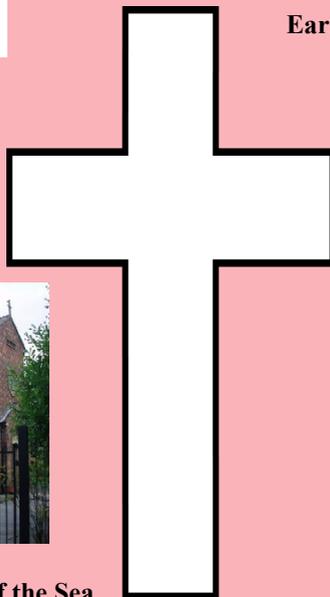




St. Alban's Earsdon



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CHURCH VIEWS

May 2023

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**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

May 2023

The first months of the year are so aptly named, and Roman, since our calendar is Gregorian. January is from Janus, the god with two faces, so he finds us looking forward to the new year and back at the old one. February is from Februa the feast of cleaning on the last full moon of winter, just as our shiny new year is ready to move, and the old year has been chucked out. Our Anglo Saxon ancestors in this part of the world just called it Solmanoth, the month of mud. No romance, the men with horns in their hats!

March is named for Mars, the god of war, when military campaigns could begin again. Sadly with our ever more brilliant technology and ever present suspicion of others, now there isn't a time when that particular monster is kept in its cage.

But my favourites of the early year are the next couple of months, less grand and somehow happier. April might be more humble, named not for a god but from 'aprire' – to open. And don't things open and just burst into colour? But May really fits because it goes back to Maia, the goddess of Spring and the growing time.

And after our Christian Easter that is exactly where we are now; into the growing time. Not just planting seeds and crops, but ourselves shrugging off the dark days and looking forward to the light again. Although we call this time in schools the Summer Term, some of our Universities, including Durham, still keep their Terms of Michelmas, Lent, and Easter.

Further afield, how beautiful, I think, that at Magdalen College, Oxford, the Easter Term is celebrated at dawn on May Day with madrigals sung from the College tower. Even the College name has its own Easter resonance, and the celebration is attended by more than a token few, not just tourists looking for 'quaint'.

May is the preparation time for growing as any gardener knows, but as Easter grows into Whitsuntide, so we should prepare to grow with it. 'Mental health' is a phrase these days which is in some danger of diminution by constant reiteration; for some it is becoming synonymous

with a right to be permanently happy. But seeking to remain in a single state is narrowing; trying to remain static denies anything the vital chance of growth.

Think for a moment of the emotional turmoil and mood swings of the disciples in their journey from Easter to Whitsun; euphoria in the adulation of the crowds on Palm Sunday, fear and denial during the Passion, despair at the Crucifixion, joy at the Resurrection, peace and acceptance of purpose after Whit Sunday. Most important of all, the courage to set out on their journeys.

By all means let's see this as a season for preparing our gardens; we love to plant now for what summer will bring, and we should care for this beautiful and fruitful earth of ours. But let us also see this May as a season for us to grow, to cherish each other, to care for more than ourselves. Most of all let us take care that when we touch each other's lives, however fleetingly, we do it gently, so that we don't just grow, but grow closer.

Gerry Latimer
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

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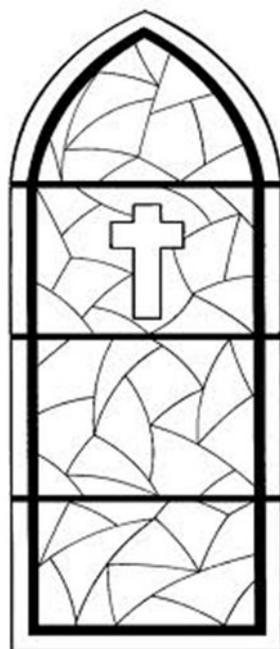
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

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

St Alban's:

Sunday 7th May	After church in the Hall	Coronation Lunch
Saturday 24th June	7.00pm in church	Backworth Male Voice Choir and Backworth Brass Band Concert
Saturdays throughout the summer		St Alban's Parishioners' Open Gardens

From Tuesday 23rd May 2023 -

St Alban's Ramblers group is back again for the summer, meeting every Tuesday outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to come and join us.



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

As explained in March's magazine, just before the full lockdown in 2020, some parishioners of St Alban's church were unable to get out and see people, and were not online. Pat Hugman suggested to Ella, Sylvia, Liz, Ali and Sandy... a 'Walk Around' visiting homebound people on a weekly basis, calling at their doors for a chat.

This lovely group has now evolved into The Wednesday Walkers, meeting regularly, holding occasional raffles, and running a tombola at the Market held in the Eccles Hall. These profits go towards refurbishing the hall, and so far a very impressive total of £400 has been donated!

Following the huge success of their Christmas Party, they have now arranged this entertainment for us all, and again, profits will go towards repairing, cleaning and painting of the Eccles Hall.

The Wednesday Walkers

invite you to

an afternoon of live 50's & 60's music



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at 1.30pm



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for tickets,

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Thanks Dianne, our dog never forgets napping!

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (June) will need to be in before Wednesday 24th May.

Smile-lines

What is the difference between Capitalism and Socialism?

Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man. Socialism is the exact opposite.

**

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"

**

Two students from a theological training college decided to spend part of their holiday in the countryside doing outreach. They stopped at an old farm house and proceeded up the path through a group of screaming children and a washing line heavy with wet clothes. When they got near the door, the woman of the house stopped scrubbing the steps, brushed her hair and perspiration from her brow, and asked them what they wanted. "We'd like to tell you how you can live forever," they answered.

The exhausted woman hesitated for a moment, and then replied, "Thank you, but I don't think I could stand it!"

**

The following true-life headlines found in local newspapers make you wonder: is proofreading a dying art?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
War Dims Hope for Peace
If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

250 years ago, on 10th May 1773 that Britain passed the Tea Act, which favoured the British East India Company over the American colonies, which led to the Boston Tea Party in December, which escalated into the American Revolution and the establishment of the USA.

150 years ago, on 1st May 1873 that David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Best known for his search for the sources of the Nile, and for going missing (and being found) in Africa.

90 years ago, on 2nd May 1933 that the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the Inverness Chronicle.

80 years ago, on 16th-17th May 1943 that the RAF launched

Operation Chastise, which became famous as the 'Dambusters' Raid'. Bouncing bombs were used to bypass anti-torpedo nets and breach dams, which caused catastrophic flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

70 years ago, on 29th May 1953 that New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

60 years ago, on 27th May 1963 that the folk/blues album 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan' was released. It included the hit song 'Blowin' in the Wind'.

50 years ago, on 17th May 1973 that the Watergate hearings began in the US Senate and were televised nationally.

40 years ago, on 20th May 1983 that the

journal 'Science' reported the discovery of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

25 years ago, on 23rd May 1998 that in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

15 years ago, on 12th May 2008 that the Sichuan earthquake took place in China. More than 69,000 people were killed, over 370,000 injured, and nearly five million made homeless.

10 years ago, on 27th May 2013 that Bill Pertwee, British comedy actor best known for his role as the Chief ARP air raid warden William Hodges in Dad's Army, died.

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As local elections approach, this may be of interest.

Bishop protests about election law changes

A senior Church of England bishop has raised serious concerns about new election laws that he believes could adversely impact “the poorest and the most marginalised.”

The Bishop of St Albans, Hertfordshire, Alan Smith, has spoken out against new regulations that mean voters will have to bring photo ID with them when they come to the polling stations. The new rules come into force at local elections in May.

Bishop Smith, who convenes the CofE bishops sitting in the UK’s House of Lords, said: “All the evidence suggests that this is likely adversely to affect the poorest and the most marginalised.

“If you’re struggling to make ends meet, and you’re working long hours, to have to go and get another form of identity if you haven’t got one readily at hand...it’s much more likely to mean that people may say, ‘It’s just too difficult.’

“We already have a problem getting people out to the ballot boxes, so why make it more difficult?”

The controversial new rules were introduced in response to allegations of voter fraud, but figures released by the Electoral Commission show low levels of proven fraud across all types of elections.

Bishop Smith said: “We’re asking 47 million people to have to go through extra hoops for what is a pretty minor problem.”

In response to the change in election law, the bishop is encouraging all churches to publicise the change so that people are not caught out at the polling stations.

He said: “I would encourage people, if it’s possible, to put up a poster, raise it with people – we want to encourage people to engage in the democratic process.

“That’s what healthy democracies do – we want to actively try and get as many citizens as possible thinking about how society can best serve and care for people, but particularly look out for the people who are struggling for various reasons.”

CHURCH VIEWS FOR MAY 2023 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

A Most Welcome Easter



Easter seemed to take its time arriving this year- was it the gloomy rainy days? The world news that the media only loves when it's bad? Whatever it was, colour and light returned, not only very welcome, but they seemed much more in evidence.

Holy Week Masses and services were celebrated at St Edward's and it was filled to capacity when four hundred attended the Easter Sunday Mass. Paschal candles are now lit in both churches, and Lenten purple has



given way to white drapery, giving a promise of brighter days.

The altar flowers herald the colour of summer soon to arrive.

All evidence of the beautiful world that we have been given.



Month of Our Lady



May is traditionally devoted to Our Lady and the parish is named for her. Although most of us are familiar with the grotto at Immaculate Heart of Mary church, fewer are aware of the fine stained glass windows devoted to her in St Edward's church. They are worth a closer look.



First Communions and Confirmations

In April, younger children came to Immaculate Heart of Mary church to begin preparation for their first Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Older Year 9 and 10 pupils will soon begin their programme for Confirmation which will take place in July.

Walking Group

Onwards and upwards! The walkers enjoyed a day out on the Blanchland Fells, walking seven miles over open moorland, getting higher all the time. Before the closure of the monasteries, Blanchland was an Augustinian Priory. The White Friars were noted for their hospitality, so it's appropriate that Prior's House is now the Lord Crewe Arms!



Changes to Weekday Masses

All 9.30am weekday Masses will be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary church to allow builders to begin work on new toilets at St Edward's, to comply with Health and Safety Regulations.

Gerry Latimer

Parish Mass Times until further notice:

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

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

Quotes of the month

With the Local Elections in mind this month:

If you want to find out what's wrong with a man or woman, elect them to public office.

There are two sides to every question, and if you want to be popular, you take both.

The fact that Local Councils are no better and no worse than the county as a whole, is something to worry about.

**

General observations on the Christian life:

George Muller said that the most important part of prayer was the 15 minutes after he had said 'Amen'.

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies.

Yet distance makes no difference, and He IS praying for me. - *R M McCheyne*

If Jesus is the revelation of the heart of God, it's very good news about the nature of God. - *R Rohr*

If you bear your cross cheerfully, it will bear you. - *Thomas a Kempis*

If you accept suffering for your faith as a privilege, it becomes your friend, and brings you closer to God. - *Chinese Christian, after spending many years in prison.*

Evangelism is not selling Jesus, but showing Jesus. - *Lee Camp*

It is not our responsibility 'to make people Christians' and get them baptised into a particular denomination, but rather to help people decide to follow Jesus and His radical message. Maybe this is why the New Testament writers only use 'Christian' three times, but use 'disciple' on 269 occasions! - *Tom Getman, World Vision International*

General observations on life:

Don't worry about what people are thinking of you. They aren't thinking about you, they are thinking about themselves.

If I had known how wonderful it would be to have grandchildren, I'd have had them first. -

L Wyse

When you talk, you only repeat what you already know, but if you listen you may learn something. - *Amish school proverb*

Unfettered inquisitiveness, it is clear, teaches better than do intimidating assignments. - *Augustine*

Evil people attack others for their own failings. - *S Peck*

Every path has its puddle.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diets!

Plenty of people wish to become devout, but no one wishes to be humble.

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.



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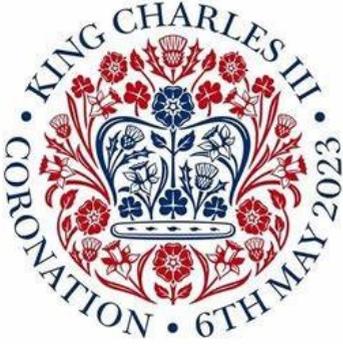
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6th May, 2023

The Coronation of King Charles III

At Westminster Abbey, 11 am.

Whatever you may be doing on this momentous occasion,
have a great day!



Earsdon Methodist Church

May 2023

It is with sadness that we report that our church is having to close. We have feared this for some time and the few of us left have struggled to keep going but the time has come to face the inevitable.

We give thanks for all that this society has achieved in the past and for all the way in which it has played a significant part in Earsdon and surrounding areas. It is fitting therefore to hold our final service on the date of our 137th Church Anniversary. ~ as below

Diary for May 2023

7th	Sunday		Mrs S Mason
14th	Sunday	Holy Communion	Rev L Eccles
21st	Sunday		Rev E Gordon

28th

<p>A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving Conducted by Rev Canon J.W. Wesley Blakey and Rev Eva Walker (Circuit Superintendent)</p>

DECK CHAIRS

At the time of writing the Lady Ann and myself have just returned from a couple of days break in Scarborough. We had a very relaxing time and did the three things that we wanted to do – have an ice cream; eat fish and chips and play a game of crazy golf, AND we walked in sunshine – mind you we wore our winter coats as the temperature was definitely not plodging weather.

As we walked along the promenade, we passed the deck chair seller who asked if we wanted to hire a couple of his best. We politely declined as it really was best to keep on the move and as we looked there were only a few people who did not share our opinion for on the beach we could count on one hand the number of chairs he had already hired out. He told us that if this was the sign of things to come deck chairs on the beach or anywhere else would become a thing of the past. Whether this was a sales pitch or a fact we did not hang around to determine.

But if it was a fact what a sad day it would be if deck chairs disappeared altogether. After all what is a seaside resort without a deck chair? What is any place of leisure or back garden without this fine piece of furniture? The deck chair has been with us for over 150 years, and like ice cream cornets; leather cricket balls; Desert Island Discs and good old Methodist hymn singing – there is nothing quite like it.

We had a garden deckchair for decades until it eventually disintegrated, and we have pondered for some time about buying a replacement. For a deck chair is a simple and straightforward piece of furniture– except perhaps when some people try to put one up – and comfortable, virtually maintenance free and folds almost flat. Why replace it with something less versatile and less easy to store?

I think I am correct in saying that Whitley Bay sea front has not got deck chairs for hire at the moment (please correct me if I'm wrong) but one of my ambitions for this summer is to take my small foldable chair and sit on the sand and eat tomato sandwiches for lunch. It is not quite the same, but as close as I can manage at the moment.

You won't see me on the sea front with a banner saying "Save our deck chairs" but if they did appear you would hear me cheering loud and long. Now I know I might sound like my Granny who never wanted anything to change and would black-lead her grate on a Friday even if she had been visited by royalty, but some things are worth fighting to retain.

Like you I see the news and all those things that give us sadness and despair and a feeling of helplessness to change anything.

Yet I am still drawn to the words that hundreds of years ago, Jesus said, "love one another as I have loved you." Be upright; be honest and don't change from that. It may sound simplistic but may just sort out the world if everyone lived by it

There *are* some things worth fighting to maintain – love, truth – and deck chairs.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for May 2023



Thursday	4th	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	7th		<u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	10th	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	14th		<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	18th	9.30am	<u>Ascension Day</u>	St John's
Sunday	21st		<u>7th Sunday of Easter</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	24th	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	28th		<u>Pentecost</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	1st June	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	4th June		<u>Trinity Sunday</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for May 2023 :

7th

John 14. 1-14

14th

John 14. 15-21

21st

John 17. 1-11

28th

John 7. 37-39

4th June

Matthew 28. 16-end.



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

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Marti's Musings 110

He is risen! I trust everyone had a lovely Easter with lots of fabulous daffodils. The tulips from Amsterdam are just coming into bloom, I hope the wind stays down so they don't get blown over. I'm excited that the open gardens are happening again this year. I'm sure everyone is booking their slot as I love going round and saying hello to all the different gardens. I'm also really pleased the walks are starting again on May 23rd. I just pray I'll be able to manage them as my arthritis is making me scuff my paw every time I walk outside. I've just had a new injection that is meant to help. Apparently footballers use it to help their joints so I'm sure it will work on me!

Biggest event this month will of course be the coronation! I love our church get-togethers and can't wait for the big coronation party on Sunday 7th. I need to plan my outfit to look super special! Surprised by joy!
Marti xxx



WORDSEARCH

Facts about King Charles

He was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948 at Buckingham Palace. He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old. He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree.

He can speak Welsh.

He is a qualified pilot and diver.

He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author and played the cello at Cambridge.

As Prince of Wales, he founded about 20 charities which raise about £140million each year for good causes.

Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history.

He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral. As King, he is also now head of the Commonwealth.

Author
Pilot
Cello
Balmoral
Commonwealth
Palace
Welsh
Charles
Watercolour
University
Throne
Buckingham
Cambridge
Oldest
Monarch
Charities
November
Diver
King
heir



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