

Our Lady & St. Edmund



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH July 2021

Hello everybody, and continued all good wishes as the Covid19 pandemic continues. I do hope and pray that you and yours remain safe and well.

The Anglican diocese of Newcastle has set aside September 26th to October 3rd this year as 'Generosity Week'. I recently attended a lovely event held to prepare the way. We were put into small groups to tell each other stories of generosity. I heard some lovely stories, and it's a pleasure to pass them on now...

Paul had recently held a Primary School assembly about 'helping each other'. On his way home from Morning Prayer on the very morning of our generosity event, an eight year old boy had come up to Paul. The boy handed over an envelope full of 5p pieces. He had been saving them from his pocket money, and wanted to give them to support the church. Paul told us that the 5ps added up to about £7.

John told us about a homeless man who had joined his church. To begin with, this man had stayed for about ten minutes of the service. Then, maybe as his confidence grew, he began to stay for the whole service. The homeless man in the story had been a window cleaner in a past life, and now offered to wash the parish centre windows. John went to B&M and bought everything his homeless guest would need to do the job. The windows washed, the homeless man then asked if he could be baptised.

Sarah's story was about her church in rural Northumberland. For Valentine's Day, members of Sarah's church had delivered heart-shaped chocolates to every door in the parish. The chocolate hearts were accompanied by a simple message about being loved by God. The same team then delivered Easter eggs to the same homes. And on Easter Day Sarah was delighted that 36 people had attended an open air service.

Great stories. My own was about our churchwarden Ali Griffiths. Ali had picked up that St John's in Backworth didn't have its own ciborium. This is a silver cup with [crucially in these Covid times] a lid to protect the communion wafers inside. Ali noticed me ferrying the St Alban's ciborium to and fro and offered to help. He kindly researched this piece of church kit online, and offered to pay for one. Then the church family got to hear about this, and wanted to contribute. So Ali kindly organised a collection, while offering to fund any difference between the proceeds and the actual price. St John's now has its own ciborium, duly dedicated and feeding the faith of the good people there.

I was thinking about all this when I went yesterday for my second Covid vaccination, at The Centre for Life in Newcastle. Here was a festival of generosity writ large. Volunteers kindly managed the short queue on the street. There was a patient atmosphere on the longer queue inside, wits cracking wisecracks as we waited our turn. More volunteers came down the queue, looking for first-timers to fast-track. The whole thing was beautifully managed, the hall when we eventually reached it full of volunteers and vaccinators. Another volunteer kindly watched us as we waited our five minutes to guard against an immediate adverse reaction.

So much kindness! So much generosity! The whole thing set up so that those vaccinated might be protected against this horrible disease. Everywhere we look, it feels, we find these stories of generosity – if we're looking for them

And Generosity Week has been timed to coincide with Harvest. This is the time when we celebrate everything coming from the generous open hand of God. Inspired by these stories, and in celebration of God's wonderful generosity, let's re-commit ourselves to living generously.

Yours with love,

Tim.



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The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

As we all know, there have been no events allowed during the Covid 19 restrictions, but as these restrictions are gradually eased, we hope to have new events to tell you about, in the near future!

Earsdon and Backworth Mothers' Union

There have been no updates regarding the MU, due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The meetings may be able to resume again in September, and we will be delighted to keep you informed!

Earsdon and Wellfield Women's Institute:

As mentioned above, virus restrictions have meant that no meetings have been allowed. However, there will be (fingers tightly crossed) news for you during or just after September!

St. Alban's Church:

The walking group is back again, and meets every Tuesday, outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to come and join us.





Another of the genuine chalk boards ...



The Edward Eccles Hall is available for hire -Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Funeral Wakes etc.

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CROSSWORD



I think this is very difficult, but let's see how it goes . The solution will be in next month's magazine (August) if I remember! *Magazine Jean*.

ACROSS

1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)

3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)

9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)

- 10 'Whoever his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)

14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)

17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)

19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)

- 22 'If any of you wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not
- in ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)

18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)

20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)

21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

100 years ago, on 1st July 1921 that the Chinese Communist Party was founded.

Also 100 years ago, on 10th July 1921 that Belfast's Bloody Sunday took place. Protestant loyalists attacked Catholic enclaves and set fire to homes and businesses, sparking rioting and gun battles. At least 17 people were killed and more than 70 injured. 2,000 people were left homeless.

80 years ago, on 19th July 1941 that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his 'V for Victory' campaign.

60 years ago, on 1st July 1961 that Diana, Princess of Wales, was born. (Killed in a car crash in 1997)

Also 60 years ago, on 2nd July 1961, that Ernest Hemingway, American novelist and short story writer, died. Winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. Best known for For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms, and The Old Man and the Sea. (Suicide)

40 years ago, on 4th July 1981, that the Toxteth riots broke out in Liverpool.

Also 40 years ago, on 17th July 1981 that the Humber Bridge, linking Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, was officially opened. It was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge at that time.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th July 1981 that the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer took place at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

25 years ago, on 5th July 1996 that the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. (Died 2003)

15 years ago, on 15th July 2006 that Twitter, the micro-blogging social network, was launched.

10 years ago, on 23rd July 2011 that Amy Winehouse, British soul/R&B/jazz singer and songwriter died. (Alcohol poisoning, aged 27)





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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 Jo McEvedy, from St. Alban's church.

1) Where were you born?

I was born in Wanstead, a small town in Essex – no jokes, please! I have come a long way.....

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

I teach English and Classics at Newcastle High School for Girls, and I walk my many dogs (6 at the last count).

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

I'm shortly taking part in Radio 4's Brain of Britain (recording is in July). This is actually the second time I've tried this. The last time was 12 years ago and my only aim is to do better this time, as I came last in the heat!

4) What's your favourite book/film/TV programme?

Lots, obviously, but I've been quite attached to 'Frasier' since Channel 4 started showing it most mornings a few years ago. I think I've been round the whole 240 episodes at least twice! I love the dry humour and the mix of characters. And sometimes it's just very, very silly.

5) What's your least favourite food?

I can't eat anything fishy at all. When I was about 4, we lived in Aden and I was sent to a nursery run by nuns. So we had fish every Friday and in that heat it wasn't always fresh and I'd be sick. So ever since, I can't stand the smell or taste.

6) Tell us about somewhere interesting you've visited or lived in

My father was an Army officer, so by the time I was 11, we had lived in 10 different places and countries, including Aden, Belgium and Nepal. I'd also been to 7 different schools. So when I got married and moved up here, in my late 20s, I said to myself 'Never again'. So only one move in the last 33 years: from Tynemouth to Earsdon!

7) Tell us about one of your childhood memories

This is a memory about a memory: between my ages of 7-11 we holidayed every year in the same hotel in Cornwall, at the wonderful Crantock Bay, even driving through the night from the Continent to get there, when we lived abroad. We loved the two beaches, the friendly family who ran the hotel, the rock pools, the surfing, the cream teas, everything. After my father died suddenly, when I was 14, it took years to persuade my mother to go back. But we did, and I spent my 50th birthday there. Standing in the lounge, with the same carpet they'd had in the 70s, the same smell, the same surfboards in the hall and the same view, I suddenly realised this was the only place I could go back to where I could remember my father being too (because I didn't have a 'childhood home' or even town like other people), and for a few moments I could really feel him there with me.

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

Going to the Caribbean for the sunshine and the cricket. We had a holiday booked in St Lucia last year for my 60th but it didn't happen. Obviously.

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

I've got a lot more involved since this all started and I have really felt the extra support from our wonderful community – not just for faith reasons, but it is good to feel part of a permanent community. I wasn't brought up like that, so it's taken me a long time to realise what it can give you.

10) What's your favourite hymn and why?

'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'. The words, the tune.....

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



St Edward's renovation has now been successfully completed. The presbytery drive has been cleared thanks to volunteers who have also painted the garden benches. Now that beautiful Romanesque architecture can be enjoyed again at leisure.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary the flowers are blooming too.





Although Our Lady and St Edmund's has had to remain closed, it is still a Backworth landmark.

And all our churches under those fabulous, blue, cloudless skies.

Minsteracres Volunteers Needed



Minsteracres Retreat Centre is appealing more volunteers. The Centre, off the A69, is situated in 110 beautiful acres, including two Victorian lakes and sixty acres of parkland designed by John Dobson. 14 acres of woodland, planted 200 years ago by the Silvertop family, includes rare conifers and deciduous

trees and incorporates some ancient woodland. The house, with its now reclaimed walled garden, was built in 1758 with later additions in the 19th Century. In 1831, George Silvertop was the first Catholic to be appointed High Sheriff of Northumberland since the Reformation. The conservation volunteers have taken on the task of reclaiming those areas of the estate which had fallen into neglect. Other volunteers help with catering, day walks, and visitor assistance. Minsteracres is always a joy to visit, have a look around and sample the food. More information is available on **www.minsteracres.org** or e-mail **info@minsteracres.org**

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



Whitley Bay Street Pastors have been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to mark their services to the community. Since it was formed in 2011, its volunteers from many churches and traditions have walked the streets at the coast from late at night until the early hours to ensure the safety of those enjoying themselves,

sometimes more happily than safely.

They have chatted to more than 91,000 people helped more than 7,300 who were vulnerable. As a Christian organisation, they are greatly supported by their Prayer Pastors. Susan Winfield, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear said, "Whitley Bay Street pastors are an outstanding group of volunteers providing support to vulnerable people at weekends as well as the homeless in winter".

The organisation may be reached on whitley bay@street pastors.org.uk, or by contacting Chris Lincoln on 07549015896

Walking Group



There will be two walks in July; both will be local to avoid the need to share cars and enable social distancing to be observed. On 7th July a six mile walk among the byways and pathways around Backworth and Earsdon will begin at Northumberland Park Metro. On 21st July the.second walk will begin from the public car park at Briardene and cover six miles along the waggonway to Holywell Dene, taking in Starlight Castle and returning along the cliff-tops from Seaton

Sluice. Both walks will begin at 10.00am and everyone is welcome to join us - don't forget your packed lunch.

First Communions

The second First Communion Mass will be held at St Edward's in Whitley Bay on Saturday 4th July. Altogether this year, 34 children will have made their First Holy Communion. May God bless them and their families on this truly joyful occasion. Many, many thanks to our wonderful **NHS** for looking after me so well after my recent tumble. The x-ray department were very gentle with this "unusual" shoulder break.



Where would we be without such a marvellous, publicly funded healthcare service?

Thank you **NHS**! *Jean*.



Ivy on your house is not really so bad after all

So says the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

In an effort to restore the plant's reputation, the RHS has been showcasing the species at its flagship garden in Wisley, Surrey. It hopes to set a new trend, and to get people to stop seeing ivy as 'the enemy.'

At Wisley you can now see 390 varieties of ivy, with a vast array of leaf shapes, sizes and colours. The RHS wants people to see that ivy can be an attractive and even eco-friendly addition to your home.

RHS experts say that ivy is a 'super plant' that not only has insulating benefits, but also offers habitats for a variety of wildlife, as well as being a food source for birds and pollinators during months of the year when there is very little else for them to eat.

https://www.rhs.org.uk/press/releases/New-research-shows-ivy-is-the -most-effective-plant

Smile-lines

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes when he had the chance?

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have had to wait for them?

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Bowls

A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of coins. Finally his mother asked him where he had got all that money. "At church," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it there."

Obvious

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.

There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning.

The sacristan was in a hurry to inform the congregation that their minister had recovered from an illness, so he put the following notice outside the church: *God is good. The vicar is better.*

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But you Lord Accept me, Release me, Make it possible to be me, Perfectly free In Your service, Open for You To transform.

By Daphne Kitching

Earsdon Methodist Church July 2021

The question most frequently asked during our weekly phone conversations is, 'When will we be able to get back to Church?' We have set ourselves a target of the first Sunday of September, which will be the beginning of the Methodist year, and hopefully we will be able to be 'open for business' from then. The Methodist Conference – our annual national Conference - meets at the beginning of July, and the first session always begins with the Charles Wesley hymn "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?"

One verse says

What troubles have we seen What conflicts have we passed Fightings without and fears within Since we assembled last

And goes on ...

But out of all the Lord has brought us by his love.

I think this will sum up our feelings exactly. So if you are passing down Front Street on 3rd September, listen out for this hymn.

Wes Blakey

IT'S FOOTBALL CRAZY

I am writing this on June's midsummer day when all around me there is the hullabaloo about football. England are playing in the Euro 2020 competition, and I am glued to the television for their games and those of other teams too. I have recently renewed my season ticket for Whitley Bay F.C and I have great hopes that they will do great things this coming season. I have the dates of their friendly games in my diary, all played this month, and eagerly await the announcement of the league fixtures. And then there is always Newcastle United and in their constant talks about a takeover bid! As I write, hanging on my study wall is the ageing black and white photo of my College football team depicting a very mixed group of gangly youths bunched together before an important Cup-tie. Well, it was important for us anyway. We were not in the realms of £100million transfers, glittering kit sponsorship nor multi-coloured boots, but we felt well rewarded if the oranges arrived at half time and that there was hot water for a bath at the end. We were just a team of young men, who enjoyed the game, enjoyed each other's company and although I say it myself we played well together. It was certainly a far cry from modern transfer fees, sponsorship and contract deals and takeovers, we just loved that in which we were involved.

Going from one thing to another (bear with me), many years ago, I was fortunate enough to visit Japan and enjoyed every minute. The people were most welcoming; the surroundings were fascinating and the food was wonderful. I ate lots of things I had never sampled before; jellyfish, sashimi, and many other things. Amongst some of the people I stayed with were Christian missionaries and when we shared a meal together it was their custom to ask me to say grace / a prayer of thanks before we began to eat. Always, when I ended the prayer, their response was something that sounded like – "eat a dirty mouse." It was in fact the Japanese 'eeta deeta mussa'.

The first time I heard it I confess I giggled for it was not what you wanted to hear just before you tucked into a meal. However, it was explained to me that it meant, <u>"we are thankful to receive and use these things"</u>. What a lovely phrase ~ to be thankful for the things (and the people) before us and use them to the best of our ability.

This is a thought to which I need regularly return. To be thankful for what I have and for those around me; those who give without thought of return; who forgive without conditions; who do not expect a cash return on their investment of care and concern for me, and who inspire me to do the same. Oh, I slip up many times; but I am grateful that the love of others is a force that nothing can quell; it is a gift and not a contract; it treats everyone equally; it cannot be bought. It builds teams of the highest order.

To use what we have, to cherish those around us is all about love in its widest sense.

So let's go for it and let our motto be "eat a dirty mouse."

Wes Blakey

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

Sunday	4th	Fifth Sunday after Trinity								
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Thursday	8th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
Sunday	11th		<u>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</u>							
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Wednesday	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Sunday	18th		Seventh after Trinity							
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Thursday	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
Sunday	25th		Eighth after Trinity							
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Wednesday	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						
Sunday	1st Aug		Ninth Sunday after Trinity							
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's						
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's						

For July's newspaper "The Link" please go to ...

Newcastle Diocese | Link Newspaper (anglican.org)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings July 2021:

4th	11th	18th
Mark 6. 1-13	Mark 6. 14-29	Mark 6. 30-34, 53-end.

25th	1st August					
John 6. 1-21	John 6. 24-35					

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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					2			7
	5		7		8			
7				1		9	2	
6								

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (August) will need to be in before Wednesday, 28th July 2021. Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 88

Ooh it's getting warm! I do need to cool down occasionally but I'm not very keen on getting wet so I was very jealous to hear about Helen Jackman's great granddog who has their own boat that goes in the sea to stop them getting wet! I'm going to talk to mum about getting one of those. Mum does have a habit of buying silly Boston Terrier related items. Her latest purchase was a ceramic pot from The Weekend Potter who she commissioned to look like me. I was rather impressed he managed to get my likeness so well!

I'm still disappointed that choir practice can't resume yet, I do miss seeing everyone and having a good sing. June Johnson has been in the choir for 70 years this month, that is dedication! I'm off to cook some chicken for our celebration garden get together.

Lots of singing Marti xxx



WORDSEARCH

Doubting Thomas

If you have ever doubted aspects of your Christian faith, St Thomas is the saint for you. His feast day is on 3rd July.

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was deeply devoted, but also very honest whenever he got confused. When Jesus spoke of going to his father (John 14), Thomas was not afraid to ask him where his father was. As for the Resurrection, that really baffled Thomas. He demanded to see the risen Jesus for himself - and touch the wounds in his hands and feet. When Jesus appeared, Thomas' immediate response was one of worship: "My Lord and my God" (John 20).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of us down the centuries who also sometimes doubt Jesus. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, we can find support for our own faith in him.

Own faith in	1 111111.												
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Church Contacts

Earsdon Methodists: Minister Rev'd John Mason, 61 Ingleside Road, North Shields NE29 9PB. Tel: 2908745 Email jmason4468@gmail.com Church Council Secretary Mrs. A. Blakey, 14 Hesleyside Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9HB. Tel:251 9813 Church Treasurer Mr Ian Nicholson, 28 Huntly Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9UR. Tel: 252 9564 Church Stewards Mrs S Bowen 7 Woodside, Prudhoe, NE42 5PH. Tel: 01661 835811 Mrs B Henderson 46 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 1JJ. Tel: 291 3678 St. Alban's Earsdon: Vicar Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU Tel: 07414 601 351 Reader Edward Newton, 10 Hesleyside Rd., South Wellfield, Whitley Bay, NE25 9HB Tel: 2528977 *Church wardens* Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957 Tel: 0191 3665269. Mr R Gowdy, 82 Chipchase Court, New Hartley, Northumberland NE25 0SR Tel: 07841 986 019 PCC Secretary Mrs Jo McEvedy, 31 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JX. Mobile 07855 405605 PCC Treasurer Mr R Swindells, 81 St Mary's Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 3TS. Tel 252 3919 St. John's Backworth: Vicar Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU Tel: 07414 601 351 Reader Edward Newton 10 Hesleyside Rd., South Wellfield, Whitley Bay NE25 9HB Tel: 2528977 Church warden Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957 Tel: 0191 3665269. Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD Tel: 268 4334 Our Lady, Star of the Sea : Mgr. Andrew Faley Tel: 252 8021 Parish Office Tel: 252 7066- open on Weds, Thursdays, & Fridays, 10am to 1pm.