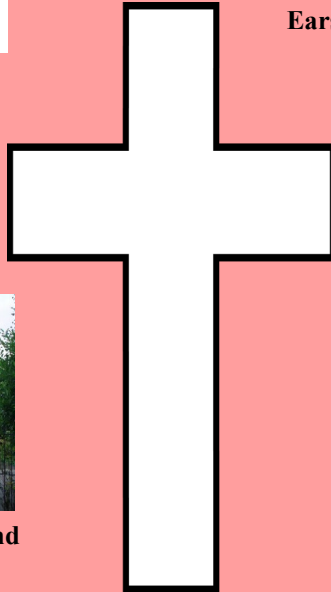




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



**Earsdon Methodist**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**May 2020**

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**St. John's Backworth**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## MAY 2020

Dear All,

In April's 'Church Views', I told the story from my perspective of the events leading to the closure of the churches. I signed off with 'Stay safe, as the saying currently goes, and we'll see where the story has got to by the time of the May edition of 'Church Views'.

It's now time to sit down and prepare that May edition, so here are some thoughts about how our worshipping life has been evolving during lockdown.

The first Sunday of this strange new reality was Mothering Sunday – March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I prepared a service on a simple word document, and emailed it out to my distribution list. Janet Appleby, who was to have preached in St Alban's that morning, wrote a poignant and helpful sermon. The text was included in the service, and Janet kindly also recorded a sound file, so people could hear as well as read the sermon.

By the following Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, it had occurred to me that we could introduce hymn-singing of a sort. By embedding YouTube links into the text of the service, people could be sent to films of hymns being sung on e.g. 'Songs of Praise'. The service was still a simple word document, but included hymns, and a powerful film depicting the valley of the dry bones. I wrote a sermon on Ezekiel's vision, and included the text in the document. The document was again emailed out, so that people could follow the service in their own way at their own best time.

The next evolutionary step was Sue Mayfield's kind offer of creating a PowerPoint version of each service. This took things to a whole new level, and was very well received. Sue's first PowerPoint was for Palm Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>. Placement student Ruth Stradling wrote the sermon, and the service started with a YouTube clip of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem from Zeffirelli's film 'Jesus of Nazareth'. An extra element was that we had emailed out instructions for people to make their own palm crosses.

'A week is a long time in politics' – and in the evolution of an online Christian community. By the following Sunday, Easter Day [April 12<sup>th</sup>] lots of us were getting to grips with a computer programme called 'Zoom'. Weeks ago, no-one had heard of Zoom. Now, shut in at home,

people were Zooming everywhere. Time, then, to take things to a new level with 'Zoom worship'.

It was special that our first Zoom service was on Easter Day itself. A service was still prepared, and emailed out as a PowerPoint for those who couldn't Zoom. But for those who could, a Zoom meeting was scheduled to start at 10.00am on Easter Day, with the worship itself beginning at 10.30am.

Those who haven't had the experience of Zooming might find this a bit hard to picture. What happens is that people log on to their computers to join in, and then everyone who has joined in can see and hear everyone else. The computer screen fills up with rectangles each showing people we know and love. What a special memory it is of that Easter Sunday, with more and more people logging on, thrilling to the experience, recognising each other and wishing each other 'Happy Easter'.

As I write, we've now had three Sundays of Zoom worship, and what's been striking has been the level of participation. This would be difficult to reproduce in a Victorian church building, but lots of different voices have shared in taking readings and prayers. And we've had 'shared sermons' where those who have wanted to have stirred their own unique contribution into the mix. The high level of participation is certainly something we'll want to carry forward into our worship when the lockdown ends and the churches open again.

In all this, it's been important to remember that there are lots of people who are not online. We want to guard against an 'us and them' split. So on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I cycled through Wellfield and West Monkseaton delivering hard copies of the Order of Service for Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> I did a similar delivery round in Backworth. But the online community continues to grow. That mailshot by bike yielded some more email addresses to add to the list. And on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, Doreen Goodfellow joined the Zoom party. She explained that she had last worshipped in St Alban's in 2013. Now here she was, albeit in a virtual sense, surrounded by old friends delighted to see her.

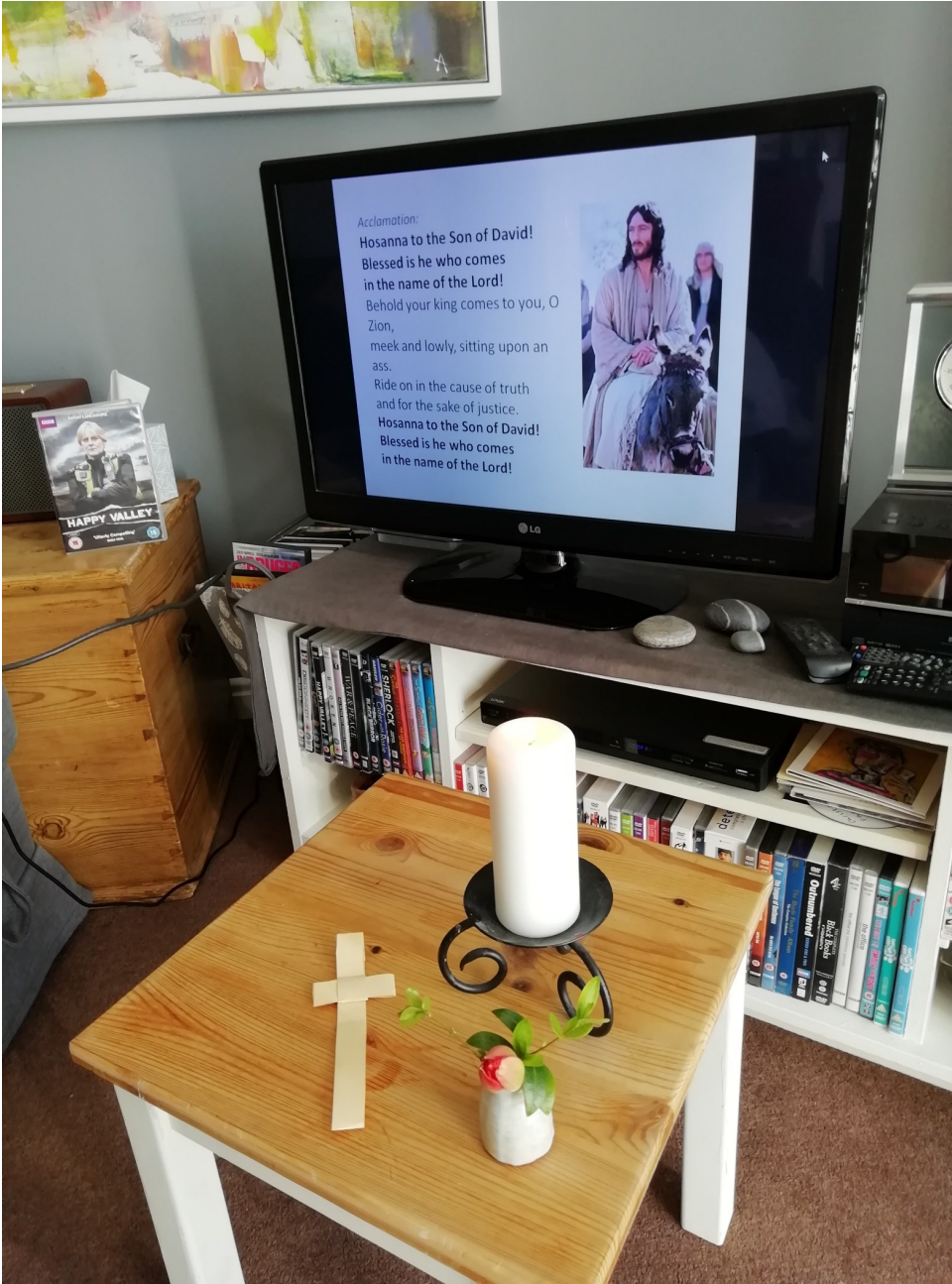
So that's where the story has got to on Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020. I shall look forward to updating it in June's 'Church Views', while still hugely exercised about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on all our lives.

Yours with love,

Revd Tim Mayfield

Vicar – St Alban's Earsdon and St John's Backworth

Palm Sunday shared for us by Sue Mayfield, and Rev Tim Mayfield.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

Sadly we have no forthcoming events to advise you about this month, due to the Corona Virus lockdown.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was ... 75 years ago

### VE Day – the end of World War II in Europe

VE Day (Victory in Europe) – was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15<sup>th</sup> August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

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## **I Shed A Tear.**

I shed a tear for my family,  
I shed a tear for my friends,  
I shed a tear for the rest of the world,  
Who live each day in fear,  
Not sure what tomorrow will bring,  
We wait for a sign, a phone to ring,  
Good news one day,  
I'm sure will come,  
And one day soon  
A brighter day will dawn.  
Then when at last  
We meet again,  
We can hug and handshake  
Without refrain,  
Spare a thought and a prayer,  
For those we have lost,  
For They have suffered  
The ultimate cost,  
I pray daily for them,  
I pray daily for you,  
And I know someday,  
Good news will come through,  
And the one thing to shout,  
With cheers galore  
All Clear my friends  
COVID-19's NO MORE!!  
We'll look to the skies,  
With joy and elation  
And thank GOD above  
For our Salvation.

*Albert J Griffiths.*

Just for the sake of clarification, here are those UK lockdown rules, one more time:

1. You MUST NOT leave the house for any reason, but if you have a reason, you can leave the house.
2. Masks are useless at protecting you against the virus, but you may have to wear one because it can save lives, but they may not work, but they may be mandatory, but maybe not.
3. Shops are closed, except those shops that are open.
4. You must not go to work but you can get another job and go to work.
5. You should not go to the Doctor's or to the hospital unless you have to go there, unless you are too poorly to go there.
6. This virus can kill people, but don't be scared of it. It can only kill those people who are vulnerable or those people who are not vulnerable. It's possible to contain and control it, sometimes, except that sometimes it actually leads to a global disaster.
7. Gloves won't help, but they can still help so wear them sometimes, or not.
8. STAY HOME, but it's important to go out.
9. There is no shortage of groceries in the supermarkets, but there are many things missing. Sometimes you won't need loo rolls but you should buy some just in case you need some.
10. The virus has no effect on children except those children it affects.
11. Animals are not affected, but there was a cat that tested positive in Belgium in February when no one had been tested, plus a few tigers here and there...
12. Stay 2 metres away from tigers (see point 11).
13. You will have many symptoms if you get the virus, but you can also get symptoms without getting the virus, get the virus without having any symptoms or be contagious without having symptoms, or be non contagious with symptoms...it's a sort of lucky/unlucky dip.
14. To help protect yourself you should eat well and exercise, but eat whatever you have on hand as it's better not to go to the shops, unless you need toilet roll or a fence panel.

*(Hahaha, many thanks to Joan Armstrong for sending in this gem !  
I had to omit 2 items to fit everything else in.)*

15. It's important to get fresh air but don't go to parks but go for a walk. But don't sit down, except if you are old, but not for too long or if you are pregnant or if you're not old or pregnant but need to sit down. If you do sit down don't eat your picnic, unless you've had a long walk, which you are/ aren't allowed to do if you're old or pregnant.
  16. If you are sick, you can go out when you are better but anyone else in your household can't go out when you are better unless they need to go out.
  17. You can get restaurant food delivered to the house. These deliveries are safe. But groceries you bring back to your house have to be decontaminated outside for 3 hours including frozen pizza.
  18. You can't see your older mother or grandmother, but they can take a taxi and meet an older taxi driver.
  19. You are safe if you maintain the safe social distance when out but you can't go out with friends or strangers at the safe social distance.
  20. The virus remains active on different surfaces for two hours ... or four hours...or six hours... I mean days, not hours. But it needs a damp environment. Or a cold environment that is warm and dry... in the air, as long as the air is not plastic.
  21. You need to home educate your children, unless you can send them to school because you're not at home. If you are at home you can home educate your children using various portals, unless you have poor internet, or more than one child and only one computer, or you are working from home. Baking cakes can be considered maths, science or art. If you are home educating you can add household chores as their education. If you are home educating you can start drinking at 10am.
  22. If you are not home educating children you can also start drinking at 10am.
  23. The number of corona related deaths will be announced daily but we don't know how many people are infected as they are only testing those who are almost dead to find out if that's what they will die of. The people who die of corona who aren't counted, won't or will be counted but maybe not.
  24. We should stay in lock-down until the virus stops infecting people but it will only stop infecting people if we all get infected so it's important we get infected and some don't get infected.
  25. No business will go down due to Coronavirus except those businesses that will go down due to Coronavirus.
- Hope that makes things clearer!

# BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

200 years ago

## **The Voyage of HMS Beagle**

Two hundred years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1820, the British Royal Navy sloop HMS Beagle was launched. It was the ship that took Charles Darwin on the voyage around the world between 1831 and 1836 that led to his putting forward the theory of Evolution.

HMS Beagle was one of 100 ships of its class, known as coffin brigs because they handled badly and were prone to sinking. But its captain on Darwin’s voyage, Robert FitzRoy, made some critical changes to its superstructure and weaponry.

This was the second voyage of the Beagle; the first had resulted in the suicide of its depressed captain. FitzRoy was able to recruit Darwin, who was intending to be a clergyman, though he had recently graduated as a naturalist, as someone of a like mind who could be relied upon to research geology and natural history ashore.

The voyage lasted five years instead of the intended two, and Darwin became famous after publishing his journal, usually known as *The Voyage of the Beagle*, which was an intriguing travelogue as well as hinting at Darwin’s theories on species.

The ship itself was believed lost, but in 2004 its remains were thought to have been located beneath an Essex marsh.

## *Smile-lines*

### **Good view**

At his wife’s insistence, a man purchased a home on a hilltop in a very exclusive section of the community. “I’ll bet there is quite a view from way up there,” said his friend enviously.

“Yes,” replied the homeowner in a resigned manner. “On a clear day you can see the bank that holds the mortgage.”



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Welcome to “**The Secret Life of St Alban’s and St John’s Folk**”.  
This month we have been talking with Helen Jackman, from  
St. Alban’s church.

**1) Where were you born?**

Baxter Avenue, Fenham.

**2) What is your earliest childhood memory?**

Plodging in mud in the back garden after a thunderstorm in my best clothes ready to go out, I would be 3yrs.

**3) Surprise us with one of your hobbies, or something we may not know about you**

A magic afternoon when a quartet from the Northern Sinfonia played in my bungalow. This was the prize in a charity draw that my cousin won.

**4) Tell us about someone who has had a big influence on your life**

My Auntie Jennie who was my mother’s sister. She was bereaved when quite young, but was a strong outgoing woman and it was she who introduced me to my love of classical music, seeing people like Yehudi Menuhin and Kathleen Ferrier.

**5) What’s your least favourite food?**

Almond paste.

**6) Tell us something you’ve learnt recently**

My tablet, still tussling with it.

**7) Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited**

The Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and the sadness I felt watching the mothers separated from their sons during their Bar mitzvah. To be able to see, they had to stand on stepladders.

**8) Tell us something that’s on your bucket list**

Reaching the age of 90 and having a big party!

**9) Sum up what being a Christian/being part of the church family means to you**

To me, being a Christian is to be kind and caring to your fellow men. My church and my church family are so important because it's a place I can go to for peace, quiet and time for reflection in this very strange world. Thank you Tim for keeping us together on Zoom.

**10) Do you have a favourite phrase or saying?**

Nothing's Static.

*Many thanks to our interviewee Helen,  
and to our interviewer, Gillian.*



Minnie says ... Stay safe and well everyone!

## CHURCH VIEWS FOR MAY 2020 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA



*Some of the Luncheon Club cooks and servers in happier times*

Our Lady Star of the Sea parish is using its well-established Luncheon Club to stay in touch with members, many of them older and self-isolating during the current Covid 19 restrictions.

Before the restrictions came into force, approximately forty people used to meet every month for a chat with friends while being served a two course meal freshly prepared and cooked in the kitchen of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. When this much loved social occasion had to be suspended it was greatly missed not only by those attending, but also those who gathered to cook and serve the meals.

These volunteers have now put together a plan that ensures each club member is called each week for a chat to make sure that they are managing to stay well and have everything they need, especially if they are self-isolating without family help.

Each volunteer is ringing a different group of members each week so that, over the course of a few weeks, every volunteer will have chatted with every lunch club member. The lunch club organiser, Christine Gunning, is also in touch with Churches Together so that, should a problem arise, she can call on the advice of a wider network which includes a local doctor.

This much-appreciated adaption of an already successful parish organisation means it can continue to serve its members during the current crisis.



## Consolation Continues

The parish has a long established team dedicated to the Ministry of Consolation. Before the restrictions, the team supported our parish priest, Monsignor Andrew Faley, by visiting bereaved families at his request to assist them with the preparation of the Requiem Mass or Funeral Service, and being present on the day to bear witness to the deceased person's membership of a caring parish family.

Now members of the team are limited to telephoning the family, and are unable to offer their support in person at the funeral. Undeterred, however, the team have responded to the restrictions by committing themselves to mark the date and time of the funeral service. Each in their own home joins in spirit with the family, using prayers taken from the appropriate Rite of Committal in the Order of Christian Funerals.

## Daily Masses

Mgr Andrew continues to celebrate Mass each day at 9.00am at St Edward's Church in Whitley Bay, without a congregation or servers. It can be viewed on the 'Our Lady Star of the Sea' group page on Facebook.

## Share a Prayer

During this time of isolation, you are invited to share your favourite family and solitary prayers and practices with the rest of the parish in the parish bulletin at [parishofficeolss@btconnect.com](mailto:parishofficeolss@btconnect.com)

## Easter from King's

We are all familiar with 'Carols from King's' at Christmas, but the BBC also brought us 'Easter from King's', the celebration of Readings and music from King's College Chapel. Always a thoughtful service needing no commentary, its quiet unfolding of the Easter story was truly appropriate this year.



Even though Easter has passed, it is still worth catching on BBC I-player if you missed it.

*King's College Chapel on a frosty December morning.*

It was...  
also 200 years ago

### **Florence Nightingale – the founder of modern nursing**

Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1820. Best known as the Lady with the Lamp who saved many lives in the hospitals of the Crimean War, she was also a social reformer, a statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

She was named after the Italian city of her birth, but the family moved back to England the following year, and she was brought up in Derbyshire. Here – and elsewhere – she had several experiences that she believed were calls from God to devote her life to the service of others.

She never married, but among her several close friends was Sidney Herbert, who became Secretary of War and helped to make her work in the Crimea possible. Some claim that she reduced the death rate in hospitals there from 42% to 2%. She introduced hand-washing and other hygiene improvements, but she never claimed personal credit for reducing the death rate.

Her work inspired nurses in the American Civil War, and in 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1907, she was the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. She died in 1910. Her image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.

It is a fitting tribute to her that the emergency hospital just opened at the ExCel Centre in London is called the NHS Nightingale Hospital.

It was...

80 years ago

### **How World War II stopped Tokyo's Olympic Games in 1940**

This year's Tokyo Olympic Games have been postponed for a year because of coronavirus. But 80 years ago, the Tokyo Games scheduled for May 1940 were cancelled completely, because of World War II.

Originally rescheduled for Helsinki, they were eventually abandoned, and the Olympic cycle did not restart until 1948 in London.

The cancellation proved to be a wise decision, because by the same month, May 1940, the war had escalated dramatically. On 10th May Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned and was succeeded by Winston Churchill, and between then and 28th May Germany invaded Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Also, on 10th May Germany dropped its first bombs on England, at Chilham and Petham, near Canterbury, and on 13th May Churchill gave his first speech in the House of Commons, saying: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

The next day the Home Guard – Dad's Army – was established, and by the end of the month the battle for Dunkirk was raging, with nearly 340,00 soldiers being rescued by a makeshift fleet of about 800 boats, crossing the English Channel to avoid the onrushing German army. This prompted the phrase 'Dunkirk spirit', still in frequent use today.

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★ Many, many thanks to Tim Mayfield, who has put ★  
★ up with us all for a whole year and is still as ★  
★ enthusiastic, energetic, inspiring and an absolute ★  
★ star! ★  
★ Love from us all x ★  
★ ★

Four older church ladies sit and talk about their sons over tea and cake..... each, of course, trying to outdo the other:

The first lady tells her friends, "My son is a priest. When he walks into a room, people smile and call him 'Father'."

The second woman chirps, "My son is a bishop. Whenever he walks into a room, people smile and call him 'Your Grace'."

The third mother says, "My son is a cardinal. Whenever he walks into a room, people greet him as 'Your Eminence'."

The fourth woman - not to be outdone because her son has not taken holy orders says quietly - "Well, my incredibly handsome son is 6' 4 with broad, square shoulders, good manners and impeccable style. Whenever he walks into a room, all the women say, 'Oh my God!'"

(Thanks to Pam Tomlinson - we aren't sure if this item is entirely suitable for a church magazine, but it is funny!)

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (June 2020) will need to be in before Wed. 27th May 2020. Thank you, Jean.

# Earsdon Methodist Church

*Diary for May 2020*

Sadly there are no details for Income, or for Door Stewards for Sunday services, due to the restrictions in force while we are in Covid 19 lockdown.

## Compost

Why does the Creator  
Not make life much straighter than it is?  
Some flowers grow in tangles  
some trees at sharp angles bump the bus  
on its journeying.

Then there's hunger and war  
Lies, disease and much more that have grown  
into rotting compost.  
Families broken and lost to each other,  
Such a crime and a waste.

P'rhaps He's waiting for us,  
'stead of making a fuss, to get on with  
Horticultural living.  
To plant and try sieving all that's life giving  
Shunning bad and using the good.

*Sent in by Rev Wes. Many thanks.*

I have always been ~ fascinated by ducks.

And if **you** watch them you will know that they always land on water ~ and for good reason; for they do not land well.

After a fairly uncomplicated flight, they approach their chosen landing strip with all the aerodynamics of a soggy carpet.

In order to slow down, their wings go into reverse thrust, flapping like a person who is teetering on the edge of a swimming pool.

This does not slow them down enough however, so they stick out their big feet and ski along the surface of the water for quite a way before they hit it with all the grace of a rice pudding. Put this all together and it creates a wonderful noise of '*flap, flap, schhhhh bump splash*' – and then as if all that effort had never happened the duck glides away like Cleopatra's barge.

Not for the duck the hovers and dips of a seagull.

There are no health and safety ducks banning Mrs Mallard from flying until she learns not to crash land every time she goes up. Instead, there is this fascinating spectacle of a member of creation ~ having put in a hard slog to get where it's going, producing a pretty good ending.

This lockdown is a hard slog for most of us, but as a side effect we are seeing some lovely acts of kindness and togetherness from many different people; so if you feel like you are bumping along at the moment , think of a duck and remember there WILL be smooth water ahead of us eventually.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is a great hole in our lives not to be able to gather at Church both for worship and the small number of other activities we enjoy. However, The members have been in regular contact with each other by telephone and in some ways we chat to each other more than perhaps we would have time for after a Sunday service. The leaking roof has been repaired, but the scaffolding still remains outside - not because there is more to be done, but like everyone else that the building firm is in lockdown.

We all look forward to gathering together again.

*Thank you so much Rev Canon J W Wesley Blakey.*

# St. Alban's and St. John's



## Diary Page for May 2020

These pages are where we would normally list all of the services, and dates, at both St Alban's & St John's churches for the month of May. Sadly the churches still remain closed under the restrictions of Covid 19 lockdown.

However, as you may have already read in Tim's editorial "Thought for the Month", we have enjoyed some excellent online services, which have been great fun as we all greet each other (and get to grips with the technology - don't worry, it is not too difficult.) from 10am on Sundays, before settling down to the actual service that starts at 10.30am.

If you would like to join us, please email [Tim.Mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:Tim.Mayfield@btinternet.com) or call him on 07414 601 351

Screenshot of Tim rehearsing for the first Zoom service on Easter Sunday:





# St. Alban's and St. John's

Sue Mayfield setting to work making a Palm Cross.



And here's the finished Cross—well done Sue!





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## Marti's Musings 74

Greetings from home! I hope everyone is coping in lockdown and managing to get everything they need. I'm quite enjoying it really; mum is home all the time so I get to spend all day with her although I am missing grandma.

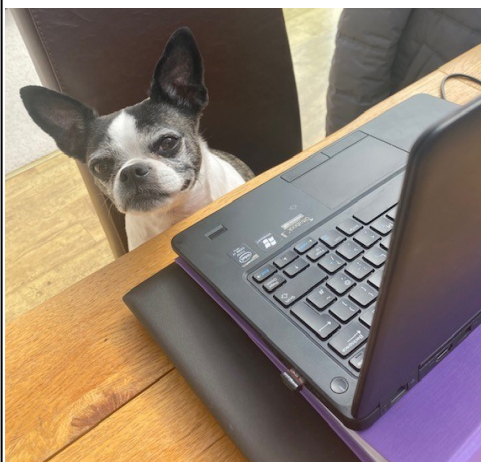
It is a bit boring as my walks aren't as varied as usual and the only place we drive to is Hillheads farm shop, but I'm sure I will get back to the beach and Cragside soon. I'm just hoping we can go on our St Alban's rambles as they are such fun.

My new favourite thing is Zoom! It is so great seeing you all for Sunday services and knowing you are all well. I am missing hearing everyone sing, especially at choir practice.

Stay safe and see you zooming on Sunday!

Lots of love

Marti xxx



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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**. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# WORDSEARCH

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- Ascension
- Blessed
- Taken
- Jerusalem
- Wait
- Prayer
- Power
- One
- Room
- Disciples
- Tongues
- Flame
- Joy
- Praise
- Confusion
- Languages
- Earth
- Peter
- Holy
- Spirit
- Trinity
- Father
- Son
- triune



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