



Earsdon Methodist



Our Lady & St. Edmund

CHURCH VIEWS

February 2021

£1.00



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH February 2021

January has departed, but it was an odd start to the New Year. It did not even open with the same fanfare and sense of anticipation that usually welcomes a New Year as a fresh start, somehow a new beginning. I wonder how many stayed up until midnight on New Year's Eve last year just to make sure that 2020 had definitely gone.

New Year Resolutions did not have the same sense of purpose, even if they had eventually proved to be as illusory as they always are. Would we really have gone more to the gym? Would we truly have given up those things we felt we really should give up – or even those that the family tell us we should? Even the entries in the diaries and year planners we usually make in those somnolent post-celebrations days remain oddly sparse.

The walking group I lead occasionally during the year will not meet, clubs or parish events are no longer fixtures, the usual holiday dates are missing. When I first completed the events for January on my wall calendar, the usual, absolutely vital appointments had dwindled to a single visit to the dentist. This year the wild haggis were allowed to sleep undisturbed through Burns Night.

But even this unusual January had its own rewards; the clear dawns free of jet-trails were spectacular on many days – and if that sounds either sadly insomniac or overly-virtuous, remember dawn in January happens at a leisurely 8.00am. The first snowdrops flowered in what had been bare ground; green tips of other plants peeped out beside them and short days lengthened.

A more welcome sign of change last month was the increase in the number of telephone calls we received from friends who took the time to call to ask how we were and to have a chat rather than sending an email. However kindly meant, an email is rarely a substitute for the warmth of a friendly voice. As the Church year progresses we note that Ash Wednesday this year falls on 17 February, so Lent will begin a little earlier. This year we seem to have given up so much to the coronavirus that the usual 'giving up for Lent' seems to be a gesture too far. Perhaps a more worthwhile change would be 'giving to for Lent' instead, and what could be more worthwhile than making someone feel that they are worthwhile too?

However much time some of us now have, whatever we decide to undertake seems to fill all the time that is available. This year particularly we know a telephone call might lighten the day of a friend, another parishioner, or a fellow club member if we took the time to make it.

On the other hand, why wait until the middle of the month to make a difference to someone?

"If not now, when? If not me, who?"

Gerry Latimer Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea February 2021



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From Liz Rogerson ...

As some of you will know, I moved home in December - to the lovely small town of Allendale. I'm sorry that due to the Covid restrictions I did not have the opportunity to tell a number of my church friends, although I very much hope to continue my association with St Alban's and St John's and will be attending services in the future, just as soon as we are able to get back into church!



We are learning very quickly that the weather also impacts on our plans here more than it did in Whitley Bay! However there are compensations; I thought readers might like to see our garden and local scenery during the recent snowfall.





Continued from pages 8 & 9







A message from Linda Reynolds, regarding The Children's Society

The Children's Society send a big thank you for the donations received from our church communities during a very difficult year. Despite lockdown restrictions we managed to raise £327 during 2020 from house boxes and the lovely Journey to the Crib event at Christmas. Thank you also to individual church members who have been sending regular donations. **"Thanks to you, we are able to find ways to safely deliver our vital support to young people throughout the coronavirus crisis. The current lockdown presents even more challenges, but we will continue to be a lifeline for those who need us"**

(J. Jenkins, Director of Engagement).

The Children's Society supports children and young people and campaigns on issues that put their lives and futures at risk. They help drive change at National and local level, e.g. influencing legislation which helped over 47,000 young care leavers receive council tax exemption to help enable them towards independent living and 530,000 people were helped through the 'Breathing Space Scheme' for families experiencing debt problems.

Check their website <u>www.children's society.org.uk</u> to see more of their work in detail and hear the voices of the young people. These children and young people need the support of the Children's Society when their futures are uncertain, when they need someone to talk to about their traumas, their feelings and a way forward. They shine a light on parts of our society that is broken for them, the Children's Society helps them regain their hope. Thank you for helping to make that possible.

Linda Reynolds, Parish Representative & Box Coordinator .

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Welcome to "**The Secret Life of St Alban's and St John's Folk**". This month Gillian has been grilling Jean Bingham, who attends St. Alban's church.

1) Where were you born?

I was born at home, which was 1 John Street, Earsdon. Apart from some help from my mother, I managed it all by myself! My mother didn't like hospital births, after my eldest brother was born at hospital.

2) What do you do during the week, when you're not at church?

I am now retired, so I thoroughly enjoy myself. I like producing the monthly church magazine, Church Views, and I love going out with friends for "ladies wot lunch" when not under Covid 19 restrictions. We have a beautiful Saluki cross dog who needs walking every day, and she loves it when we go away in our caravan, in the summer (again, when Covid 19 restrictions are not in place).

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

Hmm, my hobbies tend to chop and change, but here's a thing you won't know, and I am secretly quite proud of it. I once won the Sunday Times cryptic crossword, had my name printed in the paper and my prize was a fab Cross Townsend Sterling Silver fountain pen apparently worth nearly £300. Some friends I worked with said that they didn't even understand the clues of the crossword, so I was fairly chuffed with myself.

4) What's your favourite book or film?

I tend not to watch films, and sadly I find it difficult to concentrate on reading now, but not wanting to duck the question entirely, I'll go with my current books, "Map Addict" by Mike Parker. The book is amusing and very enjoyable, if you like random maps, which I do. I borrowed a book "A Walk In The Woods" by Bill Bryson from a friend who was disposing of a pile of books, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it so far.

5) What's your least favourite food?

Having been a vegetarian most of my adult life, I have to say all meat, poultry etc.

6) Tell us something you've learnt recently.

A friend who used to provide the Methodist information for Church Views, Norman Bloomfield, was born at home too, at 1a John Street, Earsdon! There may have been a year or two between our births, but still – what an amazing co-incidence! (See very first question and answer, above.)

7) What's the furthest-flung place you've ever visited?

I'm not one for traveling far but I have been to the Balearic Islands. That sounds a bit more interesting than Majorca.

8) Tell us something that's on your bucket list

How boring am I? There are no grand plans or wishes for me, just for my friends and for me to remain happy and healthy as long as possible.

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

I'm still trying to find out. In the meantime, I really appreciate that I have been accepted so readily despite my non-religious background, and I've made some very good friends. I love the gentleness, and peace, with no competition, no targets to meet, no worry of letting "the team" down, yet we all have a special togetherness.

10) What's your favourite hymn and why?

"The Lord's My Shepherd" but it has to be to the tune of Crimond. This is because when I was very young and playing my recorder at school, my dad used to play along with me at home, on his own recorder. One time he asked if I'd ever played it faster? I was intrigued because to me, it would just be the same ... only faster. So we sat together and re-wrote the music (well ok, mostly he re-wrote it) to a different time, I think originally it was ³/₄ time, and I was amazed how at how different it sounded. To this day, I can still hum it to our own version!



CHURCH VIEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2021 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Just in case...



Christmas was last year, and it definitely feels like it, but just in case you could not get to Mass at Immaculate Heart, this will reassure you that usual care was taken, the flowers arranged, the crib assembled, the candles lit and every surface gleaming. The congregation was necessarily smaller, but the joy and devotion were the same. Let's look forward to a post-vaccination Christmas in 2021.

Church Closures

The New Year began with some hope that public Masses could continue, but faced with the greater risk of infection from the new mutation of Covid 19, and the Government's clear advice for people to stay at home and minimise contact, it has been necessary to close the churches in our parish except for funerals at St Edward's and Immaculate Heart of Mary. St Edmund's in Backworth will remain completely closed. Mgr Andrew will continue to celebrate a daily Mass at 9.30 am (except Mondays) and a Sunday Mass at 10.00am. This will be live-streamed from the parish rooms.

Mgr Andrew particularly thanked the volunteers who had acted as stewards and done so much to protect everyone throughout the time of public Masses. The last public Mass was celebrated at St Edward's on 11 January.

Bay Food Bank



The parish received thanks and an acknowledgement of our continuing support from the Whitley Bay Food Bank. Many donated extra items to help make Christmas more bearable for those who are less fortunate. This was only one of the car loads which were delivered. The collections will continue every Monday between 10.00am and midday

at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The usual precautions of social distancing and sanitising will be scrupulously observed.

On-line Children's Liturgy

Our Lady Star of the Sea is now considering launching on-line Children's Liturgy sessions. Before that can begin we have to find out how many families would like to participate, and to recruit leaders if the demand is sufficient. Interested families, and anyone prepared to join a Children's Liturgy team, should contact the organisers by email to <u>holycommunionolss@gmail.com</u>

A message from Mgr Andrew

We pray for all who suffer from the virus and for all who take care of the sick. Even though the vaccines are here to protect us, this is still a time of uncertainty and fear for many. We continue to trust in God, as Jesus did in his darkest hours. Jesus is the light in our darkness, the strength in our weakness and the comfort in our distress. May the courage and strength we draw from Him – and through our solidarity with each other – see us through these difficult days and enable us to be of assistance to those in need of support.

Cathedrals

In these distressing times, it was uplifting to see our most beautiful cathedrals being offered as centres for mass vaccination. A joy to see them bustling, answering the needs of people of all faiths and none.

Robbie Burns was a Geordie

Robbie's speech is strange to you and me Not Scottish, nor Irish, for you see He'd long burned his tongue with Rington's tea Robbie really was a Geordie.

Even though he spoke as he may And his diction really went all astray Yet in one of his poems he says "Howay I really am a Geordie."

He had a horse but ne'er could park it On Saturdays he had to walk it To join his lass doon the Bigg Market Robbie really was a Geordie

His Mother came from Shiremoor His Dad from Backworth – they <u>were</u> poor The hole in the roof their only shower Robbie really was a Geordie

His poems were based on his hard life With 40 bairns and a mental wife Who stabbed his haggis with a carving knife When she found he was a Geordie

Until he was famous he collected the dole In the Labour Exchange he was life and soul Using his cap for a ball and the netty for the goal Robbie really was a Geordie.

His shoes held together by string and clarts His kecks were stitched in too many parts And his knees stuck out like two jam tarts Robbie really was a Geordie.

On a trip to Scotland as a boy Where they'd not had a hero since young Rob Roy Neeps and tatties sent him aghast, he thowt Edinburgh rock was just as nast-<u>y</u> Cos he liked to eat a big Gregg's past-<u>y</u> Robbie really was a Geordie.

He'd tried Lacrosse where he ran like a loon And curling and shinty, but then very soon Came back to the Tyne for he supported The Toon Robbie really was a Geordie.

He played on the darts team down Cullercoats His arrows were tartan and it was his boast He could get double top while eating dry toast Robbie really was a Geordie.

He drank Newcy Broon like a veritable good 'un His bait had pickle and ham and Pease Puddin' So surprising he became Scottish all of a sudden For Robbie really was a Geordie.

Eventually

His bones and sword and clanking shield Were said to be found in a big old sealed box, near the main road, Wellfield Robbie really was a Geordie.

So lets now all raise a glass to him Whose poems and words were not all grim And fill your glass up to the brim And toast Robbie – who was a Geordie.

JWWB

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I absolutely love this letter and picture, sent in by Garry. I think everyone at St Alban's will have seen the embroidery inside the church porch. I wonder which is Garry?



The cross-stitchers.



Earsdon Methodist Church

February 2021

Jessie Giles

It is with sadness that we report the death of Jessie on 22nd December, aged 91, and whose funeral was conducted at Whitley Bay crematorium on 6th January.

Jessie came to our Methodist Church when her family moved to Shiremoor when she was a girl. After being a member of the Sunday School, she became a Sunday school teacher and a full member of the Methodist Church. She and ralph were married here and as they both became very involved in the life of the Church. When the Sunday school grew and split into Junior and senior sections, Jessie took charge of the juniors and everyone loved her. Jessie also became Cradle Roll Secretary, taking care of the babies who came for Baptism, and their parents and eventually encouraging the children to be part of Sunday School. At Sunday School Anniversary time, Jessie would be again in the thick of it, rehearsing the youngsters in what they were to say and recite, and preparing for the big day itself.

Jessie was involved in everything that was held here. Part of the Young Wives; central to Bazaars and Coffee Mornings; a fixture at the Lunch Club and was a joy for all with whom she worked and whom she met. She and Ralph became our Communion Stewards too, preparing the elements for the service and carefully clearing up afterwards. Before and after every Sunday service, Jessie would go around the congregation with a kind enquiry and a cheery word ~ all in all a lovely thoughtful lady whose faith shone through the person she was. Jessie lived her latter years in St Anne s Nursing Home, Whitley Bay. We commend Jessie to God's care and keeping; assure her family that she will be long remembered; as will they be remembered in our prayers.

Our Church continues to be closed during the current restrictions.

Our Church Council is due to be held by Zoom on Thursday 18th February.

Brenda and Barrie Mangles wish to thank everyone who sent cards and gifts to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Although it is overdue, we have just recycled our old Christmas cards – and I am jolly glad. For every time that I went into the cupboard under the stairs where we had put them, and moved the bag in which they were, I heard the tinkling sound of "God rest ye merry gentleman" from a musical card that a kind (?) friend had sent.

It drove me nuts. If I had been wished merriment one more time, I think that would have flipped.

Yet I suppose I should be grateful for this greeting; for the true meaning of merriment is not about being funny or even good-natured. Rather it is meant to convey a sense of being upbeat; a sense of fun and enjoyment; a constant search for what is pleasing, attractive and affectionate. Merry people are like hot springs bubbling with laughter and delight. A correct translation of this line is God keep you strong.

I really appreciate that this is not an easy time for any of us. There is illness all around us; there are bad and frightening things happening in the world, and this leads some people to rehearse these things at length when we come into contact with them. In fact, one of my friends who texts me regularly gives me lists of such things ranging from the trouble in America then on to the poor results of Newcastle United and ending with great detail of the distress from his ingrown toenail! He is certainly not merry at times. Whilst I try to give positive replies, he still persists to be a glass half empty person.

When I go into our garden and look at the snowdrops pushing their way through the frost hardened ground. I look at my sweet pea plants in the greenhouse, showing and inch of green and a promise of good flowers come the summer. I see the blackbird keeping himself busy by feeding himself on the berries from our firethorn bush; and then return to the warmth and comfort of our home, I am aware that I have a lot for which to be thankful, upbeat and merry.

I have come to the conclusion that merriment can be triggered by almost anything – but its great benefit lies in the fact that in order to be really effective it has to be shared. So, I won't sing it – but I simply say to all 'God rest you merry gentlemen - and gentlewomen.'

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's Diary Page for February 2021

Wednesday 3rd Sunday 7th

Second Sunday before Lent

10.00am for 10.30 amZoom ServiceThursday11th

Sunday 14th Sunday Next Before Lent

10.00am for 10.30 am Zoom Service Wednesday 17th

Sunday 21st First Sunday of Lent

10.00am for 10.30 amZoom ServiceThursday25thSunday28thSecond Sunday of Lent

10.00am for 10.30 am Zoom Service

Here is the hyperlink to our newspaper "THE LINK"

Newcastle Diocese | Link Newspaper (anglican.org)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for February 2021 :

 7th
 14th
 21st

 John 1.1-14
 Mark 9.2-9
 Mark 1. 9-25

28th Mark 8.31-end.





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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (March 2021) will need to be in before Wednesday 24th February 2021. Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 83

Happy lockdown month! It's a strange start to the New Year, but I guess it was to be expected.

I did manage to sneak into the first service of the year as it is the only way to begin the year correctly, I hadn't been to church for so long it was lovely to see everyone! Although we all miss church, it is nice to be back on zoom and seeing lots of different people without their masks.

I really missed Burns night this year, it just wasn't the same without hearing Paul's address to a haggis! I did have some yummy haggis, but the gravy tasted a bit odd. Mum said something about adding whisky to it for a Scottish hint, but I just think it was weird.

I'm going to snaffle the leftovers,

Slainte!

Marti xx



(*Psst, Marti, I will miss the pancake & quiz night, very much! Jean x*)



WORDSEARCH

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

FSTBOXAREC naming ΝN Christ AWF F F D D L Ν G Т Candlemas Simeon Η AS G Т \mathbf{O} Ρ ΜΑΤ I Anna Μ DART Δ F temple \mathbf{O} F R Δ I love н \cap G F Δ NO R ()(Valentine romance F ΜН ()R R B S Υ I) Matthias IAC Ν Fairtrade S Ρ СТ Α F Fortnight NGONN F Α ΑΑ G ()()С coffee bananas F R F н I Δ Ν ΝΜ (I chocolate Ρ F F GΝ С I Ν justice Т D poverty HASMNA Ν F F Ν nest box marriage SUACO н Ο Α wedding F NOEM I SAS 0 D Y Holocaust leprosy

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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