing south to avoid a storm to round Cape Horn on a merchant trading voyage and later went back to chart the area and claim it for Great Britain under orders from the British Navy.

Sadly, his business partner's miss-management and his late arrival home left William Smith bankrupt and he died in obscurity, never recognised for making the last great continental discovery.

Today, the Blyth Tall Ship project has bought a similar vessel to the original Williams, a Baltic Trader built in 1914 in Denmark, in which, after a 2-year refit delivered by community volunteers and trainees, we intend to repeat William Smith's voyage to celebrate the bicentennial of his discovery.

The Williams II is 24m on deck (only 70cm shorter than the original) and displaces 90 tonnes. She is a Gaff rigged ketch, which requires a smaller crew than the original snow rigged brig, with lots of square sails, and she will be able to sail closer to the wind because of it.

Both the voyage and the refit will work with young people from the Blyth area as part of the crew, learning seamanship skills or as engineering apprentices, because Blyth Tall Ship project is at its heart, a skills training organisation that sees community transformation delivered through education opportunities, inspired by a remarkable maritime heritage.

So why not visit our workshop or the Blyth Boathouse heritage centre and restaurant next door to find out more?



The information board features the Blyth Tall Ship logo at the top left, with a stylized sail icon. The title "Williams II" is prominently displayed at the top right. Below the title is a large illustration of the ship sailing on a stormy sea. To the right of the illustration is a text block detailing the ship's history and the project's goals. Below the illustration are four smaller images: a person working at a desk, a map of the world, a close-up of a ship's rigging, and a man holding a certificate. At the bottom of the board are logos for "PORT OF BLYTH", "heritage lottery fund", "LOTTERY FUNDED", and "LOTTERY FUNDED".

Blyth TALL SHIP

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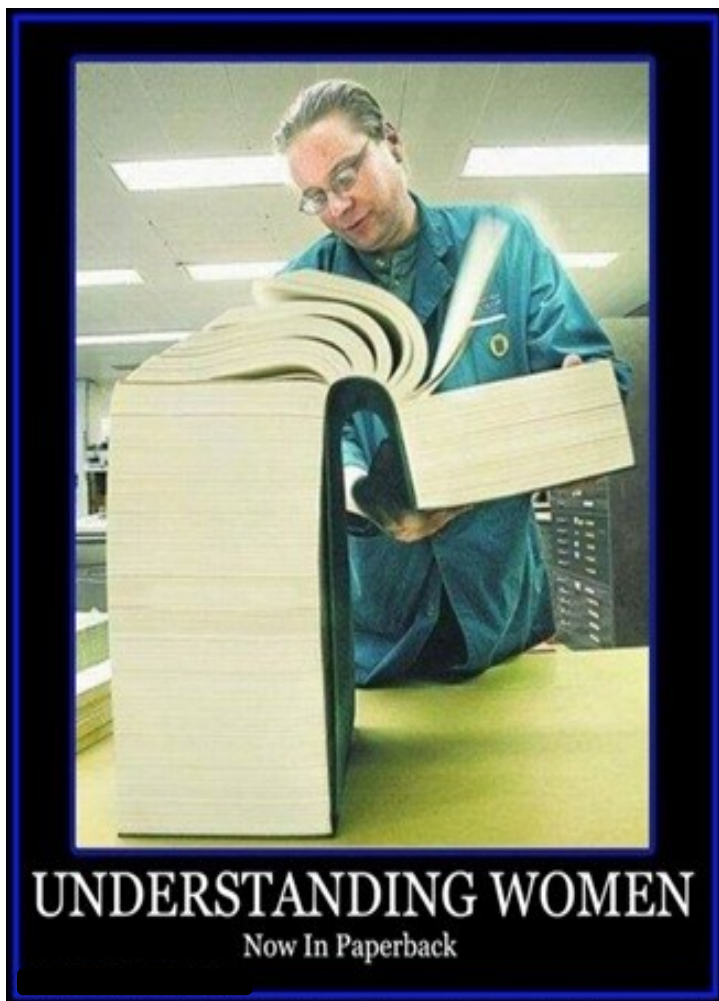
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This was sent in a while ago but I don't think there was room to include it before.

Now out in paperback!

The book "Understanding Women" has now arrived in stores :



Earsdon Methodist Church

July 2020

I have been looking at some old photos during the current lockdown and came across one of my Grandad in his best cap and muffler; clothes he only wore when going to somewhere special; clothes he wore when he took me to the football match. Everything about those Saturdays seemed magical – even when he stopped at a stall in the Bigg Market for a plate of whelks. He always offered me some, but I stuck to my packet of chocolate chewing nuts bought from the Grainger Market.

Ever since then I have avoided whelks like the plague, but my interest was reawakened when I read an article that said that most whelks are left handed.

This useless bit of information really cheered me no end really! And I'll tell you why.

You see when I was six or seven, Miss Patrickson, my headmistress, stopped me from writing with my left hand and made me write with the other.

Current educationalists would not dream of doing this, as they say it makes for mixed up personalities – which my family say explains everything about me and my peculiarities.

However, I have it on good authority that most whelks' shells open on the left side –and they are delighted about this - for the crab that is their main and natural predator has a whelk-walloping tool on its right claw. So being left-handed is good news for whelks.

I wish I'd known this 60 odd years ago, it may have saved me a lot of anxiety.

However, my experience has given me something I would not otherwise have. I am a distinct mixture. I write with my right hand; I throw with my left; and I can use a bat or racquet with either hand. Past events and experiences have shaped me – as it has all of us – and for good or ill I must use what I have got.

So I don't moan any more about Miss Patrickson, I simply am thankful for what I am, and for the fact that I can use a screwdriver with either hand - for not everyone can do that!

Wes Blakey

Methodists raise money for struggling Ugandans

All We Can, the relief arm of the Methodist Church, is appealing to people to support its Emergency Coronavirus Appeal by doing a 10km sponsored walk.

The ‘In Her Shoes’ challenge aims to raise money to buy bicycles for people in rural Uganda, who must spend hours walking to get anywhere. Having a bicycle will be their first step on the long road out of poverty.

All We Can says: “During this period of lockdown, with public transport banned, bicycles have been an essential way for communities in rural Uganda to visit markets, health centres, and other services. Support for the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal has helped make regularly sanitised bicycles available for these communities – enabling expectant mothers reach health centres to safely deliver their babies, and families to continue to travel to market, to buy and sell vital food supplies. After lockdown is over, bicycles will continue to change many lives.

You can join the ‘In Her Shoes Challenge’ and raise money for **All We Can**. Simply create a Facebook fundraiser or a Just Giving fundraising page, and then share it with your friends and family. Details at:

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/in-her-shoes-challenge/>

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for July 2020



As you know, all churches have been closed during the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions.

Places of worship are to have those restrictions relaxed on 4th July, but for now, St Alban's & St John's continue with an online Zoom service on Sundays.

On Monday 29th June, St Alban's and St John's PCC met to discuss further steps following the Government announcement that churches can re-open although there will still be some noticeable restrictions.

The meeting confirmed that:

1. We plan to work towards restoring our pattern of mid-week communion services, alternating Wednesday mornings at St Alban's one week and Thursday mornings at St John's the following week.
2. We plan to work towards restoring the 8.30am Sunday morning communion service at St John's.
3. These smaller-scale events will enable us to practice 'public worship in the new reality', ready for a later reopening of the main Sunday morning service at St Alban's. Until this time comes, we plan to continue with Zoom worship 10.00 for 10.30am on a Sunday morning.

Maybe next month's magazine (August) will be printed and distributed as before.

Here is the link to July's copy of our diocesan magazine 'The Link'...

https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Link_July_2020.pdf

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month.

The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online

Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north."

The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

* If you have any suggestions, comments or requests *
* regarding the magazine, or for anyone thinking of *
* sending in their contribution for publication, please *
* email it to **magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk** *
* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. *



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Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

	6		4					
					5	9	4	
1			3				5	7
		9						
	4			6			7	
				7		2		
7	3				6			8
	8	1	9					
					4		3	

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (August 2020) will need to be in before Thurs. 23rd July 2020. Thank you.

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Marti's Musings 76

So apparently lockdown is easing? I hope we don't get a second wave and that the heat kills those germs! Nothing much has changed here, although we did drive to Northumberlandia and walk round the bottom. Mum decided the paths were too narrow at the top to safely stay 2 meters away but it was good to have a change of scenery!

It's so exciting to hear that churches can open for private prayer. Have you all been? We haven't walked up yet, but I hope to see some of you when we do.

I wish the weather would make its mind up. One minute it's sunny, next it's raining and we even had hail! As you all know, I am not a fan of rain, however mum has bought me a new raincoat and I don't mind going out in that. It's very trendy and I am rather pleased with it.

I'm off outside to sit in the sun while it's out!

Lots of ducks

Marti xxx



(Jill wasn't sure if Marti was allowed to say, regarding Northumberlandia, "we didn't go on her boobs") !

WORDSEARCH

St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life. Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. Mary has also sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon.

She became His follower to the bitter end. She followed Him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Her love for Jesus did not end there, for she went to the tomb to anoint His body on the Sunday morning. Such faithful, humble devotion was richly repaid; it gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning. She thought He was the gardener at first.

Jesus told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief.

Mary	morning
patron	faithful
repentant	humble
sinners	devotion
contemplative	
life	privilege
seven	mankind
demons	risen
Tiberius	appeared
galilee	Easter
anoint	gardener
feet	disciples
follower	return
end	obedient
Jerusalem	resurrection
Crucifixion	witness
foot	courage.
cross	
tomb	
body	



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