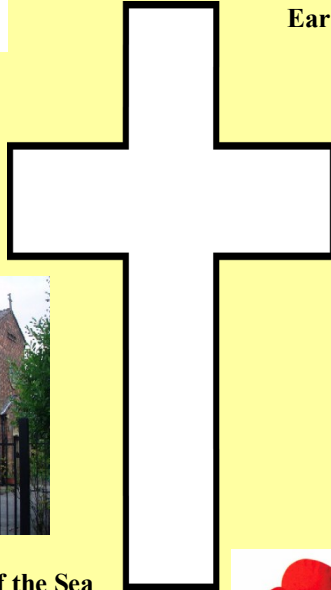


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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

## **November 2021**



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# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## November 2021

I love words. I've always loved words. I love plays on words, and I love jokes which rely on double meanings of words.

I also love the idea that you can say a lot without using many words.

This morning at St Alban's, our gospel reading was from St Mark, the least wordy gospel. It's sometimes referred to as "the action gospel" because it's largely about the things Jesus did, rather than the words he used. And it's almost like it was written in a rush, because it doesn't dwell on any one topic; the author tells us the story, often packing a punch, and then it's straight on to the next one. The gospel contains no description of Jesus' birth, nor any of his resurrection appearances. The author thought them unnecessary to the story.

Sometimes we can be guilty of using too many words, or of worrying about using the right ones, and then going overboard with them. We agonise over what to write in a condolences card, or what to say to someone who's going through a difficult time. And often the best thing is just to tell the person that we're thinking of them. We don't have to use lots of words. As Christians, we can also say that we are praying for them.

In prayer, we can also be too wordy. In chapter 6 of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: "When you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." We don't need to tell God what we need; he knows!

It could be said that the best kind of prayer is a sort of "checking in" with God. Spending time in his presence. Not talking too much; not telling him what he already knows. But being with him, and listening.

Listening - and not using too many words - can sometimes be the best thing we can do for someone. So this month, let's not use a lot of words when a small number will do. Let's not count our words, but let's make our words count.

Gillian France.

# **It's so True it Hurts!**

(for those of us getting on in years.)

Another year has passed  
And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt hotter:  
Winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago  
When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
About 'Living in the Past'.

We used to go to weddings,  
Football games and lunches..  
Now we go to funeral homes  
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,  
From parties that were gay.  
Now we suffer body-aches  
And wile the night away.

We used to go out dining,  
And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel.  
To places near and far.  
Now we get sore asses  
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs  
And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
And watch the evening news.

That, my friend, is how life is,  
And now my tale is told.  
So enjoy each day and live it up ...  
Before you're too damned old!

*Unknown.*

*Many thanks to Joyce Whitehouse for sending this in.*

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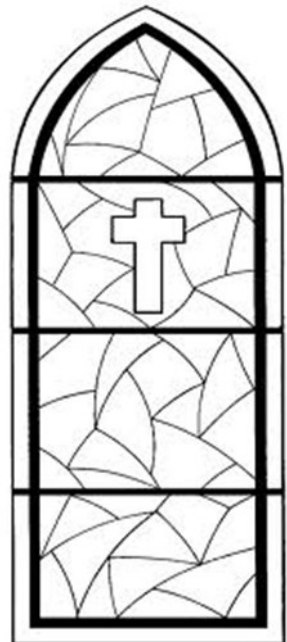
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship.

### Earsdon and Backworth Mothers' Union

17th November 1.45pm in the Eccles Hall - Advent reflections.

Note from editor:

At the time of going to print, details of the Remembrance Service on Sunday, 14th November have not yet been established.

As soon as they are known, I hope to update St Alban's Facebook page, and website.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StAlbansEarsdon/](http://www.facebook.com/StAlbansEarsdon/)

Website: [www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk](http://www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk)



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Here is Antony of The People’s Kitchen collecting harvest Donations from St Alban’s. According to Ali he said ‘I should have brought the bigger van!’



\*\*\*\*\*

St Alban’s and St John’s also had a collection for farmers in Tanzania, after listening to a talk by Andrew Mayfield. Our target was £400 but the final total raised was an amazing £922.20. Below is the receipt and “Thank You” from Andrew.

St Alban’s, Earsdon & St John’s Backworth UK helping subsistence Farmers DOUBLE harvest yields in Tanzania

OCTOBER 2021 HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION

£922.20 RECEIVED WITH MANY THANKS

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*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

*'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
we will remember them.'*

Another from the actual chalk-boards ....



\*\*\*\*\*

Lovely expressions of concentration on these three faces as they enjoy painting stones at St Alban's and St John's Sunflower Family Fun day.



# BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

100 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1921 that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

80 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1941 that the British aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Mediterranean Sea near Gibraltar. It sank the following day.

65 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1956 that Premium Bonds went on sale in the UK. They were designed to encourage people to save, and they offered

cash prizes instead of interest.

40 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1981 that the US Space Shuttle Columbia was launched on its second flight into space, becoming the world's first reusable manned spacecraft.

30 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1991 that Robert Maxwell, Czech-born British newspaper publisher, media proprietor and politician, was found dead at sea off

Tenerife. Following his death, he was found to have fraudulently misappropriated the Mirror Group's pension fund.

Also 30 years ago on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1991 that the Church of England envoy Terry Waite and American educator Thomas Sutherland were released by Islamic Jihad in Lebanon after being held hostage since

January 1987 and June 1985 respectively.

20 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001 that George Harrison, British rock guitarist, singer and songwriter with the Beatles, died.

15 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006 that Google acquired the video-sharing site YouTube.



## NEW NAME, SAME TEAM, SAME PROMISE

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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 Barbara Golightly, from  
St. John’s church, Backworth.

### **Where were you born?**

I’m a ‘Sand Dancer’ born in South Shields. Lived there until I was 18 years old. Never thought I would ever live in North Tyneside, but here I am and loving it.

### **What do you do during the week, when you’re not at church?**

My week is usually busy but not doing things out of the ordinary. Monday is spent looking after my youngest grandson. Tuesdays we pick our other two grandchildren up from school and take the eldest to his swimming lesson. The rest of the week is spent pottering in the garden, going out for walks, maybe visiting the cinema or theatre, I bake, a lot, and do some crafting.

### **Surprise us with one of your hobbies, or a thing we may not know about you**

I write a cookery Blog ([babsbestbites.wordpress.com](http://babsbestbites.wordpress.com)) which I love doing, to share recipes and skills. I started it after I retired from my teaching job as a Food Technology teacher. Take a look, there might be something there you like.

### **What’s your favourite film?**

My favourite film of all time is ‘It’s a Wonderful Life.’ I watch it year after year around Christmas it is such an uplifting story of family, love, hope and redemption. Makes me cry every time.

### **Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited or lived in**

To me there is never anywhere more interesting than the places you live and work. These places enrich your life and always have their own rich history and stories. I lived and worked in Berwick Upon Tweed for 40 years before moving back to the north east. Berwick is the most northerly town in England only a couple of miles from the Scottish border, it is steeped in history. In fact it changed hands 13 times between England and Scotland. Famous for its Elizabethan Walls and iconic bridges, surrounded by the most beautiful Northumbrian countryside and access to lovely beaches.

## **Tell us something you plan to do when lockdown is fully over and life is totally “back to normal”**

I intend to meet up with my room mates from college, who live all round the country. We have always remained in close contact but during the pandemic have been in contact on a daily basis. We haven't seen each other for about 20 years and next year we will be celebrating 50 years of friendship... no better excuse for a meet up.

## **Is there a character from history that you greatly admire, and why?**

There are many people I admire throughout history but as I love Tudor history I will focus on Queen Elizabeth the First. I admire her because she was a woman living and ruling in a man's world but she never gave up, she didn't let others influence her and she lived to help her citizens, not herself.

## **Do you have a favourite phrase, quotation or saying?**

“If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again”.

My mum always used to quote this to me when I was struggling. I in turn used the same phrase numerous times during my teaching career trying to motivate students.

## **Tell us about someone who has had a big influence on your life**

This has to be my parents. I am an only child and they taught me to be resilient and determined. I hope they also taught me to be caring and empathetic.

## **What does being a Christian/being part of the church family mean to you?**

It gives me an aura of peace and fellowship. It also gives me a chance to reflect and realise how blessed I am and how much I truly have. Also through the sermons I often ‘find the lesson’ in our daily trials, and it helps me at times, make sense of things.

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

## Bishop Byrne Launches Year of the Eucharist



Bishop Robert Byrne OC inaugurated the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist at Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on 24 October. During this Year, people in every Diocese throughout the world will be asked to reflect upon the direction the Church should take to make it more relevant and effective. This will be done at individual, group and parish levels, where we will

“speak and listen with confidence to help the Church.”

This special year will be a pilgrimage towards the Synod of Bishops in 2023 where the views gathered by every Diocese will be considered for the future of the Church. Very particularly, Bishop Byrne said in his October Pastoral letter, “We will reflect on what we should do more of, on what we might need to do less of, and indeed on what we should stop doing, so that we will better sustain the healthy life of our Diocese for the preaching of the Gospel through our stronger communion, participation and mission.”

Pope Francis has described the Synod as an opportunity for the whole Church to “open herself to new horizons”.

## Christmas Treats for Young People



Once again this year, twelve of our local churches will provide Christmas treats for around one hundred homeless or vulnerable young people who are supported by DePaul UK. This year's effort will be in memory of Sheila Clapperton, who played such a major role in this and other DePaul UK projects. The picture from a previous

year shows the huge response to appeals for donations across all the churches. In this pandemic year, the unfortunate young people merit as many treats as we can muster.



## Remembrance



Members of the Irish and Catholic communities in Newcastle and Tyneside encouraged the formation of a ‘Pals’ battalion to answer Lord Kitchener’s call for volunteers for the New Army in August 1914. Many were local businessmen and politicians, including the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, John (later Sir John) Fitzgerald, whose son was to die on the Somme, and Deputy Lieutenant for County Durham, Nicholas Gratton-Doyle,

later MP for Newcastle North. They formed the Tyneside Irish Executive Committee responsible for recruiting, accommodating and equipping the proposed unit. Diocesan support came from the Rt. Rev. Richard Collins, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

600 men had come forward by mid-September 1914 and by January 1915, numbers had swelled to 5,500, enough to form the four battalions of the 103rd (Tyneside Irish) Infantry Brigade. The War Office incorporated the Brigade into the Northumberland Fusiliers, recognising its Irish origins by collar and shoulder badges of a harp surmounted by a crown in addition to the grenade of the Fusiliers.



During the four years of the Great War, 1,328 officers and men of the Tyneside Irish were killed, over 1100 of them on the Somme.

Fr George McBrearty, Chaplain to the Brigade, was wounded on the Somme and again a week before the Armistice. At the request of the survivors, he gave the sermon in St Mary’s Cathedral when the colour of the 24th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, (2nd Tyneside Irish), was laid up. Sadly this

was later lost, but in 2001 the Colour of the 27th Battalion was re-discovered and can now be seen in the Cathedral.

## St John's, Backworth.

St John's church held a special Children's Harvest service last month, and as you can see, the amount of donations was huge. The church looked beautiful too –many thanks to everyone who helped at St John's!

*(Thanks to Barbara for the pictures.)*



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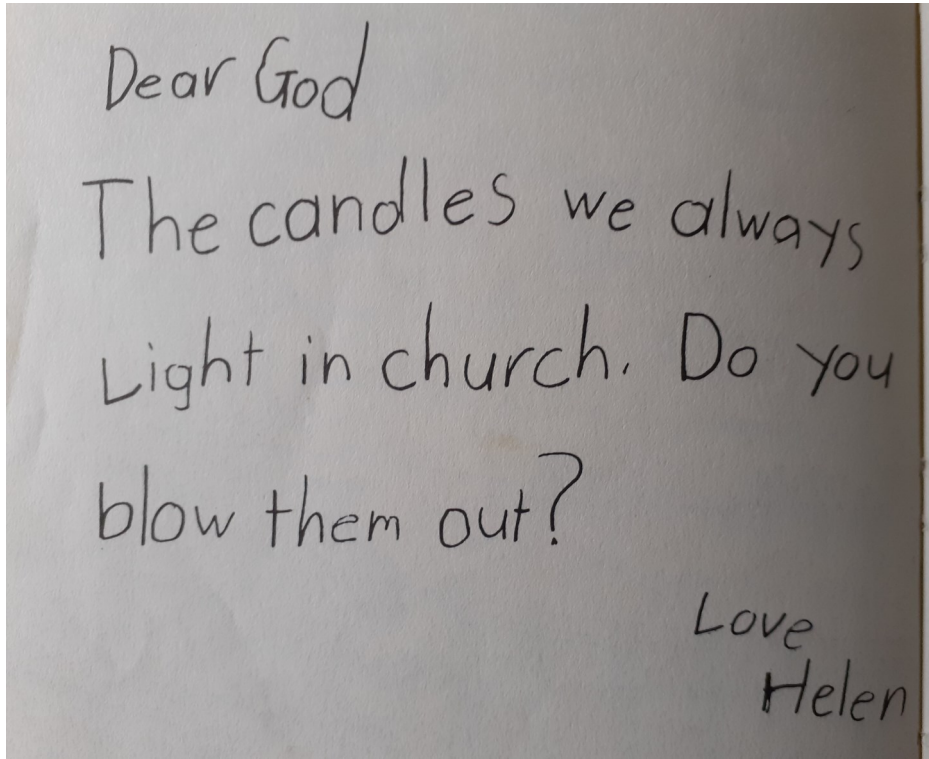
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Another extract from a collection of children's letters to God:



Dear God  
The candles we always  
Light in church. Do you  
blow them out?  
Love  
Helen

\*\*\*\*\*

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church.

The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."



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# Earsdon Methodist Church

## November 2021

Sunday	7th	Rev'd. Wes Blakey. Holy Communion.
Sunday	14th	Local arrangement.
Sunday	21st	Rev'd. Richard Firth.
Sunday	28th	Rev'd. Tony Farrer. (first Sunday of Advent)

### ***Richard Newlands, 29/10/1925 - 25/09/2021***

The chapel was full with the family and friends of Dick Newlands when they gathered for his funeral on the 19th October.

Dick was a well known and popular person in the community and wider area. Besides having been property steward and keeping things in good order he was always to be seen at any function running the raffle. He enjoyed going to the fortnightly "soup and sandwiches" where it seemed everyone wanted to sit with him, as he kept them entertained with his stories and jokes.

On top of all the work he did for the church Dick was very involved in the Community Centre. Together with George Bewick a lot of repair work and maintenance was carried out.

Dick will be sorely missed by the community.

### ***Joyce Milne.***

We have heard that Joyce, who is now a resident in Harwood Court in Cramlington, and celebrated her 99th birthday in September, has had a fall and has broken her hip. There has been no further update on her condition as yet, but hope she will make a full and speedy recovery.

Norman Bloomfield.

With sadness we report the death of DICK NEWLANDS on 25<sup>th</sup> September and his funeral service was held in our church on 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

Dick has been a lifelong Methodist and served the Church in many ways-, amongst which was as a Sunday school teacher, and Property Steward.

A bricklayer by trade, he could turn his hand to most things and has installed kitchens, built extensions, mended roofs in a host of homes in the area. Dick was also very active in the Community Centre, for many years being Property Chairman who also dealt with the lettings.

He was a lover of music and could play the organ and piano. In boyhood he had piano lessons, but in his own words his teacher 'sacked him' after a few lessons because although he could play well, he could not read music. All through his life he had the ability to hear a tune once and instantly play it and play it well.

He enjoyed being in company of both children and adults and if he could make them smile or laugh, he was happy. He liked nothing better than to be in the middle of his family, telling stories, playing games and enriching their lives with his.

Dick died only weeks before his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, having lived a life that will be remembered by all who have known him. We thank God for this lovely, kind, helpful and special man who has left this world a better place than when he found it.

We continue to hold his family in our thoughts and prayers.

It is good to report that our minister John is recovering well from his surgery and subsequent treatment. He intends to return to light duties this month and then hopes to be full time as from December.

\*\*\*\*\*

All being well, from the beginning of December we hope to resume our usual practice of Sunday worship by having the normal length of service and not keeping the door wide open. We shall still be asking people to wear masks if they are able .

Wes Blakey.

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



## Diary Page for November 2021

Wed.	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	7th		<b><u>Third Sunday before Advent</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	14th		<b><u>Remembrance Sunday</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Remembrance Service	St Alban's
Wed.	17th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	21st		<b><u>Sunday before Advent</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	28th		<b><u>Advent Sunday</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

The hyperlink to our newspaper 'The Link' is shown below. You may have to click on the newspaper itself to open it up.

[Newcastle Diocese | Link Newspaper \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for November 2021 :

7th	14th	21st
Mark 1. 14-20	Mark 13.1-8	John 18.33-37

28th  
Luke 21.25-36

# November



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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (December 2021) will need to be in before Wednesday 24th November 2021.

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## Marti's Musings 92

Summer has certainly gone now, it's getting really chilly but at least I get to wear my nice jumpers! I do love dressing up, so looking forward to Halloween to don my favourite pumpkin outfit again. Mum has just bought me a new costume to wear for next year's sunflower festival. I won't spoil the surprise by giving you a sneak preview; you will have to come to next year's festival to see it, I will be on the hot dog stand 😊 .

I was very excited to hear that St Albans choir are starting again next week. I know how much they have all missed having a good sing in church. The only downside is that I won't be able to come and observe from the balcony, never mind.

It's not good that the Covid cases are rising again, we all need to continue to wear our masks and stay safe.

Lots of mask wearing.

Marti xx



# WORDSEARCH

## Poppies

It was 100 years ago this month, on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 1921, that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war.

Amid the mud, blood and carnage of trench warfare in World War 1, tens of thousands of bright red poppies had grown, marking the graves of the fallen. This led John McCrae, a Canadian army physician who had lost a colleague, to write “In Flanders Fields”.

This image inspired the adoption of a red poppy as the symbol of all soldiers who had died in conflict. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

Remembrance  
Poppies  
Sold  
Countries  
Commemorate

Military  
Personnel  
Mud  
Blood  
Carnage

Trench  
Warfare  
Thousands  
Bright  
Red

Graves  
Fallen  
Flanders  
Fields  
Symbol



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