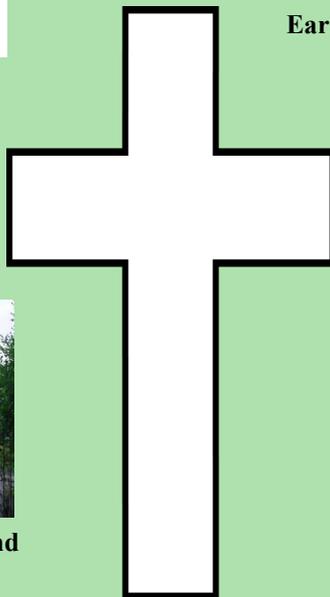




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



**Earsdon Methodist**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**August  
2020**

**£1.00**



**Our Lady & St. Edmund**



**St. John's Backworth**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear All,

So this strange time of pandemic stretches into another month. Time again to update the story – though I'm very aware that this is from a St John's and St Alban's perspective. Our continued good wishes to sisters and brothers at Immaculate Heart and Earsdon Methodist.

Soon after I last wrote like this for 'Church Views', we held a meeting of the Church Council. This was on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>. We knew that churches would be allowed to open again for some sort of public worship from July 4<sup>th</sup>, and needed to discern our best way forward.

We decided to start small, and to work our way up to reopening the main Sunday service at St Albans'. We would reopen the 8.30am service at St John's, and renew our fortnightly pattern of midweek services. Alongside these, we would continue to be open for private prayer on a Wednesday and a Sunday afternoon. We would moreover continue our Zoom worship on a Sunday morning. This has been going well, attracting an average congregation of 45.

So it was that, on the morning of Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>, real people gathered in a real place at a real time for worship for the first time since Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Golightly kindly managed the queue, welcoming people and reminding them to hand-sanitise. Every other pew was ribboned off to ensure proper social distancing, and communion leaflets were spaced two metres apart in every pew deemed safe to use.

The rules sound quite sterile, but it was, nonetheless, deeply moving to find ourselves together in worship again. Being quite a small congregation [we were ten that morning] I was able to invite people forward individually by name for communion. Communion wafers were placed on beautiful ceramic communion plates, and each person receiving communion came to the front and took their own wafer. People were then dismissed by name at the end of the service, to make sure that everyone got safely out of the building. It was a start – something we could build on as we looked to the future.

That first act of worship in St John's was followed a few days later by the return of public worship in St Alban's. This was not a communion service, but the funeral of Emily Carr, Valerie Cash's mother. This occasion, too, was marked by the new arrangements we're all getting used to. We seated the whole congregation before bringing in the coffin, and we could not sing hymns. Instead, we listened as organist Paul Ritchie

played, the words of the hymns being available to the congregation in their Orders of Service. In line with current guidelines, these were taken away by members of the congregation for disposal at home. We continue to think of Valerie, and all her family.

On Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, our thoughts were again with Ruth Stradling. Ruth had a rich six months with us on placement, and is now offering herself for ordained ministry. We held her in our prayers as she was interviewed – at the time of writing we don't yet know the outcome, and are waiting with interest.

The Church Council met again on Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>. Again, we met on Zoom, although aware that not everyone could join in in this way. This meeting decided to work towards reopening the main service at St Alban's on Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>. A team of trained stewards will be in place by then, to help a larger group get safely into and out of the building. We have invested in automatic hand sanitiser dispensers, and decided to revive plans to install a screen and projector.

In 2016, when the St Alban's sound system was upgraded, there was a plan to install visual equipment as well, but this was shelved. However, the plan has been revived for two reasons. Firstly, in these COVID times, it is unsafe to hand out communion booklets on paper as there is a risk of transmission. There is therefore value in having the words of the service projected onto a screen. And secondly, we had heard news of a very generous legacy. Ena Knox had bequeathed us £50,000, and we felt that investing in this new equipment was an appropriate use of the first tranche of this kind gift.

And on Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, communion services returned to the St Alban's building. The word 'historic' may well be overused. But when you think that the last time the sacraments were suspended in this country was in the fourteenth century, that use of language is surely justified. The two side aisles in St Alban's building help the flow of people receiving communion. Communicants came up the centre aisle, received communion at a nave altar in front of the screen, and returned to their place via the side aisles. It was a beautiful, moving and humbling thing to witness.

So that's where we are on this journey on Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The reduction in new infections of COVID19 is said to have 'stalled'... but meanwhile there is better news of a vaccine. I wonder where we'll be when we come to prepare 'Church Views' for September.

Yours with love, Tim Mayfield.

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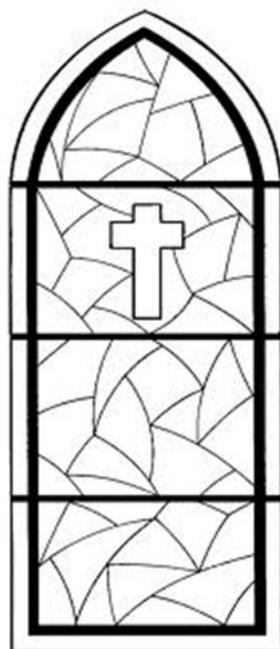
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth usually organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship, but unfortunately these have had to be suspended during the Corona Virus restrictions.

\*\*\*

Some of you may have seen this being set up at Earsdon, and wondered what it is. So now you know - a pop-up restaurant that's here during August. They have a Facebook account, and the menu & booking details are on their website: [tackandwhistle.co.uk](http://tackandwhistle.co.uk)



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A message from Margaret Cavanagh:

Margaret would like to thank all her friends at St Albans and St Johns for all their cards and good wishes on her 90th birthday.

It was lovely to be able to share it with so many of you on the Sunday zoom.

Many thanks to everyone who made this day such a special occasion.

Thank you,  
Margaret

*Many years ago when I first came to St Alban's, I remember the magazine had a "Letters" page. I think the letters dried up eventually, but please feel free to send any notices, messages (like Margaret's, above), or even let me know what you like and don't like (please be gentle) about your magazine. The email address and my telephone number are on page 8. Maybe we can re-open a sort of "Letters" page.  
Jean.*

# Smile-lines

## What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom. It was all about the magnet, and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: “My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?”

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: “Mother.”

\*\*

## Who’s right for which job?

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide.... Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.

If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.

If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.

If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good place for them.

If they are sleeping, they are Management material.

If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.

If they don’t even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.

If they try to tell you it’s not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.

And if they’ve left early, put them in Sales.

\*\*

## Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn’t work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: “I hope you will excuse me continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick.”

\*\*

## **Hear me Lord**

Hear me Lord,  
Are you free for a chat?  
I need some guidance  
About this and that.  
I send you a prayer  
Every day without fail,  
I wait for an answer,  
To no avail.  
I know you're busy,  
Have a lot on your hands  
But send me the sign  
That I'll understand.  
My faith isn't waning  
It's steadfast and true  
But a little reassurance  
Would set it like glue.  
Hear me Lord,  
My God up above,  
Teach me your way,  
How great is your love,  
Show me the path,  
The hill I've to climb,  
And set me on the journey  
To God's love divine.

*Albert J Griffiths*

# BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

250 years ago, on 22nd August 1770 that British explorer Captain James Cook discovered eastern Australia, named it New South Wales, and claimed it for Britain.

150 years ago, on 4th August 1870 that the British Red Cross Society was founded.

125 years ago, on 10th August 1895 that the Proms (Promenade Concerts) began in London.

100 years ago, on 21st August 1920 that Christopher Robin Milne was born. He was son of the author A. A. Milne, and he appeared as a character in his father's Winnie-the-Pooh stories. (Died 1996.)

75 years ago, on 9th August 1945 that the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki,

Japan. 40,000 people died immediately and about 33,000 more by the end of the year. It was the second (and last) city to experience a nuclear attack.

70 years ago, on 15th August 1950 that Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, was born. She is the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

40 years ago, on 14th August 1980 that Lech Walesa led a strike by shipyard workers in Gdansk, Poland, to protest against the dismissal of a trade union activist. On 30th August the striking workers won the right to establish independent trade unions. This led to the formation of the Solidarity movement.

15 years ago, from 23rd to 31st August, Hurricane Katrina hit the Bahamas, Cuba and the southern US

states. New Orleans was badly affected when the levee system failed, and 80% of the city was under water for weeks. Florida and Mississippi were also badly hit. More than 1,800 people died. It was the costliest natural disaster in US history.

10 years ago, on 5th August 2010 a cave-in at the San Jose copper and gold mine near Copiapo in northern Chile trapped 33 workers 700 metres underground. An international rescue operation was launched, and they were brought to the surface on 13th October after being trapped for 69 days. Around one billion people watched the rescue on TV.



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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 Margaret Cavanagh, from  
St. Alban’s church.

**1) Where were you born?**

I was born in Wellington Avenue, Wellfield.

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

During the week I attend classes for Tai Chi and Chair Exercise to assist in movement. I also enjoy meeting friends socially for coffee and at Boundary Mill !!

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

I was secretary of Earsdon table tennis club which met in the Eccles Hall. It was here I met my husband Albert in the 1950s.

**4) What’s your favourite film/TV programme?**

My favourite film is Robin Hood with Errol Flynn, and my TV programme is Downton Abbey. I also loved the film version of that too!

**5) What’s your least favourite food?**

My least favourite food is mussels.

**6) Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited**

Alhambra Palace in Granada. Beautiful!

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

I would love to visit Canada but I think I may have left it too late!

**8) What is your earliest childhood memory?**

Going to St Alban's church with my Grandma and going to Warkworth on my first holiday.

**9) Do you have a favourite phrase or saying?**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

**10) Tell us something you plan to do when full lockdown is over**

When lockdown is completely over I would like to visit my cousin June every weekend in her care home Eothan as I did before the lockdown. I would also like to try and fit in another visit to Lake Garda which I love!

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

## St Edward's Church Re-opens



This amazing picture of St Edward's caught in a weather phenomenon was shared with us by Phil, one of our neighbours.

The great news for August is that St Edward's re-opened for private prayer on Monday 20th July and Wednesday 22nd July between 12.00 Noon and 2.00pm. Masses will start again with the Sunday Vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday 1st August, and Sunday, 2nd August at 10.00am. That week, the church will be open for private prayer on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 12.00 Noon and 2.00pm. Weekday Mass will then be available from 4th August at 9.30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays onwards.

The number of people in the church for private prayer or Mass is strictly limited by the 2-metre social distancing rule. The church can hold 60 people only, and once this number is reached, no one else will be able to enter the church.

To avoid this, parishioners who are able, are asked to consider attending Mass on weekdays rather than at weekends, and to telephone 07340 169249 on Thursday: 10.00am - 12.00 Noon, 2.00pm - 4.00pm or 6.00pm - 8.00pm, or on a Friday: 10.00am - 12.00 Noon or 2.00pm - 4.00pm, to reserve a place at the 6.00pm Vigil or 10.00am Masses. To assist 'Track and Trace', those telephoning will be asked for contact details.

Face coverings must be worn, and entrance will only be through the Narthex with exit only onto Coquet Avenue. Stewards will show those attending the hand sanitisers and also guide them to their places. Places are clearly marked with a cross for individuals and family use. Families will be able to sit together.

Mgr Faley and the entire parish are very grateful to those who gave their time and effort so generously to deep-clean the church, and the 21 who have volunteered to work as stewards, looking after the church and visitors during private prayer, Mass, baptisms and weddings.

## Parish Walking Group

Another happy return to a kind of ‘normality’ is that the Walking Group is restarting. Peter Weighill will lead local walks of six or seven miles for five invited walkers on Mondays. Over a number of weeks everyone who wishes to join in will have done so. No shared cars will be used, so the walks will begin and end at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in West Monkseaton. Welcome back!



## Little Sisters of the Poor Emergency Appeal

This picture of the Chapel at St Joseph’s Home echoes the bright and airy atmosphere of its other areas.



The Little Sisters of the Poor who run it have launched an emergency appeal because the current crisis is causing them severe financial difficulties.

Established on the current site in 1868, but totally rebuilt and frequently updated since then, St Joseph’s in Westmoreland Road still nestles there on its hill, in spacious and beautiful grounds overlooking the river

with views up the Tyne Valley. Now in straitened circumstances, the Sisters are appealing for donations of items of PPE, or financial assistance to St Joseph’s Home, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7QA .

## Consolation Prayer and Support

Thanks to the Consolation Team for continuing their ministry to those recently bereaved. Their efforts are much appreciated by the families of the recently deceased, and by the parish.



## Gardening surprise

Being married to someone who arranges church flowers, I’m not used to seeing so many of my dahlias remaining in the garden at this time of year!

*(Gerry Latimer )*



## Who was most insulted?

“Economists now are worse than theologians.”  
Harold Macmillan (1961)

## **Reopening of church buildings for public worship**

Following the recent Government announcement that church buildings were able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said that the months since lockdown began "have been an extraordinary time - the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years."

She said also that there will have been "real joy" as people began "to come together again – if even at a physical distance – but I also know that many will be understandably cautious at this news."

"We will not be returning to normality overnight - this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive."

"I would particularly like to thank clergy and lay leaders for all they have done during the time our buildings have been closed."

Bishop Sarah warned that there will still be restrictions, "and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus... The online services and dial-in worship offerings we have become used to will continue."

"This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that it is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope."

"Churches and cathedrals have risen to the recent challenges, finding new ways of meeting for worship, of serving our neighbours, and of reaching new people with the love of God. The challenge before us now is to take the next steps carefully and safely, without forgetting all that we've discovered about God and ourselves on the way."

## The story behind the hymn ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. *Did* she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So, she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and He would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bids't me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, tho tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world.

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*A woman goes to the doctor for her annual physical.*

*The nurse starts with certain basics. "How much do you weigh?", she asks. "115," says the woman. The nurse puts her on the scales. It turns out her weight is 140.*

*The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 8," the woman says. The nurse checks and sees that she only measures 5' 5". She then takes the woman's blood pressure and tells her it is very high. "Of course it's high!", she screams. "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!" .*

Melanie (age 5) asked her Grandma how old she was. Grandma replied that she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, "If you don't remember you need to look in the back of your panties. Mine says five to six."

Brittany (age 4) had earache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her mum explained that it was a child-proof cap, and that Mum would have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked, "How does it know it's me?"

Jack (age 4) stepped onto the bathroom scales and asked, "How much do I cost?"



# Earsdon Methodist Church

*Diary for August 2020*

Unfortunately we still can't bring you any of your regular updates, because of the Covid 19 restrictions.

Fingers firmly crossed for next month !

Another delightful snippet from Revd Wes Blakey:

My Grandparents who lived near to my Junior School would sometimes get a lunchtime visit from me. In my imagination, I went via Wembley stadium; kicking any nearby stone for a ball and using lampposts for goals. I would weave my way through the fierce opposition; passing to the wall and receiving its return and usually scored the winning goal of the FA Cup Final with only seconds of the game remaining.

This was great for the ego, but pretty rough for my shoes. Sometimes they were so bad that Granddad often give them a quick polish before my return journey.

“But what’s the point?” I always asked, “when they will get as bad again?”

His reply, always the same was “You will know that they have started right.”

This became a family catch phrase –

So I was not surprised, when years I later discovered that my Grandfather’s favourite words from the Bible were

“In the beginning God ....”

Granddad was a hard working; self educated miner; who loved his family and started each day remembering that he was in God’s hands ~ and whatever else followed to scuff that good beginning, he knew that underneath he had started right.

There are now two well used shoe brushes residing in our cupboard under the stairs with Granddad’s name etched on them, which are still in permanent use. My shoes may not be the cleanest you will see today, but they started right.

# St. Alban's and St. John's

## Diary Page for August 2020



Sunday	2nd		<b><u>8th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00 for 10.30am	Zoom Worship	In your own home
Thur	6th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
Sunday	9th		<b><u>9th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00 for 10.30am	Zoom Worship	In your own home.
Wed	12th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Sunday	16th		<b><u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>St. Alban's</b>
Thur	20th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
Sunday	23rd		<b><u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Morning Worship	St. Alban's
Wed	26/th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Sunday	30th		<b><u>12th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Morning Worship	St. Alban's

Here is the link to the August & September copy of our diocesan newspaper, THE LINK” :

[https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/07/Link\\_AugSep2020-2.pdf](https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/07/Link_AugSep2020-2.pdf)

# St. Alban's and St. John's

## Sunday Readings for August 2020 :

2nd

Isaiah 55.1-5

Romans 9.1-5

Matthew 14.13-21

9th

1 King 19.9-18

Romans 10.5-15

Matthew 14.22-33

16th

Isaiah 56.1, 6-8

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15 [10-20] 21-28

23rd

Isaiah 51.1-6

Romans 12.1-8

Matthew 16.13-20

30th

Jeremiah 15.15-21

Romans 12.9-end

Matthew 16.21-end



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# SUDOKU

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.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (September 2020) will need to be in before Wed. 26th August 2020. Thank you.

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## Marti's Musings 77

Summer has arrived and hopefully the good weather is here to stay! Things seem to be gradually reopening; everybody seems to be very excited to go to the hairdressers. I assume that's a bit like a groomers but I've never been to one so I'm not sure why it's so exciting.

What is exciting is that church services have restarted. Grandma has been to St John's and said it was wonderful. We might get back to St Albans in August and I look forward to that. It's not going to be the same without singing but small steps are good.

We have finally put together the smoker and attempted to smoke a salmon. It tasted amazing but took far longer than we thought it would.

I think I need some practice in lighting the coals as it didn't stay very hot. As with everything, a bit of practice makes perfect! Well, improvements at least. I'm off to research into coal heat.

Happy smoking

Marti xxx



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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](mailto:magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk) \*  
\* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# WORDSEARCH

## The Transfiguration

August is a quiet month as far as the Church calendar is concerned, except that during the 11th century, some church fathers slipped in an important day - the Transfiguration of Jesus, when His disciples were given just a glimpse of His future glory (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9).

Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. This is often identified as either Mount Tabor (there is a great church up there today), or one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which overlook Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His disciples. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling.

Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples, and a divine Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'.

God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 -

19 - invariably the reading for this day.

Transfiguration

Jesus

Mountain

Tabor

law

Hermon

prophets

Caesarea

Peter

Philippi

James

High

John

Shine

fear

Face

glory

Cloud

Transformed

White

Dazzling

Elijah

Moses

Dwelling

Mankind



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