

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH JULY 2025

Welcome to the July magazine, with grateful thanks as ever to the tireless Jean Bingham for putting it together.

By the time you're reading this, we'll be well and truly into the summer. I hope that between writing this on June 12th, and you now holding it in your hands, we've had some lovely summer days.

So it might be a bit odd to ask you to cast your minds forward to the short, cold days of winter. But come with me in your imagination to just such a day: a cold, mizzly day in November. You want to put the heating on, but are worried about your fuel bills.

That's where 'St Alban's as a Warm Hub' might come in. Warm Hubs sprang up all over the country when the war in Ukraine sent our fuel bills up and up.

St Alban's has for a while hoped to act as a Warm Hub. However, until we had installed toilets and kitchen, this was a pipe-dream. Now that we have such facilities at hand, we can go for it. We plan to open as a Warm Hub on a trial basis. We'll open on Wednesdays every week from October 1st to December 17th. Then we'll pause for Christmas and take stock. If we've built up a good clientele, we'll continue into the New Year. If not, we might conclude there isn't a real need.

Those who come along could switch off their heating on a Wednesday, and come into the cosy at St Alban's.

We'd be open from 9.30am

At 10.15 those who wanted to could attend a service of Holy Communion

We'd serve coffee at 11am...

...and a simple soup-and-roll lunch at 12noon.

You could come to all of this, or any part of it you fancied.

Those who wanted to could then simply move down to 'Herbs' at Earsdon Garden Centre with our 'Wednesday Walkers'. People who might have been cold and lonely at home could (if they wanted to) spend most of the day warm and in company.

For now...

- Please let us know if this is something you might value. We're doing our market research at the moment, assessing whether there is a need.
- Or, if you would like to be part of a team to help deliver our Warm Hub, please let me know on 07414 601351 (tim.mayfield@btinternet.com)

Meanwhile, Les tells me that Earsdon Community Centre is again going to do 'Warm Welcome' on a Tuesday. So if you wanted to, you could keep warm in company two days running.

But back to the summer. Let's hope for lots more glorious days before we even have to think about putting the heating on.

Tim Mayfield

From Church Warden Ali Griffiths...

We Anna Chaplains & Anna Friend had a great event recently at Havelock Place, and we had a gentleman attend too, which was a first. Thanks to Amy and all the staff for helping gather people. We appreciate you a lot.

We had 10 attend & 8 took Communion.

Thanks also to Anna Chaplain Liz & Anna Friend Linda for your invaluable contributions, without which it just wouldn't work.

X X X



(And very many thanks to you, too, Ali.)











Thank you Maureen

On behalf of everyone in Earsdon Village, our grateful thanks to Maureen Hall.

Maureen can often be seen around the village, faithful litterpicker in hand. Who knows how much litter Maureen has picked from our streets – she's been doing this throughout our six years here, and who knows for how much longer. We're also grateful to Maureen for



displaying posters for St Alban's in the Community Notice Board on Front Street. I can see this board from my desk, so I know just how quickly Maureen gets our posters up when we ask her to. Thank you Maureen.



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School Tours By Tim Mayfield

On Wednesday June 25th, our school team welcomed 90 children through the doors of St Alban's. Year 5 from Wellfield Middle School, along with their teachers and helpers explored the special meaning of this sacred space.





Joan (Armstrong) explained about the choir. She put on her robes, and told the children what they meant.

Jo (McEvedy) used the big stained-glass window at the East End of church as a 'graphic novel' of the life of Jesus.



And Barbara (Rhoades) read from the Bible. At the font, Barbara read from the Baptism Register . It's always a highlight when, as on this occasion, we come across the names of children who are actually there visiting the church.



St Alban's values its partnership with Wellfield Middle School. It's lovely to be able to welcome these shiny young people into their parish church.

Jean Bingham – Vicar's PA

Jean is poised to start acting as Tim's volunteer PA. One of her new roles will be to manage the congregation's email distribution list. Then, for example, the churchwardens would be able to email the whole congregation when Tim was away. Please let Tim know if you would rather he didn't share your email address with Jean in this way. Like Tim, Jean would be sending out messages 'blind copy'.

Weather Outlook for the month of July 2025.

Direct from the Captain's Charts.

Sunday 29th June to Wednesday 9th July 2025.

A low-pressure system (984 mbs) passes to the northwest of the UK early in the above period bringing wetter windier conditions to the northwest. It will be drier in the southeast at first before the wetter conditions move through during the early part of next week.

Additional low-pressure systems are likely to reach the northwest of the UK, bringing wet and windy conditions to the northwest & occasionally to the northeast, whilst some rain or showers are likely across the south and east, longer drier spells are possible under the influence of higher pressure.

There is also the chance of some occasional very warm and perhaps locally hot weather reaching the northeast and southern areas as brief bursts of hotter air masses arrive from the continent, although fairly short-lived and perhaps accompanied by thunderstorms at times.

Thursday 10th July to Thursday 31st July 2025.

Conditions will continue to be changeable throughout much of July. The wettest and windiest conditions most likely towards the northwest with a risk of some heavy rain at times also encroaching on the northeast, especially over the higher ground.

For those of you that may be holidaying further south and to eastern areas they are most favoured for longer drier and more settled spells, although even here some occasional rain or showers will be possible, perhaps even thundery.

There are signs of more widely settled weather throughout the UK during the second half of July, however this confidence level is very tentative. Temperatures are expected to be above average for most areas, especially towards the southeast where there will be an ongoing chance of some very warm or hot conditions at times.



Rain fall map for Sunday 29th June 2025.

North Atlantic Surface Pressure and weather front Chart Prediction for 12:00 hrs (UTC) on Saturday 28th June 2025.



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CHURCH VIEWS FOR JULY 2025 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Sea Sunday 13 July 2025



Stella Maris, formerly the Apostleship of the Sea, is there to offer worldwide spiritual comfort and practical aid to seafarers and fishers, helping them to maintain their family links and making home connections easier as their times at sea become ever longer.

It does this through the work of Port Chaplains, and the Tyne and Northumberland Chaplain is currently Steve Willows. I had a long chat with him after attending a talk he gave. Steve moved from his first posting in Grimsby where he worked with the fishing community as well as merchant ships. His work there included the port of Immingham, the busiest port by tonnage in the UK with crews from all over the word. His Tyne posting has given him a 'parish' of all the rivers and ports from the Tyne up to Berwick.



Home links for the crews in those ports now come largely through Wi-Fi, but its on-board provision varies widely from company to company. Some owners provide it free for the welfare of their crews, while others charge high prices for minimal services. Stella Maris provides as many SIM cards as it can and uses its worldwide bases to help. They recently came to the help of a bereaved Filipino crew member on the Tyne with the assistance of the Stella Maris base in the Philippines. More happily they managed to arrange for a father to see his daughter online as she graduated top of her nursing course half a world away.

Sometimes the help that is offered is more practical to ensure the welfare of those stranded in our ports. It may also have to last longer. He cited one ship dry-docked on the Tyne for repair where the support covered the celebration not only of Christmas and Easter but also the festival of Eid, the end of Ramadan, for its

crew. But even smaller commitments are also much appreciated. He emphasises, "Small kindnesses make big differences."

He adds that the role of the Chaplain is constantly changing. Some ships still have small male crews while cruise ships have many women among their crews of two or three hundred. He smiled as he said only one thing never changes: "You never know what situation you are going to meet at the top of a gangway".

He hopes that everyone remembers Sea Sunday 2025 on 13 July because Stella Maris cannot continue without the prayer and support of all parishes, even those a long way from the sea. See more about Sea Sunday at <u>www.stellamaris.org.uk/seasunday</u>

Parish Summer Fair Success!

The Summer Fair was part of our ongoing fund-raising efforts to build a Cafod (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) Health Clinic in the developing world. This parish initiative has been running for just over eighteen months now with lots of events and we aim to raise £4000. The Summer Fair raised just over £1500 and has brought us close to our target.

After a week of fine weather, Sunday June 8th gave us hailstorms and gale force winds, but that did not dim our enthusiasm. Hail had no effect on the children enjoying the bouncy castle. The hail and the children bounced together! Cakes, plants, books, accessories and lots of bottles of wine all found new homes and a good time was had by all.

First Communions

Congratulations to the thirty six youngsters who made their First Reconciliations and First Communions at St Edward's on 21 June. They were joined by three teenagers who had made the decision to go forward with this important step also. Thanks to all those who prepared them, and to their loving families who supported them.

Gerry Latimer

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 You are invited to ...



A Tanzanian evening in aid of the new St Andrew's Church in Majeleko Village



7.30pm Saturday July 26th St Alban's Church, Earsdon

In pictures and videos: Helping Tanzanian farmers grow their crops
Why St Andrew's needs to build a bigger church
Tanzanian finger food
Learn some Swahili St Alban's Ramblers have restarted for the summer period. If you'd like to join in, the ramblers meet every Tuesday outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to turn up and join in.



Here are the ramblers on 17th June, enjoying a lovely evening in Wylam.



Many thanks to Jill, who doesn't yet know I've borrowed her picture.

WALKING WITH

Even though Walking With in Wallsend was established twenty five years ago, I only first became aware of it when I attended St Alban's. I was curious to learn more so was delighted when Sandy invited me to join her the next time she was delivering donations from St Alban's.

We received a warm welcome from volunteer Avril at the front door and she was happy to give us a brief tour of the centre. She would have liked to have spent longer with us but was particularly busy since it was Celebrating Refugee Week 2025.

The first thing we noticed was the art work on the right hand side of the entrance which comprised of hearts where some of the service users had written their positive thoughts & feelings about the centre.

Next we entered the reception room which houses information about the services & activities the centre provides. This is also a safe place where anyone can enjoy a free tea or coffee. Avril stated biscuits are rarely available because they are non essential items so the centre is not permitted to purchase them. This often disappoints the children!

The next room we entered was where the donated items of clothing were being sorted by two joyful refugee women. One from Iraq, the other from Iran, working alongside one another. One explained she was relieved and delighted to have recently received leave to remain in the UK & had converted to Christianity having joined a local church. The other was still anxiously waiting to hear the outcome of her application.

Our next stop was the doorway to a small office where we met employee Joan who runs the centre. Joan's energy, enthusiasm & dedication was palpable & infectious!

Opposite the office was a classroom where both men & women of mixed abilities were having an English language lesson. Nearby a small room used as a pantry housed fresh fruit & vegetables. Avril explained they had to stop buying carrots because they went off too quickly so had increased their potato order instead. She felt frustrated and sad having to limit each service user to a small amount.

Next was a larger room where a team of volunteers busily sorted & stacked donations of not only food & toiletries but bedding, towels & kitchen utensils too. Avril informed us that a refugee family only receive £47.00 per week which is to be spent on food, clothes & travel!

Our final stop was in the garden yard at the rear of the building. There was a small seating area surrounding a cheerful large piece of artwork in



the form of a rainbow, made by some local school children. In the corner was a shed housing broken donated bicycles which are in much demand because a service user not only repairs them but also teaches others how to.

Although I left there that day feeling most humbled & with a greater appreciation for how fortunate I am, my overall feeling was of hope. How we can all make a positive difference collectively no matter the size of our contributions.

I feel privileged & blessed to have witnessed the endless necessary & valuable work that Walking With implements. To me that is love in action, thanks be to God.

Maureen Smith



Children's Church celebrates the Church's Birthday

On Sunday June 8th, Children's Church sang 'Happy Birthday' to the church. That's because Sunday the 8th of June was Pentecost. This is when Christians celebrate the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on the church. Some see this as the birthday of the church – hence the singing.

When it's someone's birthday, you get *presents*. The church's birthday is no exception. By his Spirit, Jesus gives gifts to his church. We call these 'the fruit of the Spirit' – that lovely list in the Bible beginning 'love, joy, peace...'

Barbara Golightly, of the Children's Church team, often works very hard in preparation for Children's Church. Barbara excelled herself this time. She made a birthday cake for the church, complete with the Fruit of the Spirit in icing.





She made a great big tree to which the children attached the various fruits. I think 'Barbara's tree' will brighten St John's for some time to come. And as if this wasn't enough, Barbara also made a smaller version of the tree – one for each of the children (and the vicar!) To this we stuck smaller versions of the fruits, each of them painstakingly cut out by... Mrs Barbara Golightly.

A couple of "Dates for your Diary":

<u>Afternoon Tea</u> – 6th September. A Jane Austen afternoon tea at 2.30pm in the Eccles Hall. This occasion is to celebrate 250 years since her birth in 1775.

<u>Heritage Open Weekend</u> - St Alban's church will be open Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th of September. As usual, this is the same weekend as the Earsdon Scarecrow Festival, so the village will be buzzing with happy people.

Update:

<u>A Taste of Tanzania</u>

Planning is roaring ahead towards our Tanzanian evening. 'Jambo!' (which means 'hello!' in Swahili), is at 7.30pm in St Alban's on Saturday July 26th.

There'll be slide shows and films. We hope very much there'll be a video message from Revd Harun, the vicar of St Andrew's. If the tech works, we might even be able to speak to Harun by live video link. There'll be a quiz, and the chance to learn some Swahili.

In the interval, the Support Group is planning lots of tasty treats: samosas, 'Tanzanian parcels', fruit skewers, fruit and nut mix, and lots of ice cold Sprite. The event is in aid of the building of the new St Andrew's Church in Majeleko. So look out for the donation bucket festooned in Tanzanian flags... and please give generously. Asante sana! ('thank you very much').



St. Alban's and St. John's Diary Page for July 2025

	•	• •				
6th		<u>Third Sunday after Trinity</u>				
	9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's			
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's			
13th		Fourth Sunday after Trinity				
	9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's			
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's			
20th		Fifth Sunday after Trinity				
	9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's			
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's			
	*10.30am at St Alban's is a confirmation service, conducted by Mark, Bishop of Berwick					
24th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's			
27th		<u>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</u>				
	9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's			
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's			
3rd		<u>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</u>				
Aug.	9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's			
	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's			
	13th 20th *10.3 by Ma 24th 27th 3rd	9.00am 10.30am 13th 9.00am 10.30am 20th 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am *10.30am *10.30am 24th 9.30am 24th 9.30am 27th 9.00am 10.30am 3rd 10.30am	9.00amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion13thFourth Sunday after Trinity9.00amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion20thFifth Sunday after Trinity9.00amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion24th9.30amHoly Communion27thSixth Sunday after Trinity9.00amHoly Communion10.30amHoly Communion3rdSeventh Sunday after TrinityAug.9.00amHoly Communion			

Wednesday communion services are currently suspended at St Alban's. This is because we intend to relaunch in the autumn as a **Warm Hub**. Those who wanted to could turn the heating off at home, and come for all or part of communion... coffee... and simple soup and roll lunch. (See Thought for the Month, pages 2 and 3.)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for July 2025 :

6th	13th	20th
Luke 10.1-11, 16-20	Luke 10.25-37	Luke 10.38-42

27th	3rd
Luke 11.1-13	Luke 12.13-21

Sneak Previews...

The weekend of 13th and 14th September sees the ever-popular **Scarecrow Festival** return to Earsdon Village. As in recent years, there will be a Scarecrow Festival service (10.30am in St Alban's on Sunday September 14th).

Our **Harvest Festival** falls on Sunday 28th September. We will almost certainly be collecting again for Tanzania, where there are food shortages owing to prolonged drought.

Our next **Quiet Day** will be called Living Bread, and is on Saturday October 11th. We don't have a venue yet – we're looking for somewhere which can accommodate a group of people mixing, kneading,

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



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Being editor of this magazine brings many pleasures, especially things like this little gift of thanks from Pam and Paul.

Pam always looks for the "church mouse" in the magazine every month.







It's time to plant!



<u>SUDOKU</u>

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.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (August 2025) will need to be in before Wednesday 30th July . Thank you, *Jean*.

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All in the month of July *It was ...*

175 years ago, on 2nd July 1850 that Robert Peel, Prime Minister (1834-35, 1841-46) died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

150 years ago, on 26th July 1875 that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst was born. He was the founder of analytical psychology.

100 years ago, on 21st July 1925 that racing driver Malcolm Campbell became the first person to travel at over 150 mph. He set a new land speed record of 150.87 mph at Pendine Sands in Wales in a Sunbeam 350HP. He also went on to break the 250 mph and 300 mph records, in 1932 and 1935.

90 years ago, on 6th July 1935 that the Yangtze River flooded in China. 145,000 people died, while millions were displaced and suffered food shortages and famine.

75 years ago, on 11th July 1950 that the first episode of the BBC children's TV show *Andy Pandy* was broadcast in the UK.

70 years ago, on 23rd July 1955 that racing driver Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record and became the first person to break the 200-mph barrier at Ullswater in Cumbria.

65 years ago, on 14th July 1960 that primatologist Jane Goodall arrived in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania to begin her study of chimpanzees in the wild.

40 years ago, on 13th July 1985 that the two Live Aid concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, as well as at other venues such as Sydney and Moscow. They raised millions of pounds for famine relief in Africa.

25 years ago, on 11th July 2000 that Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury (1980 – 1991) died.

20 years ago, on 28th July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. IRA leadership said that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.

10 years ago, on 14th July 2015 that NASA's New Horizons space probe, launched in 2006, completed the first-ever flyby of the dwarf planet Pluto, and returned close-up photos.

WORDSEARCH July 2025

If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas's response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

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Church Contacts

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