



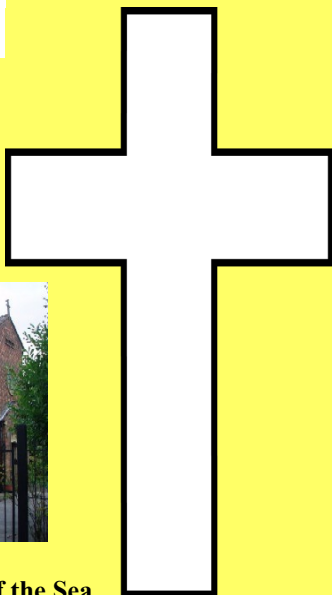
St. Alban's Earsdon

CHURCH VIEWS



March 2024

£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

March 2024

On the isle of Orkney stands a Stone Age burial mound. Maes Howe has an imposing stone entrance. The visitor stoops to walk along a passageway. At the far end is a chamber where the skulls of the ancestors were treasured. Maes Howe is built so that, when the sun set on the shortest day, it would have shone down the passageway to illuminate the precious skulls. Astonishingly, this would have happened at two thirty in the afternoon. What a long, long dark night then lay in store.

We visited Maes Howe not at the shortest day, but near the longest. So, when we were on Orkney, the tilting earth blessed it with almost uninterrupted light. We went to a late night concert in St Magnus Cathedral, then visited another Stone Age site – the Ring of Brodgar. It was still light at half past one in the morning as we made our way to our holiday cottage.

People who live in a country like the UK – at our latitude in the Northern Hemisphere – get used to this rhythm of light and dark. How very different it must be to live near the equator: twelve hours of light, a sudden quick dusk, and then twelve hours of darkness. Every day of the year.

I say we get used to this rhythm, but maybe it still takes us by surprise. You overhear complete strangers greeting each other on the waggonways with ‘it’s getting lighter! The days are lengthening! Yes – definitely a lot more light in the sky’.

How appropriate that, this year, the clocks change on Easter Sunday. I love the clocks changing. In the autumn you get the extra hour in bed, but are plunged into the darker afternoons. Even these bring their own cosy excitement – ‘Christmas is coming!’

In the spring we lose that hour in bed, but with a fabulous reward – the longer days, the promise of warmth and the coming summer.

And this year that happens on Easter Day. Jesus has suffered the very darkest things that human nature can do.

Betrayal by a close associate. Desertion by friends who promised to stand by him. A mockery of a trial, where his judge found him innocent yet pronounced a death sentence. The jeering bullying of a group of bored squaddies. And finally the unspeakable agony of crucifixion. No wonder **darkness came over the whole land.**

But on the third day that darkness was routed. The spectacular light of Jesus' risen life overturned the very worst that humanity could do. The risen Christ tells me that the darkness will not win. Light, and life, and love will triumph over darkness, death and hate.

That hope can be hard to cling on to. Heavens, 2024 has quite enough of its own darkness. But when we feel pummelled by the news agenda, may Easter hope sustain us. When we re-set our clocks on March 31st, and stumble blinking into the longer light of British Summer Time, may we redouble our determination to be people of the light. "We are an Easter people, and 'Alleluia' is our song!"

I wish you a deep, rich Holy Week, yielding to light-filled Easter joy.

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.

St Alban's :

Date for your Diary:

Saturday 18th May

St Alban's Spring Fayre 10am - 3pm.

All proceeds in aid of The Netty Project. Please keep the date and come along to support us on this day. A wide variety of stalls for young and old. More information next month!



Remember
to put your
clocks forward
One hour

BST begins Sunday 31st March

Easter Day

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

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

* 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**. *

Website: www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk

Church Views magazine email: magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk

Erdesdon House

The story of my dolls' house. By Helen Jackman

4 - The Bathroom and The Nursery

The Bathroom

The Bathroom is very comfortable having a nice coal fire and the usual facilities like an indoor toilet, washbasin (with a tablet of Pears soap), towel rail and a big bath in the middle of the floor. It also has a Cheval mirror. The main feature about this bathroom is the back wall tiled in blue and white with Grecian figures. There's an Aspidistra in the bay window and the curtains are bordered with broderie anglaise and made from a garment owned by my great grandma! The hall adjacent to the bathroom contains a barometer and a column with a bust of Victoria. The interesting thing is that the column was on Don's mothers wedding cake.

The Nursery

The Nursery is prettily papered with pink curtains at the Bay Window and has pictures of Peter Rabbit etc., reduced in size, on the wall. The little baby, who is only a few weeks old, is in her crib and is looked after by a lovely nursery maid called Alice. The baby's name is Mary Jane. Another very comfortable room with a fire and a nursery fireguard. The room is nicely furnished with a bed, a washbasin in the corner and a Stokesay nappy pail at the side. There's a rocking chair at the side of the fire and various toys including a dolly. The Hall has a bench and Mary Jane's very exclusive Heidi pram with a hood that actually goes up and down. There's also a Mooses Head on the far wall.

Next time the lady of the house's bedroom, Florence Edith.







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CHURCH VIEWS FOR MARCH 2024 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA



Bishop Stephen after evening Mass in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Bishop Stephen Wright's Parish Visit

Bishop Stephen said that he had been delighted to accept Mgr Faley's invitation to visit Our Lady Star of the Sea, and it soon became apparent that he that he was indeed 'at home' in a parish setting. It confirmed his later expressed view that being a parish priest, as he had been in Banbury and Burton upon Trent, was "the best job in the world".

He explained that his career path had not really included the priesthood, but while studying for the Bar the feeling had grown that he needed to explore that possibility, or at least put it to rest before continuing as a barrister. Instead he had completed his studies and been ordained in September 2000.

There was some laughter as he recounted some of the events from his time as a curate and as a parish priest, and more as he recalled pondering what he must have done to be summoned to the office of the Papal Nuncio in 2020. He had been staggered to be appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. Now, in his first year as Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, he was still coming to terms with the size of the Diocese and it would take him two years to visit every parish and go to all the schools he wants to see.

In those visits, I doubt he will find another parish with two such different churches; the Grade 2 listed town-centre St Edward's, a 1929 building in Italian Romanesque style, with its octagonal lantern tower, and the 1993 Immaculate Heart of Mary, a dual-purpose building with outstanding facilities, in its own grounds.



Sunday Mass at St Edward's

Walkers Walking and Spring Springing



It might have been damp on the last parish walk from Morpeth, but the seven 'clarty' miles were worth it for lunch among the snowdrops in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene in Mitford. I had always thought snowdrops were native to this country, but I now gather they were first brought back by troops returning from the Crimean War.

Proposed Closure of Our Lady's and St Edmund's

The February Parish Meeting accepted the recommendation of the Parish Council and the Finance Committee to proceed with closure of the church and presbytery and the sale of the site. This will now be taken to the Episcopal Council and Bishop Wright for their approval and implementation.

Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish Mass Times

St Edward's: Sunday 10.00am, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30am

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am

Another great Toddler Church 11th February at St John's Church, Backworth.

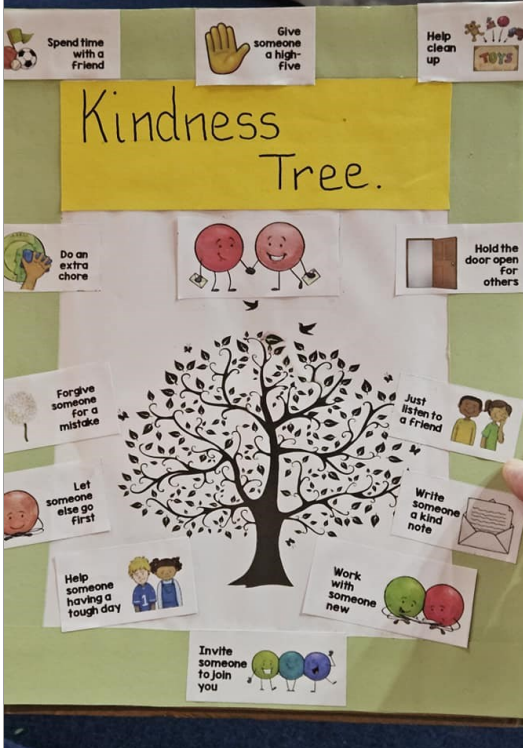
Thanks to Rev Tim, Jo McEvedy and Barbara Golightly, and all the families who came along.





*Thanks to Ali Griffiths
for letting me use his
pictures.*





Thoughts from Rev Canon J W Wesley Blakey March 2024

COMPLICATIONS

Why can't Newcastle United just buy some new players to stand in for those who are injured? Well, we are told that it's complicated! Why won't people in this world stop fighting and killing each other and live in peace? Again, we are told that it is complicated. Why can't our own politicians stop bickering with each other and get on with the job of helping the people they represent? Complications, complications we are told.

There is a story told of an aeroplane full of holidaymakers, going down the runway ready to take off.

However, the pilot did not like the sound of the engines, so he braked at the last minute and returned to base. Ten minutes later, the plane raced down the runway again and took off effortlessly.

When the plane levelled off, the chief steward made an announcement over the loudspeaker system.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we apologise for the delay in departure. At our first attempt at take off the pilot did not like the sound of the engines, so we returned to base and followed the uncomplicated instruction of the control tower. We changed the pilot!"

Certainly, one way to address a complication but not one that I would recommend in those circumstances.

Apparently, a passenger aircraft weighs about 80 tons and travels at 300 miles an hour with five tons of fuel in each wing. The engines, held on by two bolts, rotate at 35,000 revolutions per minute. The way these combustion engines work, means that they are, essentially, propelled by two giant hairdryers. To me that sounds both complicated and scary at the same time.

Yet to fly is an incredibly safe way to travel, because the industry goes to astonishing lengths to ensure it learns from every possible eventuality. Every unusual occurrence is reported and analysed.

Certainly, where there are humans there will be errors and complications; it's part of life. The knack is to *learn* from errors, not complicate matters further, and attempt no repetition.

Sadly, I have no influence over matters concerning Premiership football or local, national, or international complications, but this Lent as I am not giving up chocolate I am trying desperately to learn from any complications or mistakes of mine.

I'm not sure who said this ~ "To make no mistakes is not in the power of man, but from their errors and complications the wise and good learn wisdom for the future" ~ but it's food for thought.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for March 2024

Sunday	3rd	<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	6th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	10th	<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	17th	<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> (Mothering Sunday)		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	24th	<u>Palm Sunday</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Thursday	28th	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>		
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Friday	29th	<u>Good Friday</u>		
		2.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	St Alban's
Sunday	31st	<u>Easter Day</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
APRIL				

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for March 2024 :

3rd

John 2.13-22

10th

Colossians 3.12-17

17th

John 12.20-33

24th

Mark 11.1-11

31st

Mark 16.1-8

Remember to put your clocks forward one hour as British Summer Time begins on Sunday 31st March.
EASTER DAY!

I'd recommend changing it *before* retiring for the night on Saturday, so that you definitely won't be late for the Easter morning service!





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

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It was ...

150 years ago, on 27th March 1868 that Patty Hill, American kindergarten teacher and nursery education reformer, was born. She co-wrote the melody of 'Happy Birthday to You' with her sister Mildred.

125 year ago, on 18th March 1893 that Wilfred Owen, British poet and soldier, was born. One of the leading poets of WW1. Noted for his shocking, realistic poetry about the horrors of trench warfare. (Killed in action one week before the war ended, aged 25.)

90 years ago, on 4th March 1928 that Alan Stillitoe was born. One of the so-called 'angry young men' of the 1950s, and best known for his novel 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning' and his short story 'The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner'. Died 2010

65 years ago, on 24th March 1953 that Queen Consort Mary died. She was mother of King Edward VIII and also of King George VI. She was grandmother of Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

40 years ago, on 16th March 1978 that the Amoco Cadiz oil spill off Brittany occurred. The Liberian-registered super-tanker ran aground on rocks during a storm, split into three, and sank. Its entire

cargo of 219,797 tons of light crude and 4,000 tons of fuel oil spilled into the sea, eventually contaminating around 200 miles of coastline, including 76 beaches. There was a massive loss of life – the largest ever recorded at that time.

Also 40 years ago, on 30th March 1978 that Britain's Conservative Party recruited the (then unknown) advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi to revamp its image and win votes ahead of the General Election in May 1979. They produced the famous slogan and advertising campaign 'Labour isn't Working', which contributed to the Conservatives' election win and Margaret Thatcher becoming Prime Minister.

30 years ago, on 19th March 1988 that the Corporals killings in Belfast took place. Dozens of mourners attending an IRA funeral dragged two off-duty British soldiers from a car and beat them, then drove them to a wasteground where they were stripped and shot dead. The incident was filmed by TV cameras, and became some of the most harrowing images of the Troubles.

15 years ago, on 31st March 2003 that the world's first commercial nuclear power station at Calder Hall, Cumbria, closed down after nearly 47 years of service.

WORDSEARCH

Love and serve one another

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to His disciples before His death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed His disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "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.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy
Thursday
Final
Command
Jesus
Disciples
Death
Last Ceremony
Supper Medieval
Washed Humility
Feet Obedience
Astonishing
Purpose
Teacher
As
Loved
you
Must
One
Another
Service
Domination
Latin



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Parish Priest

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