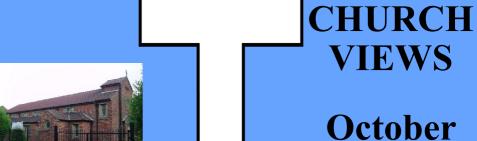




Earsdon Methodist



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2020



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH October 2020

Dear All

Grace and Peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a result of all the changes that have come about because of Covid-19 how changed our world looks.

During the month of September, we enjoyed a few days of sunshine, recording the dizzy heights here in the North East as 22c (71.60F) a touch of an Indian Summer. With fires blazing on the West coast of America, once more global warming hits our news headlines. What an effect of change upon our world. Ice shelves propping up two major Antarctic glaciers are breaking up and it could have major consequences for sea level rises. What an effect upon our world. Places such as London need to start planning!

If you watched the Extinction series narrated by David Attenborough on the BBC, the changed world and its environment is a massive question to wrestle with and is on many people's minds of the living today.

Usually in late September or early October many of our Churches in the United Kingdom will have celebrated Harvest. Our Harvest celebrations within our churches will have been quite different to previous years. People still having to maintain social distance, wearing face coverings, no singing allowed. What about the usual displays of produce, were you allowed to display some this year? Some Churches I know decided against this traditional view and opted instead to raise awareness of plights within our world of the hungry and homeless and make a monetary offering for charitable purposes.

The Methodist Church this year as in many years previously has supported the charity, 'All we can', a charity that originally grew out of the Methodist relief and Development fund. This year it tells the story of 'change begins with a bicycle'. How providing bicycles has enabled people to get to work and maintain the lands in their villages.

I wonder how many during lockdown have taken up one form of exercise or another. Perhaps even using old bicycles that had been gathering dust in our garages over many a year. The government I believe even set up a scheme where you could apply for a small grant to give such bicycles a much-needed service. Perhaps many have felt the benefit of taking up some exercise during the last six months or so. Yet for others it has been a difficult time with a future that is not looking too great. People have lost loved ones without the farewell they had intended. People's mental health has been damaged or strained to almost breaking point. The pastoral roll that Church can offer will be here for them over the months and years that lie ahead of us.

Yes, the world has changed, it is different, our worship is strange having to comply with current guidelines from the government and church authorities. Yet despite all of this, I ask you to count your blessings, whilst others within our world cry out every day for food because of hunger caused by humankind's selfishness.

Lord feed your people, all people with a justice that meets need.

Rev'd John Mason

Earsdon Methodist Church.

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These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' 'The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.



Thanks Liz, for sending these in.

R.J.RYLAND

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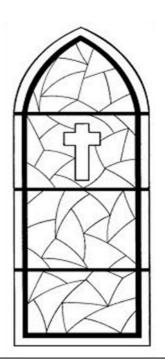
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship, but because of the Covid 19 restrictions, these have had to be suspended.

Voluntary Organisations Development Agency - VODA



Well done to Albert Griffiths, who has been accepted as an official volunteer with the "North Tyneside COVID-19 Response Team".
Ali is a very familiar face at St Alban's, and is becoming rather famous for all of his volunteering there, too.!

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

Following the easing of Covid 19 rules, when St Alban's church re-opened for Sunday morning services, some of us sat up in the balcony in order to accommodate more available spaces while maintaining the two metre spacing still required.

On this particular Sunday, our regular organist Nick was unable to attend, and not being allowed to sing either, we were very lucky to hear the hymns played so magically on the cello, by our very own vicar, Tim Mayfield. (Is there no limit to his talents?)



Many thanks Jill, for this lovely shot, taken from up in the gallery.

Many, many thanks for this, Ali Griffiths:-



I had a lovely visit with our Val Storey today (Friday 3rd September). Thank you very much Pat & Gilbert for making this possible, and for welcoming me into your lovely home. It was great to see Val back home after a long stay in hospital, her eyes are fairly bad at the minute, it is difficult for her to see, but hopefully this has just been an adverse reaction to one of her meds, and her sight will gradually return. A Big Thank You to all who are donating towards Val's Flowers.

Don't grumble because you don't get what you want; be grateful you don't get what you deserve. – Anon

Why singing in church is the same as shouting at the pub

How dangerous is it to sing in church, when it comes to spreading coronavirus? About the same as it is to speak loudly in a pub.

Researchers at the University of Bristol have found that speaking loudly and singing generate about the same amounts of aerosol droplet – tiny particles of liquid – which may carry Covid-19.

Of course, the louder you sing or speak, the more the aerosol droplets there are.



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Fly-tipping

...The king sent them after the Aramean army. He commanded the drivers, 'Go and find out what has happened.' ¹⁵ They followed them as far as the Jordan, and they found the whole road strewn with the clothing and equipment the Arameans had thrown away in their headlong flight. So the messengers returned and reported to the king. (2 Kings 7:14-16)

One good thing about coronavirus has been the reduction of litter on the roads. When the burger shops were shut, people did not buy a snack, eat it on the way home and then throw the plastic container and the milkshake mug and straw out of the car window.

What possesses people to do this? Another type of anti-social behaviour has increased: fly-tipping. Council tips have been closed, so irresponsible people have decided to turn a field entrance or a pathway into another tip. Fly-tipping costs money to deal with and it is also dangerous to people and wildlife.

The government is tackling this problem and there are heavy fines and even imprisonment for the offenders. Quite right, but it is not only the tipper who is responsible. You have an old settee and some bags of rubbish and need someone to dump it. A man with a van offers to do it for £20 in cash. A week later you get an email from the council to say that you are going to be investigated for fly-tipping as the man simply dumped your stuff on a roadside, and someone recognised the sofa and there were letters to your home address in the bags.

Or here is another scenario: you are going on holiday and decide to leave some rubbish at the back of your house. You phone a mate to come and collect it, but they forget. Both of these scenarios could result in a heavy fine.

Fly-tipping is a *criminal offence* punishable by a fine, or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

What can we do as responsible people? We can report fly-tipping to the local authority and if there is a serious problem, we can ask our local and parish councillors what is being done about it.





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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 Linda Reynolds, from St. Alban's church.

1) Where were you born?

I was born and grew up in the beautiful Calder Valley in West Yorkshire.

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

During 1980s I had a career change, working for a while as a countryside warden at the Rising Sun Countryside Park and St Mary's Island. Great fun pond dipping, rock pooling and helping the children understand ecology and the countryside around them. The weekend that the Lighthouse first opened to the public was certainly a memorable time; we had expected a trickle of visitors, but it was more like 1,000

3) What's your favourite book?

As books are my passion I found it impossible to choose a favourite so I've opted for the book (sorry two books) that greatly influenced me growing up in 1960s. Trevor Huddleston's "Naught for your Comfort" and Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country" which exposed the injustices and cruelty of the apartheid system in South Africa.

4) What's your favourite film?

The film I never tire of watching is Dr Zhivago, especially after just reading a fascinating book about the real 'Lara'.

5) Tell us something you've learnt recently

During lockdown it's certainly been a steep learning curve with IT, but with a little help from my grandchildren I'm now using Facetime and Zoom. It's been great for staying in touch with everyone, for our lovely Sunday Zoom services (thank you Tim) and our new St Alban's book club.

6) Tell us about somewhere interesting you've visited

One of the most interesting places I've visited was Wengen, tucked beneath the amazing Jungfrau Mountains in Switzerland. From here you can walk underneath the North face of the Eiger and stand at the edge of a glacier with nothing but ice and snow as far as you can see - awesome!

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

Being a Christian is the essence of my life through which everything else is woven, and being part of our Christian family means a great deal. We are like an extended family, all ages, all unique and different but supporting and caring for each other as we try to follow in our Lord's footsteps.

8) In what ways has everyday life changed for you since Coronavirus put us into lockdown?

Our busy life has certainly changed with Lockdown, with online shopping, virtual chats and meetings and missing hugs from grandchildren. But the slower pace has also meant time for longer walks, time to play board games with the grandchildren via Zoom (and make them puppets!), time to get to know the neighbouring young family and definitely time to read.

9) Tell us something you plan to do when full lockdown is over

Looking forward to taking all my family away for a few days, just to be together and celebrate a 'special' Birthday.

10) Do you have any prayer requests that we can ask the magazine readers to pray for?

At this time please pray for all our health and care workers and the scientists working for a vaccine for Covid19.

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

Thanks to the Stewards

The parish offers its warm thanks to those who are acting as stewards at St Edward's Church. Although clearly seen when showing people to the designated seating for Masses and permitted services, they also remain behind after the congregation leaves to clean and sanitise the church. The maximum number allowed to attend Mass remains at sixty, with track and trace regulations observed.

The Journey in Faith (RCIA) course, will continue this year. Designed for anyone wishing to join our faith, and those who want to explore it, the course has been running for several years and eleven new parishioners who completed it were received into the Church at Easter 2019. This year meetings will be socially distanced or occasionally use Zoom. Anyone who would like to know more can contact Fr Andrew or the Parish Office. Those attending Mass on Saturday 15 September were delighted to celebrate Lesley Donachy and Alexander Tatko being received into the Church.



The church passed its risk assessment in September, thanks in no small part to those who carried out a deep clean. A new partition to close off the sanctuary will have been completed by the time you read this – as you can see it was close to being finished when this picture was taken. The church will be open for baptisms and funerals from October, subject to the regulations which may apply at that time. Our Lady and St

Edmund's Church in Backworth remains closed.

Bubbles Burst for Walkers

Following the official guidelines, the walking Group enjoyed successful walks in small (six members) and larger (sixteen) social bubbles last month as the regulations changed. However, the Group has decided that now is the socially responsible time to temporarily hang up its boots.

East Denton Hall, the Diocesan administrative centre and seat of many Bishops of Hexham and Newcastle has been sold. In September Bishop Byrne moved to a new residence and administrative centre in West Avenue, Gosforth. The phone numbers and email address remain the same.

Bishop's House Closes



The Grade 1 listed Hall was originally built by coal-owner Anthony Errington in 1622. It remained in his family's possession throughout the Civil Wars before passing to the Montagu family in the 1750s.

Bishop Joseph McCormack was forced to move to the Hall in 1942

after a series of air raids on the Tyne made it impossible for him to continue from the original Bishop's House at the end of Front Street in Tynemouth. The Priory was targeted as a coastal artillery battery and communications centre, while the lighthouse at the end of Tynemouth pier also received attention. Its toughened lantern glass still bears the bullet chips where rear-gunners interpreted 'parting shot' very literally.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The SVP Conference at St Edward's hopes to make more people aware of its local and international projects. In normal times its work includes visiting the sick at home and in hospital, and caring for families and individuals in need. Its wider Tyneside organisation offers a range of services, including a hostel for released prisoners and the popular summer holiday Holy Island Camp for young people. Internationally, the SVP supports local Conferences striving to end aid-dependency, by encouraging the establishment of independent personal and community businesses. During this pandemic, it has increased its efforts to ensure that its help quickly reaches those who need it.

Plus ça change......

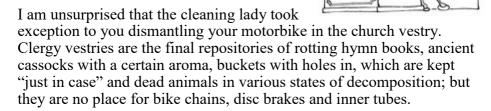
The parish bulletin last week advised anyone who had left the usual items - spectacles etc. - in church after Mass to collect them from the entrance area. It's heartening to think that in these times of swift change, some things remain immutable!

St James the Least of All

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

The Rectory St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,



I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away. Flower arrangers creep into my vestry, looking for space for boxes of twine. Decorators arrive with cribs and Easter gardens they are hoping to store. And even the choirmaster occasionally sidles in, trying to slip some anthems past me. I repel them all with vigour, and a firm broom.

One thing I can't keep out of the vestry are the portraits of all my predecessors, who stare down at me reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, stare smugly, knowing that I am still being compared to them, and falling short. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, look mildly reproachful, reminding me that *they* all held doctorates from Oxford. The hand-drawn portraits from pre-1870 are the worst – they all look as if they drank vinegar for breakfast and argued Pelagianism over lunch, just for fun. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor, and perpetually irritate him.

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five-foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six-foot, ten stone successor. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the Relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – and lost forever in the churchwarden's shed.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

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2nd Wave.

Is it true what they say, I've heard rumours fore say. Lockdown's coming again, And it's coming our way!!

But hold on a minute, How can this be? We stuck to the rules, Played it straight, Stayed indoors, When we went out to play, I wore my mask, You wore yours?

So how can it be, That the numbers are up, Covid cases are rising, Almost back to square one, There are people out there, Taking no notice at all, Partying, drinking, Having a Ball!!!

Social Distance to them, Doesn't Apply it seems, They do what they please, "We Won't Catch This Disease"!!!

Don't they know what they do? This is serious, It's Not Flu!!

This Virus is DEADLY!
And could kill Me & You!!

Are their memories so bad? That they can't remember, The lives already lost, Men, Women, Children, Family members.

A Death Toll such as this, Surely can't be forgot, We need to get with the programme, And Stop The Rot!!!

Stay indoors when we're told!! LOCKDOWN,
Stay under cover,
Then pray to God,
That one day,
This will all be over.

Ali G.

The End

Earsdon Methodist Church

Diary for October 2020

At present our premises are not being used for worship because of the Corona Virus and the age profile of the congregation. The decision has been deferred until we review again in the October Church Council as to whether we are confident in the then current climate to open for Advent.

We continue to worship through the Circuits offering of online worship led by the three Presbyters within the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit.

We are saddened to report that Mr Norman Bloomfield has decided to step down as our Senior Steward having served an amazing 50 years at the end of our Methodist year which ended in August 2020. Norman carried out his duties with efficiency and enthusiasm, while maintaining a wisdom and kindness which displayed a deep caring for those in the Church and the community.

Many a Minister and Preacher to the church will have benefitted from Norman's Prayers in the Vestry before the start of worship. There have been many other things that Norman has done, quietly and efficiently behind the scenes - organizing musician rotas; local arrangement services; serving on Circuit meeting and other committees; weekly offering counting and supervision and so much more.

We have been exceptionally fortunate to have you as our steward and to have known and benefitted from your loyal service. We look forward to seeing you in worship when we can return to some sense of 'normality'. May you enjoy more time with your dear wife Mabel. God Bless you both.

Rev'd John Mason October 2020 In my opinion the best way to start the day is with a cup of tea. As I write, I have not long since finished my first and I sincerely hope that there will be a few more to come before bedtime.

In my time I have drunk tea on all sorts of occasions and from all manner of utensils \sim like the ornate vessels of a Japanese tea ceremony of which I was privileged to be part \sim and an old forgotten rusty can when in a student holiday I briefly worked as a bin man.

My mother-in law did not like any tea left in the pot, she said it was a waste, and so I would dutifully and happily drain the last of the liquid into my cup every time we had occasion to be with her and tea was on the go.

But tea is good for you – my Gran swore that it would help most situations; though I thought she went a little far when she once plied my uncle with the Co-op's best when he broke his leg!

That apart, imagine my joy when I read a recent survey that said that tea is very beneficial.

Apparently, researchers gave one group of volunteers a hot fruit drink and another group the same colour of drink that contained tea. They tasted the same, but those imbibing the latter recovered more quickly from testing situations and their stress levels dropped more quickly. Granted this was a publicity stunt, but this added to my experience that a cup of tea has helped in all sorts of situations.

I know that coffee and caffeine-free drinks have lured some people away from this traditional brew, but there has never been a better time to seek refuge from a stressful world in a simple warming cuppa. So go on, make a pot of tea and carry its calm into the rest of what you do today.

Thank you, Rev. Wes Blakey. (I'm off to put the kettle on now, -Magazine Jean.)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for October 2020

Thursday	1st	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	4th		17th after Trinity Harvest Festival	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Wednesday	7th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	11th		18th Sunday after Trinity	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Thursday	15th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	18th		19th Sunday after Trinity	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Wednesday	21st	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	25th		<u>Last Sunday after</u> <u>Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Thursday	29th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's

Here is the hyperlink to **October's** copy of our diocesan newspaper, THE LINK"

https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Link October 2020.pdf

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for October 2020:

4th 11th 18th

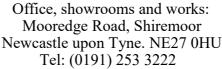
TBC Matthew 22. 1-14 Matthew 22. 15-22

25th

Matthew 22. 34-end

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.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November 2020) will need to be in before Wednesday, 28th October 2020. Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 79

How are we all? I'm getting used to seeing people in face masks now, some have very cool patterns on them.

Mum is back to work so consequently my morning walks have got a lot earlier! I am spending my days chilling with grandma or David and getting very excited when mum comes home.

We have been Facebook following a local girl who races go-carts and recycles her old tyres into plant pots, some of which she gives to hospitals and sells others to raise money. We decided to buy one and ended up getting three as they are really fabulous! Her page is called retyred by Catherine if you wanted to look at them.

I see we have gone into local lockdown so I guess we won't be getting any visitors this month. I hope everyone is staying safe and above all



WORDSEARCH

All Hallows Eve - or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

A11 Hallows Halloween Druid **Priests Festival** Samhain **Bonfires** Magic Dark Supernatural **Powers** Winter Christians Prayer Charms Deeper True Eve Closer Christ Thanks

Loved

Death Gone

LEEOVPOKSDARK CTFROKVREAM RHSNWN TANR FHMIFF T Y H DI W BTNAACT OSRRNHNFР Δ CAGOΔΗ \mathbf{C} T NW F STSERP $\mathsf{D} \mathsf{R}$

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Church Treasurer

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

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PCC Secretary

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Tel: 2529393

Reader

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Assistant Church warden

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD Tel: 268 4334 Treasurer

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD Tel: 268 4334

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