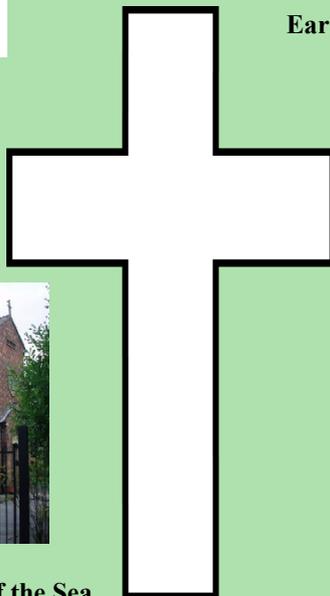




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CHURCH VIEWS

**April
2022**

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

April 2022

April brings us Holy Week and Easter, but sadly, there seems little hope that the war in Ukraine will be over by then.

This is a worrying time for the whole world, so this month let us remind ourselves with a few verses from Psalm 46 that in times of trouble, each one of us can still look to God for refuge. The earth may be in uproar, but He is in ultimate control.

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,...
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress....
- 9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

May God bless you and guard you this month, and may this Easter bring you the love, the solace and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayers across Europe for peace in Ukraine

The Bishop in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes, writes:

“Our little church in Kyiv is right at the centre of this crisis,” he explained. “Some of them have fled the city by car, others are still there. These are our people, our brothers and sisters, and of course we are very concerned for their wellbeing and safety.

“In the face of military action and aggression, we feel powerless. What can we do? One thing that we can all do is pray.”

“The situation in Ukraine is very deeply troubling. President Putin is leading a completely unjustified and aggressive war against Ukraine, a war which many ordinary Russians deeply deplore.

Leaders from many Christian churches, including the Ukrainian Orthodox (Russian Patriarchate) Church have condemned the invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts cry out for justice and peace. We are most especially concerned for the wellbeing of those in Ukraine who are directly affected by the war.

This includes particularly the members of our own congregation of Christ Church, Kyiv. The Churchwarden there, Christina, messaged us this morning saying: ‘Please pray for us as we are standing here for our land and for our roots. The battle for Kyiv has begun; it is fierce and intensive. Pray for us.’

In the face of military action, we can easily feel powerless and fearful. But one thing we can do is pray. We can pray in solidarity with those most affected. We can pray that God will yet overrule in the hearts and minds of those with power and authority. We can pray that the victims will be few and that the innocent will be protected. We can pray that peace will come through justice and not through the infliction of the will of a stronger party on a weaker.

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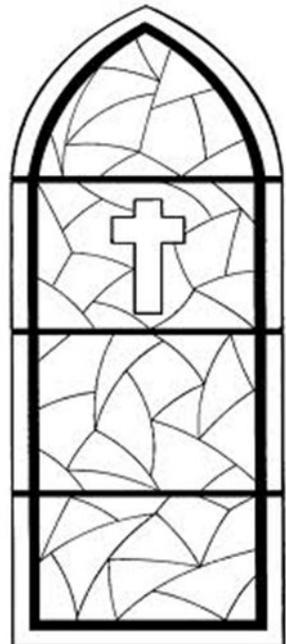
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship.

Earsdon with Backworth Mothers' Union:

The next meeting will take place in the Eccles Hall at 1.45 on Wednesday April 20th. The speaker will be Steve Arnott, a local actor from Whitley Bay. He will tell us about his Life on the 'Wicked Stage' and how he became an actor.

St Alban's Church:

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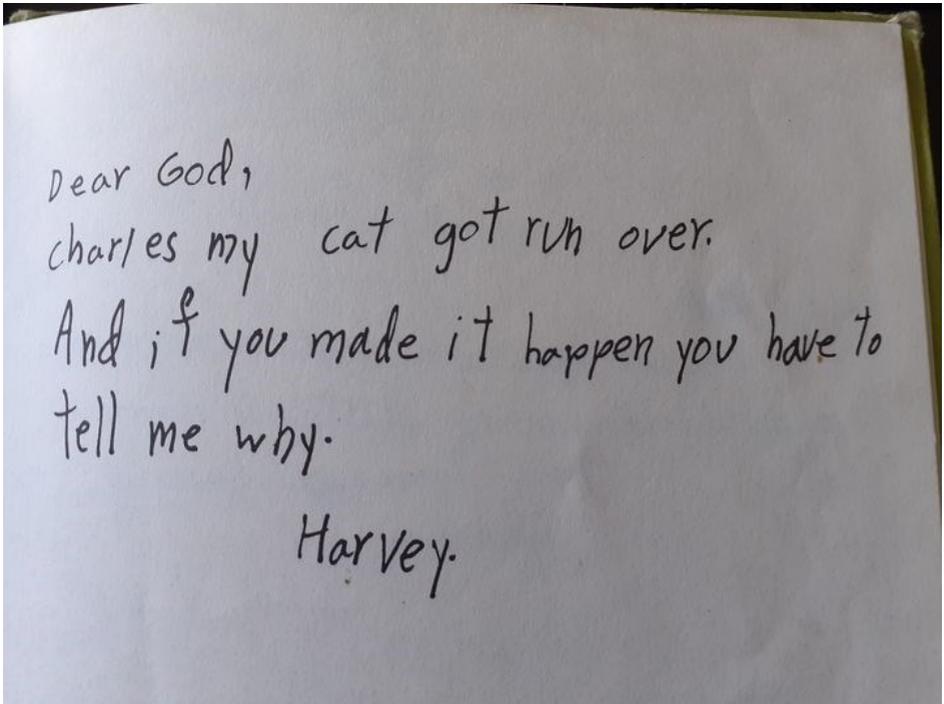
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or call Jean on 0191 2377273

Attack on Ukraine ‘an act of great evil’ - statement from Archbishops

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell have condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine as “an act of great evil”. They are urging Christians to keep praying for Ukraine, for Russia, and for peace.

In a joint statement they said: “The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.”

Another extract from a charming book of children’s letters to God.



Another one from the genuine chalk boards:



Packed lunches are back in style

With food prices soaring, who needs a bought sandwich or salad? They can cost nearly £8 a day from LEON or Pret or other food outlets. Instead, it seems we are investing in plastic food containers (John Lewis reports sales are up 64 per cent on last year) and taking our own lunches to work.

As one cookery blogger explains, "You can't reduce your council tax, but you can make little savings on everyday meals, which add up to a significant difference."

"It's 'cool' these days to take a packed lunch to the office," says Suzanne Mulholland, author of *The Batch Lady: Shop Once. Cook Once. Eat Well All Week*. "Being organised and prepared is seen as a good thing."

As for coffee, consider this: buying a £3 cappuccino every day adds up to £1,095 a year. Far cheaper to fill a flask at home.

Smile-lines

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the preacher is going to lose his place, and he will have to start the sermon all over again." It worked.

You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother. - *Proverb*

The real purpose of a child's full name is so that they can tell when they are really in trouble.

Often, people name their children after expensive things: Mercedes, Chardonnay, Dior. This year, look out for: Electric, Gas, and Petrol.



BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

125 years ago, on 3rd April 1897 that Johannes Brahms, German composer, piano virtuoso and conductor, died.

100 years ago, on 3rd April 1922 that Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union, in succession to Vladimir Lenin.

90 years ago, on 23rd April 1932 that the Royal Shakespeare Theatre opened in Stratford-upon-Avon, replacing the one that burnt down in 1926.

75 years ago, on 1st April 1947 that the school leaving age in the UK was raised to 15.

Also 75 years ago, on 16th April 1947 that the term 'Cold War' was used for the first time when American financier and presidential adviser Bernard Baruch described the

relationship between the USA and the Soviet Union.

65 years ago, on 24th April 1957 that the first episode of the British astronomy series *The Sky at Night* was broadcast on BBC TV. It became the world's longest-running TV series with the same presenter (Patrick Moore) until his death in December 2012. The series then continued with new presenters.

50 years ago, on 11th April 1972 that the first episode of the radio comedy panel game show 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue' was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. It is still running.

40 years ago, on 2nd April 1982, that the Falklands War began when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. A British victory, although Argentina continues to

claim sovereignty over the islands.

30 years ago, on 23rd April 1992 that the world's largest McDonald's fast-food restaurant opened in Beijing, China.

Also 30 years ago, on 27th April 1992 that Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of the House of Commons.

25 years ago, on 13th April 1997 that the American golfer Tiger Woods, aged 21, became the youngest player to win the US Masters championship, and the first African American to win.

20 years ago, on 1st April 2002 that the Netherlands became the first country to legalise euthanasia.



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I REMEMBER THE CHEESE OF MY CHILDHOOD

And the bread that we cut with a knife,
When the children helped with the housework,
And the men went to work not the wife.

The cheese never needed a fridge
And the bread was so crusty and hot,
The children were seldom unhappy
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from a bottle,
With the yummy cream on the top,
Our dinner came hot from the oven
Not from the fridge or a shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,
They didn't need money for kicks,
Just a game with their mates in the road,
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,
Where a pen'orth of sweets was sold.
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?
Or is itI'm just getting old?

I remember the 'loo' was the lav,
And the boggy man came in the night.
It wasn't the least bit funny
Going "out back" with no light...

The interesting things we perused,
From the newspapers cut into squares,
And hung on a peg in the loo,
It took little to keep us amused.

The clothes were boiled in the copper,
With plenty of rich foamy suds
But the ironing seemed never ending
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.

I remember the slap on my backside,
And the taste of soap if I swore.
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?
Or our initiative was destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table
And I think life was better enjoyed.

Author unknown.

This poem was sent in a while ago,
but I haven't had the space for it, until
now. I hope it makes some of you
smile, as it does me!



* 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**. *

CHURCH VIEWS FOR APRIL 2022 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Ukrainian Response



The parish has always responded generously to appeals to help victims of various disasters. Even as far back as the early Nineties, I can remember helping to load a truck bound for Romanian orphanages after the fall of Nicolae Ceausecu. So when the appeal came for material help for the Ukraine, particularly for

mothers and families fleeing with young children, there was never a doubt about a generous response.

But when that response did come, the organisers and helpers were totally taken aback. Boxes, baskets, and bags of all sizes came into the dual-purpose church of Immaculate Heart of Mary where the mixed contents were sorted appropriately to save time at the Polish Centre in Newcastle where literally tons of goods and equipment were being



collected and re-packaged for onward transport. Everything that was asked for - nappies, clothing of all kinds for children and adults, medicines, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tinned and dried foods, sanitary products, tissues, soap, sleeping bags, toys, sweets,

colouring books and crayons, sanitisers - all arrived. A stream of people walked in with shopping bags, often one in each hand, while others came by car with the boot and back seats full.

Willing volunteers readied it all for transport by a St Thomas More Academy minibus. After a determined effort and lots of re-packing, it departed, loaded from back to front and floor to ceiling.



Retiring Collection

Financial support was also generous; retiring collections in St Edward's and Immaculate Heart of Mary raised £1653.00 to fund Cafod in its work in Ukraine and those neighbouring countries offering refuge.

Tyne and Tide Exhibition – John Peace

At South Shields Museum and Art Gallery until 7 May there is a splendid collection of the local paintings of John Peace, several of whose paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy. It is worth a trip to see the work of an artist who should be better known.

At St Cuthbert's Grammar School in the Fifties he was taught by Maurice McPartlan who convinced John's parents that he should go on to develop his painting, initially at South Shields College of Art.

Maurice McPartlan later worked with stained glass all over Europe, including the Vatican, and excellent examples of his work can be seen in St Cuthbert's Church in North Shields.

Of course, not all his school pupils were as gifted as Peace; most of us were as talentless as I was – but he still taught us with great patience and good humour!

St Alban's and St John's churches' very successful Pancake and Quiz night raised a grand total of £249.40. Many thanks to everyone involved especially the hard-working pancake-makers and Craig for his quiz!

Look what's coming up in September



Saturday, 17th September 2022, from 1pm to 5pm.

How to have some happiness this April

‘April is the cruellest month,’ wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can’t enjoy anything. According to the ‘science of happiness,’ fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for ‘small, fleeting moments of fulfilment’. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are ‘joyful vignettes’ which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: “Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn’t have to be as overwhelming as it first seems.”



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Earsdon Methodist Church

Preachers for April 2022

Sunday	3rd	Mrs. Joyce Firth.	
Sunday	10th	Rev'd. John Mason.	
Sunday	17th	Rev'd. Enid Gordon	Holy Communion
Sunday	24th	Rev'd. John Mason.	



When I was a small lad my Grandad would give me a pail and a shovel whenever I was at his house when the milk lady did her rounds. I was told to go and follow her horse and cart until her horse relieved itself and return with the result for his rhubarb.

I was reminiscing about this when recently I attended the rhubarb in our garden and watered and fertilized it in the hope of a good crop to come.

Of course the age old conundrum is – is rhubarb a fruit or a vegetable? – and does it matter anyway? To some people it obviously does for the question has occupied horticulturalists minds for long years.

Personally, I am not really bothered, even though I have been a fan of rhubarb ever since as a lad I used to take a stick from Mr Drew's neglected garden next door, dip it in sugar and munch on it merrily. Mind you, that probably accounts for the number of tooth fillings I now have.

But rhubarb deserves a higher profile than just being the subject of an argument, for it can trace its ancestry back nearly 5000 years when the Chinese used it medicinally – you can guess for what, I'm sure! Then in 15th century Marco Polo wrote about it at length in his journals; and it became so popular in Britain that Chinese bureaucrats used its popularity as a bargaining tool saying that they would stop supplying it to Britain if the merchants did not stop trading in opium.

And until comparatively recently Britain had cornered the market with approximately 90% of the worlds forced rhubarb being grown here. But for me, I just love the fact that its goodness has had long lasting appeal; it survives in spite of neglect and rough treatment and keeps growing afresh year after year .

The message of Easter is that God's love survives despite rough treatment – even that of crucifixion. I know this is hard to square when we see the heart-breaking horrors in Ukraine. My prayers for the people of that land seem so ineffective and any support I can give seems a drop in the ocean. However I will continue to trust that the shoots of love and kindness that we see in the middle of all of this terror will continue to shine through and grow, so like rhubarb, love will be a vegetable that will bear much fruit.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for April 2022



Sunday	3rd		<u>Fifth Sunday of Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thurs	7th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	10th		<u>Palm Sunday</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
		4.00pm	Toddler Church Easter Special	St John's
Monday	11th	7.30pm	Silent Prayer	St Alban's
Tuesday	12th	7.30pm	Silent Communion	St John's
Wednesday	13th	7.30pm	Silent Stations	St Alban's
Thursday	14th	7.30pm	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>	St John's
Friday	15th		<u>Good Friday</u>	
		2.00pm	At The Foot of the Cross	St Alban's
Sunday	17th		<u>Easter Sunday</u>	
		8.30am	Easter Day Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Easter Day Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	24th		<u>Second Sunday of Easter</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Here is the hyperlink to the newspaper THE LINK For April 2022

[link-april-2022-final.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](http://link-april-2022-final.pdf(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net))

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Readings for April 2022 :

3rd

John 12. 1 - 8

10th

Luke 19. 28 - 40

14th

John 13 1 -17 and 31b -
35

15th

To be confirmed

17th

John 20 1 -18

24th

John 20 19 - end



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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (May 2022) will need to be in before Wed 27th April
Thank you, *Jean*.



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Marti's Musings 97

It is getting a little warmer but I'm still feeling chilly! Easter is on its way and no doubt lots of people have given up something for Lent. I tried to give up barking but it's not going very well.

I can't believe the trauma that all those unfortunate Ukrainian people are going through. It's good that we are all pulling together to try and help where we can. One of mum's friends is a firefighter and she has been taking supplies over to Ukraine in the fire engines. I'm sure we are all sending lots of prayers and hoping for an end to the fighting.

It's lovely to see all the daffodils in bloom and just in time for Mothering Sunday. I will see you all at Easter!

God bless,
Marti xx



WORDSEARCH - April 2022

The last Passover

On the night before He died, Jesus ate His last Passover meal with His disciples. He then transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying of the bread and wine that, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood'. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was preparing to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died *at the same time* that the Passover lambs were killed.

Jesus then astonished the disciples by washing their feet. He said: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

Passover
ate
last
disciples
transformed
Lord
Supper
bread
wine
body
blood
Lamb
God
die
sins
world
John
gospel
killed
feet
washing
love
command
service
maundy



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