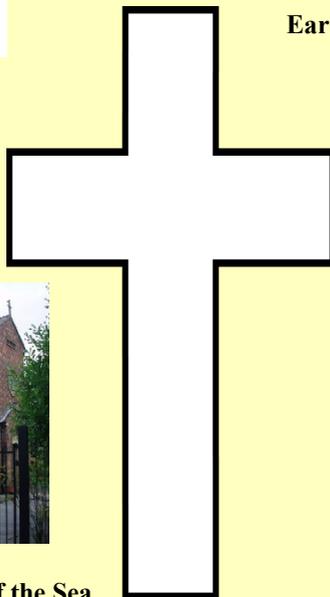




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

March 2022

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St. John's Backworth



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

March 2022

Dear All,

As these things turn out this year, the first two days of March are both very significant, but in totally opposite ways.

March 1st [nip and a punch!] is Shrove Tuesday. This is an opportunity for one last blow-out before the fasting of Lent. That's why it's also known as 'Mardi Gras' – 'Fat Tuesday' – in some countries. I hope you enjoy your pancakes, with whatever is your favourite topping: bacon and maple syrup? Crushed-up Flake? Or maybe just the classic lemon and white sugar. Yum! Have a lovely Shrove Tuesday...

...before March 2nd, which is Ash Wednesday. The two days couldn't really be more different. From the flippin' exuberance of the one, to the solemn sorrow of the other. Sorrow for sin, that is. Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to measure the distance between 'holy, holy, holy God' and 'weak sinful me'. For those who would value it, it's an opportunity to receive the sign of the cross in ash on the forehead. Ash in the Bible signifies a regret for things done that we wish we hadn't. And the cross is the place where holy God enabled 'weak sinful me' to come into His presence.

Ash Wednesday fires the starting gun for Lent. And Lent is about so much more than 'giving something up'. It includes that, of course – it's an opportunity for me to discipline my body and its appetites. But how about 'taking something up' for Lent – something which will find me closer to God come Easter?

In that regard, March also sees the launch of our five-part Lent Course. Anglicans are reading Luke's Gospel this year, and there are several strong storylines in Jesus' teaching that we only find in Luke. So 'What's the Story?' will look at five of these...

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of Jesus' best loved stories. What we often miss, though, is that at the time of Jesus, Jews and Samaritans were sworn enemies. So this is a tale about 'loving the unlikely'.

Jesus covers lots of ground in his ‘parable of the great banquet’. This is the story of a generous party host – clearly a picture of God. The party host puts on a fabulous spread and invites lots of guests. Lots of them decline the invitation, with ridiculous excuses bordering on the breathtakingly rude. But our host is not to be thwarted: his servants are sent out into the streets and alleys to find people who *do* want to come. The host wants his party to be full of guests: will you accept the invitation?

Luke himself tells us that Jesus’ parable of ‘The Persistent Widow’ is about praying and praying and never giving up. A woman wears out a useless judge by coming and coming and demanding justice. Jesus wants to know if our lives of prayer will show the same persistence.

The parable of the Rich Fool is absolutely one for our times. This bloke piles up stuff for himself – it’s all me, me, me. Then suddenly he dies, so what’s his life all been about? He’s missed the point of it all, which is to be ‘rich towards God’.

And the course ends in early April with Jesus’ sublime ‘parable of the Prodigal Son’. This haunting tale would better be titled ‘The parable of the father with two lost sons’, because the bitter older brother who stays at home is equally as lost as the one who leaves and blows half the family estate.

All the way through, our course will look for fresh insights into these stories, and enmesh them with the stories of our own lives. Your church may well be doing something different for Lent. But if not, and you’d like to join in with ours, you’d be very welcome. There’s an in-person version at St Mark’s Shiremoor at 2pm from Wednesday March 9th, and on the evening of the same day a Zoom version starts [contact me for the link].

I wish you a rich journey through March, from the flippin’ pancakes of the 1st, to its end by which time we’ll nearly be ready to re-live the story of Holy Week.

Yours with love,

Tim Mayfield.

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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. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, we look forward to a better year for 2022.

Earsdon and Backworth Mothers' Union :

Wednesday 16th March, 1.45pm in the Eccles Hall.

Speaker: Eileen Hogg - author.

St Alban's:

Tuesday 1st March, 7.30pm at the Eccles Hall, Earsdon; the traditional and now famous Pancake & Quiz Night.

Please contact Joan on 0191 2529239 if you'd like to join us.



If you are missing “**The Secret Life of St Alban's and St John's Folk**”, please will you let Gillian France 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.

St. Peter's Players (Monkseaton) will be performing a one act play " Slim Chance", a comedy by Peter Gordon and other entertainment in the Crosskeys Hall, Elmwood Road, Monkseaton on the evenings of 24th,25th and 26th March 2022 at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Dot Elliott (0191 2809839) or Lesley Pattison (0191 2094992). Price £6. Refreshments will be served. We are also recruiting new members whether as Actors, Stage crew or Front of house. We're a friendly bunch and have lots of fun doing what we love, namely entertaining the local community.
For any enquiries, please contact Liz York.

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**

Saturday evening 2nd April 2022

Musica Johannis are giving a concert of Lenten Music and readings.

Start time 7.30 pm. Tickets are £7.00. Wine will be served, and please note that the concert will not have an interval. For enquiries, contact Joan on 0191 2529239.

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Music and Readings for Lent

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7.30pm
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SPRING

An acrostic poem

(Taking each letter of the title word to start the next line of the verse)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,
Petals of every colour and hue,
Rain and sun caressing the earth
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view
Now is the time of new beginnings
Giving us pleasure all season through.

By Megan Carter



I would like to thank everyone who sent in their memories of your much loved friend Edward, in the February edition of the Church Views magazine. So many mentioned of the twinkle in his eye, which was always there. Like you, he was always my best friend with a twinkle in his eye, often when he was thinking of saying or doing something mischievous!!

He is now at peace and no doubt discussing the news of the day with God, and with the same twinkle in his eye.

On a lighter note, there is a parable in the bible called “The Pearl of Great Price”. Edward always said the parable was very true, especially when I went shopping for shoes!!

Thank you for all your memories of Edward.

Love and prayers,

Pearl.

Two more tributes for Edward Newton, which missed the first print run of last month’s magazine:

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.



Spring Fete

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BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

100 years ago, on 10th March 1922 that Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and charged with sedition for his campaign of non-cooperation against the British Indian government. He was sentenced to six years in prison but released after two years as he needed surgery.

80 years ago, on 8th March 1942 that the bombing of Essen, Germany, took place. It was the first attack on a German city by the British RAF following the Area Bombing Directive of 14th February, which authorised the bombing of civilian areas.

Also 80 years ago, on 25th March 1942 that Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, was born. The American soul/R&B/pop/gospel singer was known for her many hit songs

including *Respect* and *I Say a Little Prayer*. (Died 2018)

70 years ago, on 11th March 1952 that Douglas Adams, British comedy writer and dramatist was born. Best known for *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* series. (Died 2001)

60 years ago, on 19th March 1962 that the American folk-rock singer Bob Dylan released his debut album *Bob Dylan*.

50 years ago, on 24th March 1972 that the government of on 30th March 1972 that the British government introduced direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster (until 1999).

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1982 that the Barbican Centre in London was opened. It is the largest arts and conference venue in

Europe.

30 years ago, on 19th March 1992 that Buckingham Palace announced the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson.)

25 years ago, on 6th March 1997 that Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: www.royal.gov.uk

Also 25 years ago, on 21st March 1997 that the Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children’s writer, died. Best known as the creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine*.



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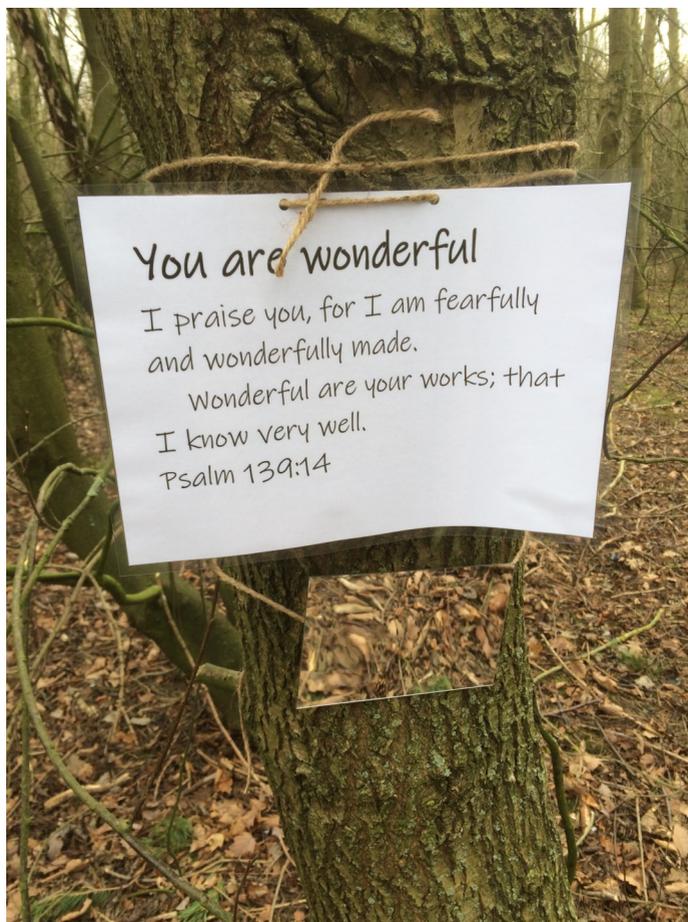
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On Saturday February 11th, five churches clustered around The Rising Sun Country Park mounted 'Love is in the Air'. This trail, for all the family, took visitors to various locations in the woods. Themes of the various stations included 'Love for God', 'Love for Myself', 'Love for my Neighbour' and 'Love for the Environment'.

Rae Caro, vicar of our sister church St Mark's, organised the event. She was thrilled with the outcome, as over two hundred people visited her station alone. This is the one pictured with mirrors attached to trees for the children to look in. Above the mirrors were messages like 'You are unique... you are beautiful... you are good'.





Vicar Tim Mayfield bumped into Sarah and Will Jordan at the event. Sarah and Will kindly agreed to be photographed so that you could get a feel for what was going on.

Rae hopes to organise something similar for Easter. ☺



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

Synod 2023

Discussions via zoom took place in the parish, the final one being in late February, discussing how the parish and the Diocese and the Church can be more relevant in the 21st Century. The results of the discussions were finalised and forwarded to the Lay Pastoral Forum which will compile them for Bishop Byrne in March. Also in February, parishes across the Diocese sent representatives for a morning of prayer, with the Bishop; talking, listening and giving their feedback on the Diocesan Synod process. At the end of the morning, Bishop Byrne said, "We've had a very fruitful morning...we go forward trusting each other and with a confidence in the joy and power of the Gospel."



The Bishop will consider the parish submissions together with the responses of the clergy, Caritas and other diocesan groups and produce his final submission in early April. The various submissions will be made available at each stage.

Normal service will be resumed....

You have to be a certain age to remember that famous BBC announcement, but it's still appropriate. From March there will be no need to book places for the weekend Masses in either church. Group meetings and social activities can be resumed at Immaculate Heart of Mary since it has been risk assessed and is a dual purpose building. Further good news is that the heating system there is to be updated. Fewer restrictions will be necessary as the national legal framework changes.

Lent 2022



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 2 March, although recent Covid restrictions may have felt like a long Lent already for some of us. There is a Lenten Reflections booklet available with reflections on the Scriptures' relevance to our daily lives. The dedicated page on the Diocesan website which contains the booklet can be found online at <https://diocesan.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer//seasonal>

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will resume in July 2022. Last year only a week long virtual pilgrimage was possible at Ushaw, including a Service of Healing, a Bereavement Service and a Rosary direct from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. Details of this year's pilgrimage, including the opportunity to volunteer for roles supporting less able pilgrims, can be found at *rcdn Lourdes pilgrimage*



Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture

Although Bishop Kevin served only four years after his appointment in 2004, he is still fondly remembered for his lively interest in the Newcastle and Northumberland community. Here he is pictured with Alan Shearer in 2007 at the opening of the Alan Shearer Centre, for those with complex disabilities and acute sensory impairments. It was with those wider interests and the place of the Church in the community in mind that the memorial Lectures were inaugurated after his untimely death on 1 March 2008.



Past Memorial Lectures have been given by many distinguished figures, including Sister Helen Prejean, noted for her work with condemned prisoners in the United States and recounted in her book *Dead Man Walking*, also the title of the film which followed.



This year the Memorial Lecture will be given by Archbishop John Wilson of the Southwark Diocese who will ask “Is the Gospel Really Good News?” at 6.00pm at Ushaw on Tuesday 8 March 2022. The Lecture is free, but those attending should register for attendance on <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com/>

Smile-lines

With Mothering Sunday in mind, this question was put to some children: **Why God made mums.**

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
2. Mostly to clean the house, I think.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
3. God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.
3. They have a lot more hair than dads, are softer to hug, and wear woolly jumpers.

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.
3. Other mums wouldn't understand about me being afraid in the dark.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background, like has he put anything too disgusting on Facebook?
3. She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that no one will ever know.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Dad is, because mum says so. She just helps by reminding him what to do each day.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. Dad was, until Mum found what he had written on Facebook about Granny.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

1. Mums work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but they panic when the dishwasher overflows.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

1. She takes my brother to football and my sister to violin lessons.
2. To hear her tell it, it's like she pays bills all day long.
3. I think that must happen during the night, because then she just lies there and sleeps.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.
3. She would understand why the dog needs to sleep with me at night.

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Earsdon Methodist Church

Preachers for March 2022

Sunday	6th	Mr. John Bedigan.
Sunday	13th	Rev'd. John Mason - Holy Communion.
Sunday	20th	Mrs. Anne Morrell.
(Saturday	26th	Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour.)
Sunday	27th	Rev'd. John Mason.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mr. George Bewick. George died on the twenty second of January aged 93 years.

Although he was not a member of the church he was a regular at the Lunch Club, enjoying his soup and sandwiches and the company of all around him. His electrical prowess was much appreciated, and he helped out when he could, just as he did for the Community Centre. Our prayers and condolences go to his family at this time.

Many thanks to Norman Bloomfield.

I was once given a hellebore *argutifolius*.

I love saying that. It is one of the few Latin names for a flower that I know. It is better known as a Corsican hellebore and belongs to the same family as the Christmas rose. However, this year it seems to have gone down into the soil instead of rising from it. I think that I may have lost it, but nonetheless I will keep my eye on the patch where I know it is – or was!

I shall be sad if it has disappeared as this particular plant was rather special to me, for it was given to me by Daphne, a lovely lady who was a member of one of my former churches, who died some time ago now. She had grown this plant in her own garden, in which she also grew a whole variety of hellebores, which were a joy to see. This gift made me keen to look for different hellebore varieties ever since, and over the years I have managed to acquire and grow some.

I love these plants, especially as they flower during the early part of the year when little else is showing, and they bring cheer to a dull pre-Spring day.

Along with the plant, Daphne gave me a book outlining some of the folk tales surrounding it.

One such tale tells of an old French magician who was reputed to make himself invisible by scattering powdered hellebore over himself, thus passing through his debtors undetected.

I've never yet tried that with mine ~ but it's a thought!

Last year along with my other hellebores there were some seedlings around their bases, I took some of them and potted them up. They have survived the winter so far and although they are still quite small, I am hopeful that one may be a successor to the plant that has disappeared, although they don't always come true to type. I shall never be the gardener that Daphne was, but if I am successful I will at least be able to pass on to others, some plants that have brought joy to her and to me.

Of course it's not only gardeners who pass on good things to others – we all do, sometimes unknowingly and sadly sometimes infrequently. Let us make Lent a time of sharing not sacrificing and let us all try to share with someone something that will give them joy, we could even do it before this very day closes. It does not have to be a hellebore – but it could be !

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for March 2022



Wednesday	2nd		<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	
		9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	6th		<u>First Sunday of Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	13th		<u>Second Sunday of Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	20th		<u>Third Sunday of Lent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	24th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	27th		<u>Fourth Sunday of Lent</u> <u>(Mothering Sunday)</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Here is the hyperlink for the monthly newspaper "THE LINK"

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5fbc2ba5a8086/content/pages/documents/link-march-final.pdf>

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for March 2022 :

6th
Luke 4. 1-13

13th
Luke 13. 31-end

20th
Luke 13. 1-9

27th
Luke 15. 1-3, 11b-end



Lent course, “What’s the Story?” for five weeks:

Wednesday	9th	2.00pm at St Mark's, Shiremoor	OR	7.30pm on Zoom.
Wednesday	16th	2.00pm at St Mark's, Shiremoor	OR	7.30pm on Zoom.
Wednesday	23rd	2.00pm at St Mark's, Shiremoor	OR	7.30pm on Zoom.
Wednesday	30th	2.00pm at St Mark's, Shiremoor	OR	7.30pm on Zoom.

Please contact Rev Tim Mayfield 07414 601351 if you're interested in taking part in the Lent course.

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Two for you this time, as last month's was removed to make way for tributes to Edward Newton.

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 * 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 magzine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk *
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 * *Thank you.* *

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Marti's Musings 96

It's still very windy isn't it! Doesn't seem worth doing any gardening yet. Poor little flowers will get blown away! Having said that the crocuses and snowdrops are so pretty and valiantly making a show in the garden. I love their little purple faces popping up. Mum is making a hat again, goodness knows what for this time. I can't see her wearing it in this wind and I think it might be a bit much to wear to the next church event. Speaking of which, I'm really looking forward to Shrove Tuesday pancake and quiz night, it seems ages since I have seen all my friends at St Alban's. Has anyone being following the Morph in the North trail? I have only seen one so far, but plan to spot all 20. I do like it when random pieces of art work pop up!

Hope you are all staying inside and warm!

Lots of flowers,

Marti xxx



WORDSEARCH

March 2022

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

- lent
- spiritual
- Easter
- preparation
- fasting
- prayer
- desert
- selfdenial
- repentance
- seeking
- finding
- growing
- mothers
- love
- care
- nurture
- learning
- teaching
- disciples
- worldwide
- flowers
- thankyou
- nursing
- family



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Please note - all material for next month's magazine (April 2022) will need to be in before Wed 23 March 2022. Thank you, *Jean*.