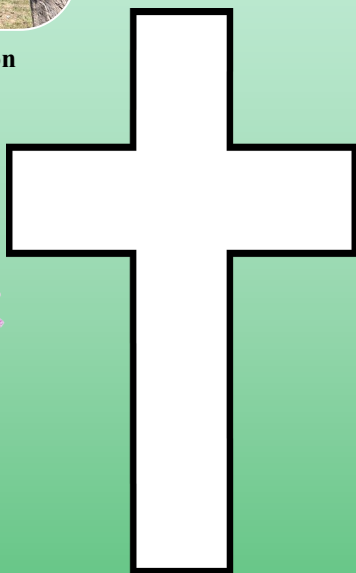




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**August**

**2025**

**£1.00**



**St. John's Backworth**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## AUGUST 2025

Dear friends,

It's the annual Earsdon Scarecrow Festival next month. It's taking place throughout the lovely village of Earsdon, on the afternoon of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, and I'd urge you to come along for some scarecrow-spotting, stalls in the Eccles Hall, and a happy atmosphere. This is our tenth anniversary festival, so we're trying to make it extra-special by having a Scarecrow Ball in the evening, in the Eccles Hall. All are welcome to the Ball, and at only £5 for a ticket and £10 for a family of up to two adults and two children, it won't break the bank. You can read more, and find out how to get tickets to the evening event, later in this magazine.

We make sure that the Scarecrow Festival coincides with the national Heritage Open Days, where buildings and interesting spaces across the country are opened for all to see. St Alban's Church in Earsdon always signs up to the Heritage Open Days, and so it's a great chance for visitors to come and look round our church. It's also a great chance for us, as Christians, to show off what the church\* – and the Church\*\* – are all about.

Mainstream Anglicans aren't great at advertising our faith. It's not really in our nature! When we think of evangelism - the promoting of the Faith - we often think of American-style preachers, and people who knock on our front doors and inquire as to whether we are 'saved'. I remember a fervent Christian once asking me where and how I met Jesus. It wasn't a question I was comfortable with, and I felt like answering "in the queue at Tesco's". (I didn't though. I just squirmed.)

But evangelism can take many forms. Showing people our church, introducing them to the places which speak to us of spirituality, and maybe even asking someone if they want to come to one of our services. These all count as evangelism.

We could perhaps use a different word than “evangelism”. We could use the term “evangelisation”. This word refers to the living-out of the Christian faith in our daily lives, as a tool for converting those we meet. It could be argued that this is a different focus from evangelism: it’s not primarily about actively and directly trying to recruit people to our cause. The idea of evangelisation is that we make the Christian faith attractive to others by showing them how we live, instead of potentially intimidating them with the directness of some forms of promoting the Faith. I’m sure I’m not the only one who feels repelled by the idea of being asked about where and how they met Jesus.

This month, let’s think about evangelism and evangelisation, to introduce people to the Christian faith, in ways which are natural to us and to them, and to avoid scaring them off.

from Gillian France.

\* the church – the building where Christians meet

\*\* the Church – collectively, all Christians, and the Christian faith

## PCC Digest

The Church Council met in the Eccles Hall on Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup>. Here are some headlines...

- A local couple have kindly offered to pay for the painting of the church doors. We opted for the same shade of blue as the clock face.
- We were happy that the new arrangements for the sharing of the Peace were working well.
- Jean Bingham is beginning her role as Vicar's PA.
- We're currently losing £782 a month...
- ...however, we were delighted to hear that the Netty Project will be completely paid for once we make a final payment to our
- contractors in December. We have this money in hand ready to hand over. This is particularly good news, given how worried we were at April's Annual Meeting.
- St Alban's needs about £17,000 of fairly urgent repair work. A team was drawn together to work on grant applications.
- Work is in train to change the name of our bank account from 'Parochial Church Council of St Albans Earsdon Building Account' to 'The PCC of St Alban's and St John's'. This better reflects our joint identity as the parish of Earsdon and Backworth.
- The Church Council is to have an Away Day on September 27<sup>th</sup> to plan our church's life together up to the point of the vicar's retirement in March 2030.
- The Council unanimously adopted our covenant with our link parish of St Andrew, Majeleko, Tanzania [see next page for the full text]
- The Church clock will be serviced [and the time readjusted] in September.

## **Our covenant with St Andrew's Majeleko**

St Andrew's is the church in our link village of Majeleko in Tanzania. This is what our side of the partnership aims to offer...

The family of faith in Earsdon and Backworth will...

1. Faithfully pray for our sisters and brothers at St Andrew's, briefing our intercessors so that they can pray for individuals by name.
2. Promote a WhatsApp group for easy communication between our communities.
3. Send money when we can, for e.g. ...
  - \* The work of Conservation Agriculture in Majeleko
  - \* The building of the new St Andrew's Church
  - \* Emergency food supplies when required.
4. Aim to use technology to share in worship when we can.
5. Aim to visit each other if we can (if guests from Majeleko were able To come to the UK we would certainly collect you from the airport And offer free hospitality in our homes). There would be no obligation on anyone at the Earsdon and Backworth end to offer hospitality. We would look into possible grant aid support to defray the costs of such an exchange.
6. Look to learn each other's languages. For example, people from St Andrew's could teach people in Earsdon and Backworth the Lord's Prayer in Swahili. We could use technology to enable people in Majeleko (if they wanted to) to practice conversational English.

A message from  
Liz Rogerson, from  
St Alban's church:

I would like to share a photo with you, and especially with the pastoral group. Last year in April I received a lovely orchid when my brother passed away. The orchid flowered until October and then this year has bloomed again - which is amazing as I really don't have 'green fingers'!

St Alban's Caring pot - the gift that keeps on giving!!



And this message from Helen Jackman:

5th July was my Open Garden and it was blowing a 'hooley'!

By midday things had begun to quieten down and my church friends had started arriving.

Then Janet and Joan arrived, my two stalwart friends, to make drinks and serve some of my birthday cake, thank you 'girls', you were certainly kept busy!

Also a big thank you Pat for the 'Helen's Garden' painting; so pretty.

I think we all spent a wonderful afternoon chatting in the glorious sunshine.

I made £165 thank you again"

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This annual event takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 13 September 2025 in the Eccles Hall and around Earsdon village.

Come along and see the weird and wacky Scarecrows which appear around the village for one weekend in September! This is a lovely community event and always coincides with the Heritage Open Days, so you can also visit St Alban's church on Scarecrow Festival Day.

Entrance to the Festival is free, but there are things to buy, and things to take part in if you wish. Tombola, raffle, Scarecrow Trail, cake stall, children's crafts, pocket money toys, candyfloss, and more!

This year we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we've got a Scarecrow Ball in the evening, from 7pm to 11pm. £5 a ticket, or £10 for a family of up to 2 adults and 2 children. Disco and quiz. Dress as a Scarecrow if you'd like.

More information about the Festival can be found via Facebook (search "Earsdon Scarecrow Festival 2025") and tickets for the evening disco can be purchased by scanning this QR code:



Mark, Bishop of Berwick, came to confirm at St Alban's on Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>. Pictured are [left to right] Fiona Marquina-Brown, Peter Davison, Bishop Mark and Evelyn Clothier. These days, Evelyn has more contact with St Peter's Monkseaton, but she was baptised at St Alban's so was very welcome back to be confirmed.



---

### **Children's Church**

The next edition of Children's Church will be at St John's at 4pm on Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>. Based on the boy who gave his packed lunch to Jesus at the feeding of the 5,000, the service has the title 'Learning to Share'. The children will contribute to a 'sharing quilt' featuring ideas of how they might share.

## **Weather Outlook for the month of August 2025.**

### **Direct from the Captain's Charts.**

The North East England long-range weather forecast indicates a continuation of generally changeable conditions with intermittent spells of rain or showers, interspersed with drier and brighter interludes. Temperatures are expected to be near average for this time of the year, but there is an increased chance of high pressure becoming more dominant towards the middle of the month, leading to more settled and warmer conditions.

### **The beginning of August.**

The start of August will likely see a continuation of the current mixed weather patterns, with a mix of rain, showers, and some sunny spells.

### **Mid-August.**

There is an increased chance of high pressure becoming more influential, potentially bringing more settled and warmer weather to the region.

### **Second Half of August.**

High pressure is likely to be dominant, leading to predominantly dry weather with the possibility of occasional showers and/or thunderstorms.

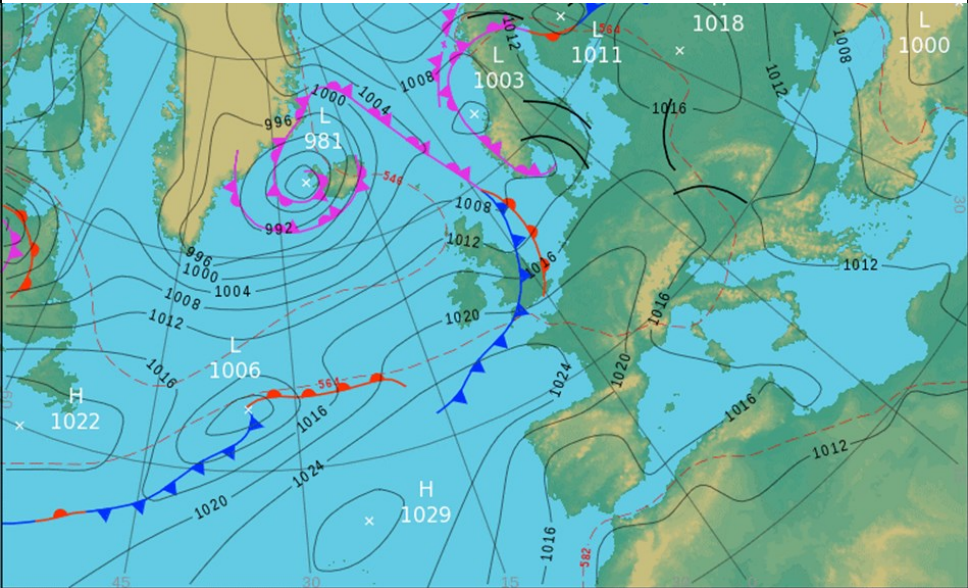
### **Temperatures.**

Temperatures are expected to be around or slightly above average, with the potential for brief hot and very humid spells to develop, especially in the east and south of the region.

In conclusion - expect a mix of weather conditions with a chance of warmer and more settled weather towards the middle through to the end of August...

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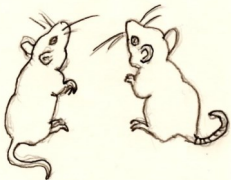
North Atlantic Surface Pressure and weather front Chart Prediction for 12:00 hrs (UTC) on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025.



31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

David Gibson

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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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# CHURCH VIEWS FOR AUGUST 2025 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

## Walking Group



The Walking Group has had a great year with the shorter walks of winter and spring now extending further as the summer days stretch out. The last walk gave them this glorious distant view of Dunstanburgh Castle. But we all know that a North East Coast summer day can be different, and even as they watched, the coastline and the castle very slowly disappeared. Was Harry Potter visiting Northumberland? Luckily the village of Craster didn't disappear, so they stocked up on kippers and smoked salmon. They were happy to see that Harry's spell must have failed because only thirty minutes later the castle re-appeared, even better and brighter than before.





## **Sponsored Walk, Sunday 3 August**

Let's hope nothing and nobody disappears on the Walking Group Sponsored Walk raising further funds for our CAFOD Medical Centre project. The walkers will leave Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at noon and head to St Mary's Church in Cullercoats, then to St Edward's Church and return to Immaculate Heart of Mary. The total distance is six miles, but everyone is welcome to join for even some of the distance.



## **Lourdes Pilgrimage**

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place in the week 25 July to 1 August and was a great success. Several of our parishioners made the Pilgrimage, taking with them petitions to be left at the shrine for those who could not travel. A devout and joyous

celebration, embodying the “bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams” praised by the late Pope Francis.

## **Luncheon Club and Food Bank**

Continuing the theme of ‘common projects’, the parish is delighted to see the continuing strong support for the Food Bank and the Luncheon Club. Many thanks to everyone who contributes, and even more so to the unsung volunteers who organise and manage both events so selflessly.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to those young people of our Coast Partnership who were confirmed by Bishop Stephen at St Cuthbert's Church in North Shields on 16 July. May the joy of the occasion add to the strength of their Faith.

*Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea*

## **Parish Mass Times:**

*St Edward's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday and Friday 9.30am*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wed 9.30am*

*St Mary's: Sunday 11.00am, Thursday 10.00am*

*St Oswin's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday 10.00am*

# Book Club



## St Alban's Book Club.

The First 100 Pages.

Sometimes they're an easy read and you're hooked.

At other times it's a struggle and you decide enough is enough!

But.....a lot of the books we have read we have thoroughly enjoyed and yet, we've all agreed, we would never have chosen to read them!

And.....that is the fun of Book Club!

We began the group during Lockdown and since then, reading one book a month, we have covered a multitude of genres, some a compelling read, others still to be finished!

The books are borrowed each month from North Tyneside Reading Group Collection at the library, having previously chosen 12 titles at random.

In September we will begin the new set of selected books, meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome to come along, adding new thoughts and ideas to our discussions.

Let's be honest though, this is really a social get together each month, using book club as an excuse!!

Please let Linda Reynolds know if you're interested and we will see you on Tuesday September 30th (venue yet to be decided!) .

*Sandy Swindells*

# Tanzanian Event in support of St Andrew's Church, Majeleko

JAMBO!

We are a small group of 4 plus Tim Mayfield our vicar at St Alban's / St John's .....who helped plan a Tanzanian Evening held on Saturday 26 July in St Alban's church .

The planning, as ever, began months ago. Sadly Suzanne fell and had injuries which prevented her from physically joining in but still able to give encouraging support.

Liz, Janet and myself did a trip to the African food stores on Shields Road in Byker to find out what we might be able to buy for the finger buffet !

This turned out to be a fortuitous experience. We were greeted with warm African smiles from Joshua in his mini market to Shola in his Bakery, who gave us samples to taste!

Moving on to the evening event....

It was with somewhat of an unknown outcome feeling, as we all set to with preparations on the Saturday!

The vicar and I went to Shola s Bakery to collect the pre ordered samosas and dough balls (listening to cricket Test Match on my car radio!!) ...again receiving a smiling African welcome.

If you came to the event I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Our grateful thanks to you for entering into the spirit of the Auction ... it was fun and Tim now just might have a second career!

A huge, huge "Thank You" to you ALL, as we raised in excess of £1,150 which will be sent to the Financial Administrator for the Project .

" ASANTE. SANA "

*Dianne Morgan*

*(See pages 22 and 23 for pictures.)*

## Open Gardens

Cathryn's open garden day: rain in morning then the sun came out after everyone had gone home !!



But then when it was Susan's turn:  
It was a lovely day with perfect weather!

The amount raised was £256 for church funds. Margaret would also like to thank everyone for their lovely cards and gifts and for making her 95th birthday so special.



## Our Changing Climate

The Royal Meteorological Society has recently published its report 'State of the UK Climate in 2024'. Some headlines...

**The UK is warming:** Since the 1980s the UK climate has been warming at a rate of approximately 0.25°C per decade. The last three years have all been in the UK's top five warmest on record.

**Extremes are increasing:** Over recent decades, temperature extremes have increased, becoming more frequent and more intense. For example, the hottest summer days have warmed around twice as much as average summer days in some UK areas when comparing the latest decade to 1961-1990.

**Sea level rise is accelerating:** UK sea levels have risen 19.5cm since 1901 with the last three years the three highest on record for annual mean sea level.

**Winters are getting wetter:** October 2023 to March 2024 was the wettest winter half-year on record. In a series from 1767, six of the ten wettest winter half-years (October to March) for England and Wales have been in the 21st Century so far.

**Longer leaf-on season:** The 2024 leaf-on season was 7 days longer than the 1999-2023 baseline. This was largely due to an earlier Spring.

**Reduction in frost days:** Air and ground frosts have reduced by around a quarter since the 1980s.

The report is based on observations from a network of several hundred weather stations, with temperature and rainfall data from these extending back to the 19th Century providing long term context. These data tell us how our climate has already changed here in the UK.

*Revd Tim Mayfield*



## Tanzanian Event in support of St Andrew's Church, Majeleko



Liz and  
Janet  
visit  
Shola's  
bakery.



Joshua in his  
Mini market.



(See page 19 for  
more details.)

Some Indian  
boys from the  
Henna / Wedding  
party in the  
Eccles Hall  
dropped in too !



(Left to right) Liz, Janet and Dianne serving up a tasty feast at our Tanzanian evening on July 26<sup>th</sup>.



Tim in his masala cloak with Liz, Janet and Dianne “styling” the Tanzanian flag’



Revd Tim adds: ‘we had a really good night. Thank you so much to the team, for their hard work, to everyone who came, and to everyone who donated. At the time of writing, the total sat at £1,170. Bwana asifiwe! (‘Praise the Lord’)

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

## Diary Page for August 2025

Sunday	3rd	<b><u>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	10th	<b><u>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	17th	<b><u>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
		4.00pm	Children's Church	St John's
Saturday	23rd	12 noon	Harpsichord Recital	St Alban's
Sunday	24th	<b><u>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	31st	<b><u>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for August 2025 :

**3rd**

Luke 12.13-21

**10th**

Luke 12.32-40

**17th**

Luke 12.49-56

**24th**

Luke 13.10-17

**31st**

Luke 14.15-24

## Sneak Previews...

The weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September sees the ever-popular **Scarecrow Festival** return to Earsdon Village.

As in recent years, the national **Heritage Open Days** will run alongside the Scarecrow Festival.

Our **Harvest Festival** falls on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The cash collection will be for farmers in Tanzania, where there are food shortages owing to prolonged drought.

Our next **Quiet Day** will be called Living Bread, and is on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> at The Church of the Good Shepherd, in Battle Hill. We'll mix, knead, shape and bake our own bread, reflecting on what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the Bread of Life'.

**Jo McEvedy** is to be licensed as a Reader at a special service in Newcastle Cathedral on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Let's turn out in force to support Jo.



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Please note - all material for next month's magazine  
(September 2025) will need to be in before  
Wednesday 27th August. Thank you, Jean.

# Earsdon

plants centre



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# SUDOKU

Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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

St Alban's Ramblers have restarted for the summer period.  
The Ramblers meet every Tuesday outside the  
Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to join in.



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Funeralcare

## All in the month of August

*It was...*

It was 1,700 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 325 that the First Council of Nicaea ended with the adoption of the Nicene Creed. It summarised the Christian faith and established the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

100 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1925 that the Welsh nationalist political party Plaid Cymru was founded. Today it holds four of the 32 Welsh seats in the UK Parliament, 12 of the 60 seats in the Senedd, and 202 of the 1,231 principal local authority councillors.

90 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1935 that John Hartley, British tennis player, died. He was the only clergyman ever to win Wimbledon, and in fact he was world number 1 player in both 1879 and 1880 – winning Wimbledon both years.

80 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 that the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. The centre of the city was totally destroyed, and about 80,000 people were killed immediately. A further 60,000 died by the end of the year, from injury or radiation. Hiroshima was the first city in history to be hit by a nuclear weapon.

Also 80 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> August, that the US Army Air Forces dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing 40,000

immediately and more than another 33,000 by the end of the year. It was (so far) the last nuclear bomb to ever be dropped.

30 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1995 that Microsoft released both Windows 95 operating systems and also Microsoft Office 95.

20 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005 that the last Israeli settlers left the Gaza strip, ending 38 years of occupation.

Also 20 years ago, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005 that Hurricane Katrina hit the Bahamas, Cuba and several southern US states. The city of New Orleans was flooded by 80 per cent when the levee system was overwhelmed. More than 1,800 people died. It was the costliest natural disaster in US history.

15 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 that the Copiapo Mining Accident in Chile took place. A cave-in at the San Jose copper and gold mine trapped 33 workers 700 metres underground, and an international rescue operation was launched. The workers were brought to the surface on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 69 days later. Around one billion people watched their rescue on TV.

10 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 that Cilla Black, pop singer and TV presenter died. Known for her hit song *Anyone who had a heart* and for presenting *Blind Date* and *Surprise Surprise*.



# WORDSEARCH

## August 2025

### The Transfiguration

The story of the Transfiguration is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). On that day, high up on a mountain, Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of Jesus' true glory. For Jesus' face began to shine as the sun, and his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses, suddenly appeared, talking with him.

Overwhelmed, Peter offered to build three tabernacles on that holy place, one for each. But God's 'tabernacling', or God's *dwelling* with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on being in the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a bright cloud covered them, and a voice spoke, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus. *Why did Moses and Elijah appear?* They represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they were handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

*Transfiguration,  
high,  
mountain,  
glimpse,  
glory,  
shine,  
sun, fulfilment  
garments,  
dazzling,  
appeared,  
moses,  
tabernacles,  
holy,  
dwelling,  
shrine,  
presence,  
Jesus,  
bright,  
cloud,  
mankind, listen,  
law, prophets,  
handing*



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