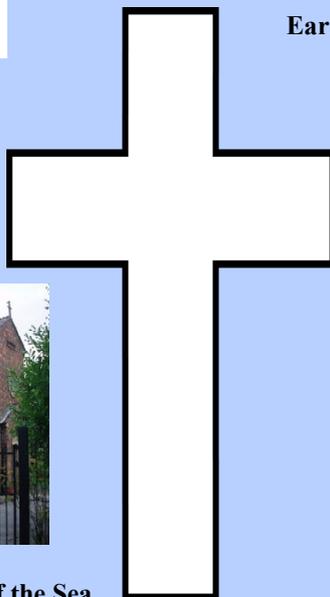




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**February
2022**

£1.00



**Our Lady & St. Edmund,
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**



St. John's Backworth



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH February 2022

So January ends, and February is a month of anticipation. January can't help but retain a little of the previous year - the first days celebrate the departure of the old year and the arrival of the new one; the first week demands we dismantle Christmas; in the second and third weeks we usually bid farewell to those so-well-meant resolutions, and only the final week returns us to normal.

February heralds the real fresh start. Who hasn't noticed the earlier brightness of the days this year, with those brilliant pink and red sunrises in a sky of brighter blue devoid of jet trails? Who hasn't enjoyed the lengthening days, inordinately bright and sunny this year? Our twinkling Christmas lights have given way to something much brighter.

Outside the japonica is still a welcoming yellow on the fences, but now hinting at daffodils to come rather than warding off December gloom. The snowdrops are coming into their own, and the Hawick Hall Snowdrop Walk will soon bring its annual treat. This month will see the crocuses scatter their purple, white, and yellow clumps across the warming earth. The daffodils will be tall enough to bend their heads, even if they are not yet Wordsworth's golden host. Already the roses, cut back in November, are beginning to tentatively explore the new year with fresh shoots.

New life has arrived in our parish too, with four baptisms in January – we welcome Oliver, Daisy, Filippo and Carlo. In February the first wedding of the year will be celebrated, to be followed by five more during the year. Confirmations of our young people will take place this year with more to follow in 2023.

The year may only have just begun, but these small family events celebrate our faith in the future. Small parish events they may be, but the wider happiness they bring and the faith they show are always going to be more than parochial.

Time to celebrate life and the beautiful world we have been given.

Gerry Latimer

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea



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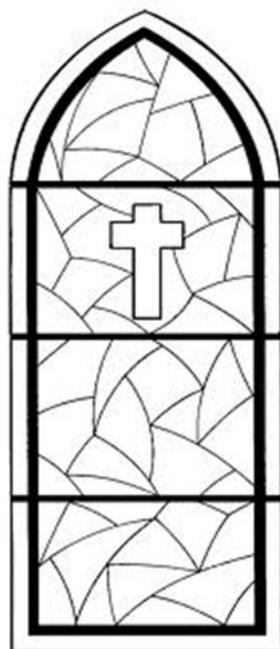
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Wednesday 16th February at 1.30pm in the Eccles Hall.
Annual General Meeting.

St Alban's

If you are missing “**The Secret Life of St Alban's and St John's Folk**”, please will you let Gillian France (or me, Jean, your editor) know of someone (or yourself) willing to take part in our little question-and-answer item. It has proved to be a very popular article and it lets us know people a little bit better than we otherwise would.

STOP PRESS

Saturday evening 2nd April 2022

Musica Johannes are giving a concert of Lenten Music and readings.
Details and times to follow.

Did You Know?

When a coffin is brought into church it is carried so that the deceased faces the altar, that is - feet first. However, when a member of the clergy has died, the coffin is carried in head first and placed in the chancel. The Vicar is facing his congregation and it is said that he will watch over them from the afterlife.

Thanks go to Joan A for this little nugget of wisdom!

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

email: magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk
or call Jean on 0191 2377273

On 13th January 2022 Rev Tim Mayfield sent out this email:

Unless you have already heard the news, I am very sad to explain that Edward [Newton] died peacefully in his sleep yesterday morning, Wednesday 12th January.

Over the years, as you will know, Edward gave unstintingly of himself at St Alban's and St John's. He supported Father Andrew throughout his distressing illness, and held things together nobly for the period when you were without a vicar. I will always remember the prolonged warm applause at my institution in April 2019 when Bishop Christine thanked Edward for everything he had done.

I will always remember Edward's patience, and the twinkle in his eye, as he explained to me how things worked here – lots of them quite new to me at the time.

Pam [Tomlinson] sent me an email earlier on, and I can't do better than the three words she used to describe Edward: 'I am so sad to hear about Edward' she wrote, 'he was such a kind, gentle, holy man.'

With love,
Tim [07414 601351] x

Tim then went on to receive messages from various members of the congregation, as follows:

He was a lovely gentle man & had a great speaking voice who welcomed all of our family into the church family. He actually took Charlotte for her confirmation classes too. He was a very special man who will be greatly missed. Please pass on our thoughts, prayers & love to all the family.

Kath, Neil, Charlotte & Daniel Payton xx

So sad to hear about Edward. A lovely man. *Barbara Rhoades*

Thank you Tim for letting us know about Edward. He was a lovely caring man and will be missed by us all. Our love and prayers go to Pearl & all the family. *Keith and Sheila Charlton*

Such Sad Sad News of Our Lovely Reader Edward. May He INDEED Rest in Peace. *Stephen Harmsworth*

Very sad. He really was a lovely man and always had an air of calm but with a twinkle in his eye. He was a highly regarded member of our congregation. RIP. *Brenda Ross x*

Thanks for letting me know Tim. I have known Edward for many years and he was a lovely man, always willing to help us at St John's over the years and will be sadly missed by everyone. My condolences to Pearl, Craig and all the family. *Christine Birrell x*

Dear Tim such sad news. The church has lost a dear man of God who was wonderful generous and gracious. I will remember not his sermons coz I never heard them nor his Bible studies for I never attended any. His cooking: soups at an evening supper, the roulade that was out of this world and all with a smile and a loving word and lots of leftovers to take home. *Sarah Chambers*

I am so sad to hear about Edward. What a lovely man.
Valerie Cash

So very sorry to hear that Edward has died. He was such a lovely man. Very kind and understanding, a true Christian. He will be sadly missed.
Ella Heaney

Since then, many messages have been sent to the Church Views Magazine:

Albert & Heather Griffiths:

Deepest Condolences to Pearl & all the family, we will always remember Edward fondly for the kind, caring, softly spoken Gentleman he always was, sending love, Ali & Heather ❤️❤️

Sandy Swindells:

My lasting memory of Edward will be working with him in the kitchen of the Eccles Hall. Whether we were pancake making, chopping veg or stirring the broth Edward was there, glass of wine in hand, with his quiet but mischievous sense of humour. What fun we had backstage at many a social event! Our time together in the kitchen will not be the same without you Edward but you can be assured we'll raise a glass in your memory every time we meet. xx

Rob Gowdy:

Ed,

We will always remember Ed as a kind, compassionate, lovely man and great confidant. In our church he was truly a much-loved “vicar” of the people - he just never got the official badge. For as long as I remember, Ed held the hearts and minds of the congregation like no other. He had the knack of reaching out to people. His sermons were always something to look forward to. They inevitably started with a local story, to give the message a context, always had a bit of fun in the telling but centrally they contained a clear strong message. One lasting memory was his reciting of “Moses and the Children of Israel”, by a Geordie Lay Preacher in a family service, it almost earned him a standing ovation.

Ed, a man who made a difference like no other.

Susan and Colin Goodchild, and Margaret Cavanagh:

We will always remember Edward’s kindness and compassion shown to us all at the time of Albert’s illness in 2015.

On a lighter note, we will always remember Edward’s cooking skills. The pancake and quiz nights were amazing and the number of pancakes produced by Edward and the team kept us all going. His homemade soups and roulades were also second to none and everyone looked forward to the lunches in the Eccles Hall.

He will be sadly missed by all.

Margaret, Susan and Colin.

Mabel Henderson:

Edward, a truly kind and holy man, I rejoice that he lived, and will treasure his memory.

Ella Heaney:

I will always remember Edward for his thoughtfulness and kindness. He was a very good cook and had a great sense of humour. Sadly missed.

RIP.

Joan Purves:

Edward was such a lovely man, always there with his kind and caring ways. He was a great comfort to John and me during John's illness. He will be sorely missed by so many people. Rest in peace dear Edward. X

Linda Reynolds:

It's so difficult to summarise how much Edward meant, he was such a wonderful spiritual mentor and friend, giving unstintingly of his time and support. I remember especially his faithful worship, his thoughtful Lent courses and his help with Sunday School. He was such a big part of the life of our church community, who can forget those bacon butty coffee mornings and his famous soup and Swiss Rolls served at many events. He lived his life in service to our Lord and his neighbours and we thank God with all our heart that he was part of our lives and remember him with gratitude.

Liz York:

Edward Newton, Reader, a special man, a Holy man, caring, generous, patient and kind, who leaves a great gap in all our lives, but some wonderful memories:-

The patient teaching of Crucifers, and Servers.

Leading Advent and Lent Courses.

Time for anyone with a question, or needing help or advice.

Memorable sermons, often starting with "Now my Uncle Jo" (or another family member) used to make delicious pies, then going on to the relevant Bible passage, before coming back to Uncle Jo, and the reason for the story. They were always entertaining and instructive.

But I think my fondest memory was of Edward in the corner of the Eccles Hall kitchen, wearing a huge apron. Pans of delicious soup on the stove. A selection of amazing Roulades ready to be served. A glass of wine in one hand, a soup ladle in the other, a twinkle in his eye, and an enormous grin on his face.

Cheers Edward. We'll miss you. R I P.

Nuala Kelso:

Kind, caring, faithful Edward, you will be sadly missed. "May God hold you in the palm of his hand".

Joyce Whitehouse:

Over the years Edward and Pearl were very dear and faithful friends to Jack and I – many happy times spent at Kimberley House, and when Jack was failing he so looked forward to their visits and the banter he and Edward shared. Edward gave his time and care so readily in his quiet way – never making it a duty, rather feeling it a privilege to do what he did for us all, and our churches owe him a great debt. I pray that he may now know the peace he so richly deserves. He will always be remembered with love, lots of laughter and a bottle of red!!

Janet Dobson:

Dear, dear Edward, ever a very generous man, renowned for making the best, packed full, bacon butties!

When hosting a fund raising morning for St. Albans, at their flat in Seaton Delaval, I helped a few times to cook, literally pounds of bacon, fat flying all over, stifling haze, back door wide open, for the crowd waiting in the lounge to be served, coffee on the go. As well as in between cooking, up to one's elbows in soapsuds washing crockery, but by did the bacon butties taste good!

Again making soup in the Eccles Hall for an events meal of one sort or another, we stood for hours cutting produce, while Edward stirred the boiling vegetables, finishing the morning by having a sherry or two (!!)

the bottle hidden in his bag.

It was served later, steaming hot, as a starter, portions large enough to last one a week without further eating! The broth was affectionately known as 'Edwards Broth', and I suspect always will be.

A stalwart of the community, ever ready, and willing to help, whatever the problem, sadly missed but very happy memories, a pleasure to have known him.

Wes Blakey:

Edward Newton.

In all the time that I have known him Edward has been just one of the loveliest of people. He was a kind, caring gentleman who never pushed himself forward but was always happy to do whatever he could. He was always willing to join in ecumenical ventures and services, giving warm welcomes to our Methodist folk to St Alban's, and readily partaking at the Methodist Church and also giving the official Church of England welcome to our incoming Minister at his Induction.

Edward's faith and calm and positive character shone through everything he did – not only in his conduct of worship but in his everyday life. His influence and inspiration has been greater than even he would realise and I, like countless others always felt the better for being in his company. I thank God for Edward, for his collegueship and friendship.

Kathleen Henzell

Edward was always such a pleasant caring man with a quiet dignity . Edward officiated at both of my brothers funerals . His warmth , compassion and kindness greatly helped my family through very difficult times .

Edward will always be in our thoughts .

Joan Armstrong:

Edward Newton 2nd January 1946 - 12th January 2022

It was about 1990 when Edward Newton arrived at St Alban's and was introduced to my family by Richard Bryant our Vicar at that time. Edward fitted in so easily with our congregation and even more so when he brought Pearl, Barry and little Craig along to our services. Later came Michael and Alison.

The years went by as Roly, Jill and I became firm friends of this new family. Edward instigated The Emmaus Course and an Art in Religion Course along with many other Lent and Advent House Groups which were always lead with such love and understanding. Edward was an organiser and if a job needed organising, he was ready to 'step up to the mark'. This Capricornian trait, along with the others of a sense of responsibility, huge dedication and being realistic certainly fit Edward's life style. He was the 'go to' person if we needed to know anything ecclesiastical, as his long experience of church etiquette, training servers and organising aesthetically beautiful traditional services, meant he was a fount of knowledge.

Roly and I were witnesses when Pearl and Edward were married on 22nd July 1997. It was our 30th (Pearl) wedding anniversary on that day and what could have been more appropriate. Their union was a blessing in so many ways.

As our social events became more frequent and more adventurous, Edward's culinary skills came to the fore. The "Little Black Book" held Edward's tried and tested recipes that we have used over the years - quantities to make up 40 litres of soup, 300 pancakes, 10 roulades. His soups were legendary, his roulades perfection and his pancakes thin and very, very more-ish.

Nothing was too much trouble for Edward and he put great demands on himself; he would give the vote of thanks when needed; he was the one to call, even at 5.30 am because he would be up for the papers; he was the one who came to Roly at that time when we were told Roly was near death and we needed support.

How saddened we were to see Edward's decline over lockdown but are now able to rejoice with him in certain surety that he is in a better place with our Lord. Edward, you are greatly missed.

(Please see page 25 for two tributes that missed the deadline.)

Helen Blackburn:

Food glorious food - soup and pancakes taste good

Famous tiramisu; bacon butties at coffee do's

Fund raising was Edwards style, you'd find him in the kitchen!

No job too hard for him; he could make anything.

Food beautiful food - generously laden cheese scones, cake stall in the hall, what was this long queue for?

Needs tatties and haggis things nowt but the best for us lot!

Great sight on Burns Night we will not forget.

Food delightful food - we were happy to try it, Thank you for all that you did, you certainly left some memories. Cooking was only one of your skills, you fed us spiritually too, let your star shine brightly now just where you live. ✨

Your food glorious food is only one thing that your will be remembered for, you fed your church and family with your wisdom too.

God bless you Edward and rest in peace shine brilliantly just like your shoes always did. ✨

Love Helen Keith Sarah and Jenny.

Cathryn Richardson:

Edward has always been a huge part of St Alban's and St John's for many years. He always had that twinkle in his eyes and his sermons often related to events that had happened throughout his life and relaying them in a memorable Geordie accent. Among the acts of service he gave, he must have made hundreds of pancakes over the years for Shrove Tuesday, and he was a very special mentor to the youngsters coming through the ranks of Sunday School into becoming servers. A truly godly man who has left a void in all our lives. RIP Edward xx

Rest in peace, our lovely Edward.

Jean xx



(Thanks to Barry for the picture.)

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

Christmas is over once more.....



Thanks to the ingenuity of John Carr's altar design in Immaculate Heart of Mary, the crib is set up in the large space which is usually the reverse of the altar, unseen by the congregation.

When the Christmas season ends, the altar can be lifted, turned and reversed - by some sturdy volunteers - so John's carving of the Last Supper can be seen once more.



John was the senior Foreman Shipwright at Swan Hunter's Shipyard in its heyday and his hobby was woodcarving. The beautiful crucifix on the wall behind the altar is his work, as are the wooden statues. He also carved the Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Heart of Mary and St Alban's.



Just like home, when Christmas ends, everything goes up in the loft. The crib figures are carefully reversed to prevent their noses and hands being chipped by all those other things that will inevitably find their way up there in the course of the year because they 'might come in handy one day'. Just like home too.

.....but 2022 is off to a fine start

One of the recent glorious sunsets over Immaculate Heart of Mary



For photographers like me, “of a certain age”, this time of year is a great gift - sunrise is just after breakfast and sunset is just before tea!

The **Walking Group** has enjoyed this bright and clear weather on its first two walks of the year and hope it continues on the February walks (on the 4th and 18th) details of which will be on the Parish Bulletin.

Storm Arwen Repairs

After St Edward’s summer of renovations, November Storm Arwen’s £18,000 of damage was heart-breaking. Now our Insurer has authorised repairs to begin this month. Our area was particularly badly hit by the storm – the highest wind speed in Britain was recorded at 98mph in Brizlee Wood in Northumberland.

Confirmation Programme Returns

One welcome sign that some aspects of parish life are returning to normal is the re-introduction of the Partnership Confirmation Programme for Years 10 and 11 students which will begin next month and end before the Easter break in April. Confirmations are likely to take place over the summer.

Marine Park First School Pupils’ Visit.

This month all Year 3 pupils will visit St Edward’s Church as part of their Religious Education programme. They will visit on three mornings in groups of thirty and will be very welcome indeed. The church is ideally situated for them, being only a hundred yards or so from the school. A truly splendid initiative.

An interesting item by Rob Gowdy:

The Northern Saints Trails (Supported by Durham Cathedral)

North East England is the Christian Crossroads of the British Isles. The Northern Saints Trails are a series of six long-distant walking trails based on ancient pilgrimage routes.

The trails are :-

The Way of Light (Heavenfield/Hexham - Durham)

The Way of Life (Gainford – Bishop Auckland – Durham)

The Way of Love (Hartlepool – Durham)

The Way of Learning (Jarrow – Sunderland – Durham)

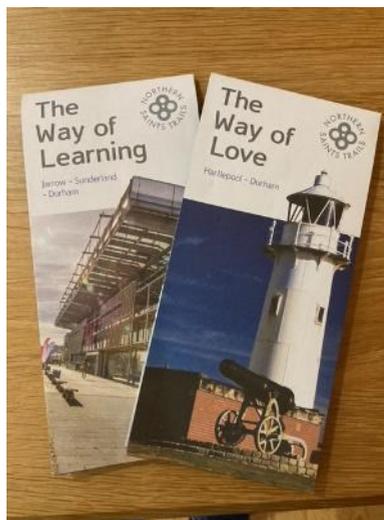
The Angel's Way (Seaton Sluice – Newcastle, Gateshead – Chester-le-Street – Durham)

The Way of the Sea (Warkworth – North Shields)

One interesting thing I noted in the 'Way of Learning' leaflet is that there is reference to an official Camino Ingles, an English offshoot of the Camino de Santiago. Part of the English route passes by Finchale Abbey.

St. Godric of Finchale undertook one of the earliest known England – Santiago de Compostella pilgrimages.

There are copies of **The Way of Love** and **The Way of Learning** at the back of the Church but more information is available from northernsaints.com





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Earsdon Methodist Church

Diary for February 2022

Sunday	6th	Mr. Dave Sedgwick.
Sunday	13th	Rev'd. John Mason.
Sunday	20th	Mrs. Anne Morrell.
Sunday	23rd	Rev'd. John Mason.

Valentine's Day -
14th February.



CRUSTS

For as long as I can remember I have always eaten my crusts first. As far as I can remember it all started when I was a small boy (granted that was some time ago !) while having meals at my grandparents home. They lived in a relatively small house in a mining community in Co. Durham where downstairs they had a ‘scullery’ a kitchen and a small bathroom, outside of which was a set pot used regularly on wash days. The kitchen was their living room where meals were made, washing was hung on wet days and proggy mats were made in the winter.

Every Sunday afternoon all the family used to gather there to have tea before going off to the evening service at the local Methodist chapel. There could be twelve or fourteen of us all squeezed around the table , – aunties, uncles cousins , my parents and me. However many there were my Gran would conjure up enough and to spare for us all. The table was full of home made cakes, tarts ,teacakes and more, not forgetting the inevitable jelly and tinned fruit! Tea began after Grandad came downstairs after his afternoon forty winks and then pronounced Grace.

After that there was only two house rules. 1. No crusts had to be left. 2. Bread had to be eaten with the fruit and jelly. No explanation was ever given for the latter but I always assumed it was to fill us up. Well it certainly did that but completely ruined the taste. So I hit on the method of eating my bread first in order to have the unadulterated taste of pears and lime jelly to follow; and by the same token I ate my crusts first too. Happily I have long discontinued the practice of eating bread with fruit and jelly or even custard, however I still eat my crusts first so I can then enjoy better whatever is attached to them.

To this day when I look at the list of jobs awaiting me, I still try do the less agreeable one first. It is not always easy especially if it is tempting to put off a certain visit or telephone call. But it is a habit I know I should keep cultivating; and who knows, eating my symbolic crusts may just give me curly hair.

Wes Blakey

(It didn't make my hair curly! Editor.)

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for February 2022

Thursday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	6th		<u>Fourth Sunday before Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	9th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	13th		<u>Third Sunday before Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	17th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	20th		<u>2nd Sunday before Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	27th		<u>Sunday Next before Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

I haven't forgotten to include the direct hyperlink to our newspaper THE LINK, it just isn't working. You can still navigate to it by first going to [Newcastle Diocese \(anglican.org\)](http://Newcastle Diocese (anglican.org)) then click on News and Events on the top line (in pale lettering). Once there you will see down the right-hand side, a list entitled NEWS. At the top of that list you will see LINK NEWSPAPER. Click on that and you should be able to read the newspaper. Good luck!

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for February 2022 :

6th

Luke 5. 1-11

13th

Luke 6. 17-26

20th

Luke 8. 22-25

27th

Luke 9. 28-36

Cont'd from pages 9 to 15

Judith Jenkins

One of the first people to welcome us to St Alban's, Edward exemplified the best of faith in action. Always helpful, never showy, he was a huge asset to our church family and will be greatly missed. Judith and David Jenkins.

Sylvia Turnbull

I have known Edward for many years, also his mother who taught him to cook! I just loved Sunday lunches and his Yorkshire Puds, of which I had many. I also remember our visits to the Theatre Royal with Pearl and Alison. I could go on and on but I will never forget Edward's kindness to me, nor his great sermons.

Love, Sylvia.



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are all companies registered at West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1JZ

From
Cullercoats Lifeboat Station
e-mail: Cullercoats@rnli.org.uk

Mrs C Richardson
West Monkseaton
WHITLEY BAY

6th January 2022

Dear Cathryn,

DONATION TO CULLERCOATS LIFEBOAT STATION

Many thanks for your donation of £365.00 donated by the parishioners of St Albans' and St Johns' churches of Earsdon and Backworth respectively, the money being raised in lieu of sending traditional Christmas cards.

It is comforting for us at the lifeboat station to know that we have the support of many of the local population such as yourselves and please convey our thanks to all the parishioners.

The RNLI continues to rely on voluntary contributions and legacies for income. It is only through kind gifts such as yours that we are able to provide our volunteer lifeboat crews and beach lifeguards with efficient boats, equipment and training that are needed to save lives at sea.

Kind regards and stay safe

Frank Taylor
Lifeboat Operations Manager
Cullercoats Lifeboat Station
NE30 4PZ

Receipt No. AB 213393

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Registered in Scotland (SC037736) and England and Wales (209403). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland

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Marti's Musings 95

January is an odd month isn't it. Everyone is feeling a bit blue after all the lovely Christmas decorations are down, but at the same time making plans for the New Year with new hopes.

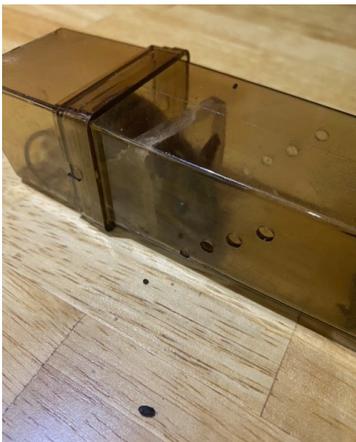
This January was very sad with the passing of our much loved Edward Newton, he was a huge presence in the church family and did so much for us all. He will be a big miss and we send love to all his family.

We have had some unexpected visitors in our house this month. Mum found some strange black things on the kitchen bench and diagnosed them as mouse poo! She got a humane trap and has so far caught 5! I got told off for being a rubbish terrier as apparently it's my job to catch critters. Well I didn't know that, I've never seen one in the house in my 10 years.

We think storm Arwen must have shown them how to get in by felling the ivy. The good news is that there has been no more for 3 days so I think we have relocated the whole family. It's nearly Candlemas so the crib will be coming down this month. What can we look forward to next? Oh yes, Shrove Tuesday and a Musica Johannes concert are coming up, I look forward to seeing you all there.

Lots of squeaks

Marti xxx



WORDSEARCH

February 2022

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine
Rose
Romance
Love
Present
Restaurant
Hearts
Kiss
hug
girlfriend
boyfriend
fiancé
worship
repentance
angels
baby
temple
Mary
Candlemas
presentation



Church Contacts

Earsdon Methodists:

Minister

Rev'd John Mason, 61 Ingleside Road, North Shields NE29 9PB. Tel: 2908745
Email jmason4468@gmail.com

Church Council Secretary

Mrs. A. Blakey, 14 Hesleyside Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9HB. Tel:251 9813

Church Treasurer

Mr Ian Nicholson, 28 Huntly Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9UR. Tel: 252 9564

Church Stewards

Mrs S Bowen 7 Woodside, Prudhoe, NE42 5PH. Tel: 01661 835811

Mrs B Henderson 46 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 1JJ. Tel: 291 3678

St. Alban's Earsdon:

Vicar

Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU

Tel: 07414 601 351

Church wardens

Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957

Tel : 0191 3665269 .

Mr R Gowdy, 82 Chipchase Court, New Hartley, Northumberland NE25 0SR

Tel: 07841 986 019

PCC Secretary

Mrs Jo McEvedy, 31 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JX.

Mobile 07855 405605

PCC Treasurer

Mr R Swindells, 81 St Mary's Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 3TS. Tel 252 3919

St. John's Backworth:

Vicar

Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU

Tel: 07414 601 351

Church warden

Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957

Tel : 0191 3665269 .

Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD

Tel: 268 4334

Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

Mgr. Andrew Faley Tel: 252 8021

Parish Office Tel: 252 7066- open on Weds, Thursdays, & Fridays,
10am to 1pm.