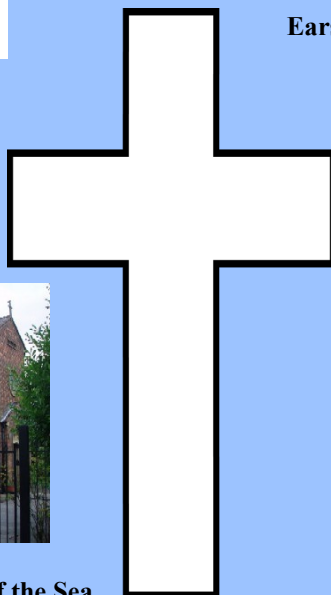




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**October
2021**

£1.00



**Our Lady & St. Edmund,
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**



St. John's Backworth



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

October 2021

Spoiler alert: there will be no mention of Covid in this piece!

As I write this, on a beautiful Sunday just at the end of September, the sun is shining, the garden is carpeted multi-coloured leaves and our apple, pear and walnut trees are groaning with fruit – the dogs love this as they spend much of their time Hoovering up the early fallers, but it doesn't do their tummies any good!

This morning, in our service, we thought about the generosity of God in providing us with such magnificence in nature all around us, for us to appreciate and be sustained by, and we are certainly very lucky in our little corner of North Tyneside that we have so many ways to do this. 'Shall we take the dogs down the fields or to the beach?' is the daily question and both are equally enjoyable, whether it's walking through our gorgeously Gothic churchyard, or breathing in the wind coming straight from Norway, and watching the dogs splashing in and out of the waves.

Many people say that Autumn is their favourite season and it is definitely the one in which Nature pulls out all the stops to impress, perhaps wanting to give us one last blast of colour and drama before we batten down for the long, dark, grey and dull days which are the hallmark of the British winter. (They do it better on the Continent, without a doubt).

As I get older though (confession time), I do find it harder and harder to say goodbye with equanimity to the glories of summer – even such a patchy summer as we have just had. Definitely a game of two halves, wasn't it?

I dislike: driving to and from work in the dark; the piles of dank mush that those glorious leaves become; icy blasts that penetrate the warmest clothing. And those beach walks become an endurance as the gentle breeze off the sea becomes a knife-like attack. (Strangely, the dogs don't seem to notice or care). On those worst days, when the rain or sleet is lashing straight into my face, I try very hard to imagine I am walking barefoot on warm sand and the sun is beating down on me....it's a tough trick, which I rarely pull off.

But this is God's work too, isn't it? And, just as the earth needs winter to

rest and recharge for next year's growth and abundance, perhaps we too need the contrast with the easy days of summer, not least to remind us how lucky we are. It's a particular blessing of living in a temperate climate zone, that we have these two facets of the year to balance each other, and of course most of us will go home to warm and lighted rooms, a cup of tea and a friendly atmosphere, when we have been out in the dark and cold.

But not everyone does of course. Next week, probably just before, or just as you are reading this, we will have celebrated our Harvest Festival, and I am sure will have provided bulging bags for the People's Kitchen. But let's not leave it at that. To coin a phrase: Winter. Is. Coming.

We may not have to worry about zombie killer ice men from beyond the Wall (slightly dated 'Game of Thrones' reference there which some of you might enjoy), but the generosity we will undoubtedly show at Harvest must continue, mustn't it?

When you come in from a long day at work, and it's drizzling or foggy; as you hurry from your warm car to your cosy home; as you struggle in with 6 damp dogs and hastily put on the kettle (ok, that's just me), put something aside for those without these blessings. Pop a bag of pasta into the Walking With box; set up a small standing order for a charity to help people through the dark months; do a shoebox.

I'll try and do all these things.

And - I may not be a fan of winter, but the best thing is.....there's always another summer to look forward to.

I'll leave you with a cheering picture of some lovely dogs, taken yesterday, waiting for the last ice cream of the year!



Jo McEvedy

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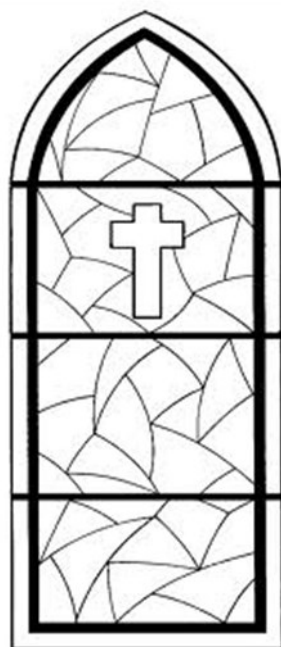
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Heritage Open Weekend 2021

Our weekend was blessed with lovely warm and sunny weather and the expectation of a busy two days with visitors in the village looking for scarecrows and clues for the quiz in St Albans.

Over the two days we had 250 visitors through the doors of the church, some just looking for the answers to the quiz, others very interested in our church history.

We were so lucky to have 24 dedicated stewards, who in small teams, each took an area of the church and discussed the things to look at in that part of the church. Many visitors remarked on how good it was to hear our church stories and to be shown our artefacts rather than merely walking round the church. Of course several visitors were experts in their field and have given us new information which we can use on future occasions. Did YOU know that Baden Powell brought his first scout troop to climb to the top of our tower here in Earsdon? We didn't either but it is an interesting fact, isn't it. We are so lucky to be in the village of Earsdon with it's scarecrows and many visitors. Next year let's get together and try our hand at making scarecrows - ideas and suggestions needed please.

Many, many thanks Joan Armstrong, for organising this event!



Generosity Week

Barbara Golightly, of St John's Backworth, made 200 bouquets of mini paper flowers.

They have a tag, which reads 'Do good and be rich in good deeds. Be generous and willing to share'.

Everyone at St John's received six bouquets during worship on Sunday morning, to distribute as they saw fit.

Barbara also made 70 bouquets for her sister church of St Alban's, Earsdon.

These were laid out, ready for the morning, on each person's Order of Service titled 'Celebrating Generosity'.





The Earsdon Scarecrow Festival 2021

The Earsdon Scarecrow Festival (September 18/19) – although a lower key affair than in previous years because of Covid – was a big success. There were nearly sixty scarecrows dotted around the village and a steady stream of visitors could be seen all weekend walking the streets, spotting them and taking photographs.

Alongside traditional scarecrows in floppy hats and tatty coats there were some ingenious creations including children's favourites Peppa Pig, the Mr Men and BFG as well as skiers, scuba divers, surfers, ballerinas and even a nude gardener!

Sixty family groups took part in the trail and quiz which included following a map to match twelve pictures to objects or buildings around the village. Two of the pictures – the Hampton Court stained glass window, and the Sanctuary Miner's Lamp - required families to come into St's Alban's where they were warmly welcomed by the Heritage Weekend stewards and the wonderful 'Jill and Marti' scarecrows at the door.

Sales of the trail sheets plus a raffle, children's crafts and cake stall raised nearly £800 for Bloomin Earsdon, which will be spent on beautifying the village's green spaces and keeping Earsdon looking loved and cared-for.

One of the nicest things about this time of year is all the spontaneous conversations that take place and the delighted response of passers-by to the friendly scarecrows.





We had numerous people sitting on the Vicarage wall photographing themselves with the 'Tim' and Dinah' (our dog) scarecrows and smiling at the weary shopper (scarecrow) patiently waiting for her bus. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun. It was a lovely piece of normal life returning again.

Sue Mayfield

(Two more scarecrows on page 18)



Two clues from the trail were inside the church, shown here.



(Photographs appear with kind permission of Sue & Tim Mayfield.)

Welcome to “**The Secret Life of St Alban’s and St John’s Folk**”.
This month we have been talking with Pat Hugman, from
St. Alban’s church.

- **Where were you born?**

I was born at the Mona Taylor Maternity Hospital in Stannington, Northumberland, in November 1947. The site is now a housing estate.

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

My typical week is spent visiting people or family who may be housebound, a couple of days per week. I take my aunt who is almost 90 out every week. She likes going to the Milkhope Centre. I meet my artist friend Lesley for a coffee each week and we chat about what we are doing in art. Look forward to seeing her next week as she is doing her hair lilac! Every Tuesday evening I go to Art Class. I like going to the allotment and talking to the chickens. And at least once per week Gil and I go out on our bikes, walking or public transport. Recently we went to see King John's Palace at Heaton Park.

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

My hobby is pastel or oil painting. I am presently doing a painting for the exhibition at Woodhorn Colliery category A Portrait of Northumberland.

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

I visited Thailand last year to meet my daughter-in-law Yaowarat's family and friends who live in a remote village in Northern Thailand near the Mekong river. I was also most privileged to go to the village temple with the local people bearing gifts of water and food for the priest. I was given a rough brown bracelet of twine. My son Andrew has now bought a house near a nearby town so probably more future visits.

- **Tell us about one of your childhood memories**

One of my childhood memories was in 1953 when I was 6 years of age and my father had returned from serving in Korea. There were flags out and he was in the newspapers. He looked like a stranger. I was almost 3 years old when he went away.

- **Tell us something that's on your bucket list**

One item on my bucket list is to drive a bus, preferably a double decker. I have always wanted to be a bus driver but I was retired when female bus drivers were allowed.

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

I think having a church family helps people to not feel so alone. They are a vessel through which we experience God's love. A caring place during hard times in your life, and a place of celebration during good times.

- **Do you have a favourite verse/book of the Bible?**

Favourite verse. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud

- **What's your favourite hymn and why?**

I was baptised at Holywell Methodist Chapel by the lay preacher Robson Fenwick. The Sunday School children were always present. The Baptism hymn was always "Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam". As a child I loved the words and believed I was a 'sunbeam' and over my early years the words became like a prayer to me and remain very special.

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

"Work like you don't need paying
Love like you've never been hurt
And dance like no one is watching." 😊

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

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Re-opens



The first Vigil Mass since the lockdown will take place at 6.00pm on Saturday 2nd October to the joy of the many who have sorely missed worshipping there. Those unable to visit the church during these long restrictions will be delighted to see that the flowers and grounds were still very carefully tended during the closure. Weekday morning

Masses will resume on Wednesdays from 13 October.

Face coverings are encouraged, and will be worn even when congregational singing is re-introduced. Social distancing will be reduced for individuals and household groups to one metre rather than two. Numbers permitted for funerals at both St Edward's and Immaculate Heart will be limited only by the spaced capacity. Hand sanitiser will be used as people enter and leave the churches.

Stewards will continue to assist seating those arriving, and we are very grateful for their hard and careful ministry during the current restrictions. Rotas have also been arranged for Readers and those who write the Intercessionary Prayers.

As the evenings draw in, those attending will notice that the halogen lights in both churches have been replaced by LED lighting which is both brighter and more economical.

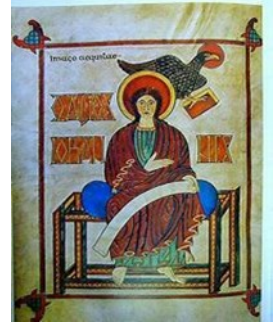
Because of the limitation of numbers necessitated by social distancing, booking for the Vigil Mass at Immaculate Heart and the Sunday Mass at St Edward's, is still essential. Please book on 07430 169249 only on Thursdays between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, or 6.00pm and 8.00pm.



The Lindisfarne Gospels, the most spectacular surviving manuscript from Anglo-Saxon England, are now on display at the Laing Art Gallery, on loan from the British Library until December 2021.

There is also a supporting exhibition at neighbouring Newcastle City Library with the aim of attracting visitors from across the North and beyond. The exhibition will focus on the meaning of the Lindisfarne Gospels in today's world and how its themes link to personal, regional and national pride and identity.

This is the fifth time since 1987 that the Lindisfarne Gospels have been on display in the North East. In 2013 the manuscript was the focus of an exhibition at Durham University, which attracted nearly 100,000 visitors, and told the historic story of the Gospels and its spiritual significance. The manuscript has also been to the Laing Art Gallery twice before, in 1996 and 2000.



Walking Group



The walkers were pleasantly surprised to find the *Disney Magic* docked as they completed their walk along the Silver Fox Way from Shiremoor to the Royal Quays Marina in September. The next walks are on Monday 4 and Monday 18 October.

(See also top of page 18)

An apocryphal Lindisfarne moment.....



The Catholic Walking Group

The Catholic Church (behind The Beacon) runs a walking group. They meet twice a month on the 1st and 3rd week of the month. Each month the day that they meet moves forward one day i.e. September '21 they meet on a Friday, October '21 will be a Monday. They do not walk at weekends.

They usually meet in the car park at church at 9.30am then car share, but because of Covid they have walked locally. In normal circumstances they would travel for half an hour or so to the start of a 6 or 7 mile walk, bringing sandwiches and flask.

They are open to all comers. If you require more information please contact Peter Weighill on 0191 2512917.

* 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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Earsdon Methodist Church

Preachers for October 2021

Sunday	3rd	Rev'd. Wes Blakey. Holy Communion.
Sunday	10th	Rev'd. Malcolm Hickox.
Sunday	17th	Mr. Roger Gordon.
Sunday	24th	Rev'd. Richard Firth.
Sunday	31st	Mr. John Bedigan.

It is good to be back in the chapel for Sunday morning worship again, although it is difficult not to hug our friends. At the time of writing this we have only met for three services but the feeling of fellowship is very strong, and we enjoyed being able to sing together again.

There are a few familiar faces who have not been present so far, so we remember those who are either ill at home or are in care in our prayers. We also remember those who are still shielding and are wary of indoor meetings.

(With thanks to Norman Bloomfield.)

KNOW YOUR ONIONS

At the moment I have a small pile of 'horticultural paperwork' on my desk awaiting proper attention. This sounds rather grand, but actually it is only an untidy pile consisting of the latest seed catalogues I have been sent, my garden diary detailing what I have planted this last season and how successful - or otherwise - they have been, and an A5 size piece of graph paper awaiting pencil scribbles of what I may plant next year. This all sounds very elaborate and super organised, but really it is far from it. Rather it is my way of looking forward to spending a happy hour on a rainy afternoon or a dark winter evening in preparation for next growing season. Having said that, I confess that earlier this year I only found last year's scribbled plan when this year's planting was nearly all done!!

My garden is not very big at all, and I work on a trial-and-error basis. I try something and if it doesn't work, I then change it for something else which sometimes results in a quick trip to the garden centre for a replacement. In my time my patience has been tested by my failures. One of our local saints of whom I am a big fan - Saint Cuthbert, (you might say he is my patron saint), had oodles of patience, and as well as him having an inspirational life, when he was on the Farne Islands I read that he grew onions. Well, that set me a personal challenge and ever since I have lived here, I have tried to do the same but failed each time – until this year.

I bought a small quantity of starter onions (sets) and a packet of onion seed and nurtured each according to their packets' instructions and planted the results in my small veg patch, which is in the shadiest part of my garden. My thinking was that if St Cuthbert could grow them on a windswept island, I might just manage it on my plot. Now I would be deceiving you if I told you that they are now huge and exhibition standard, but despite one or two failures, at last I have a small crop that is ready to harvest and will certainly be usable in the coming weeks and months.

One of my Grandfathers, like a lot of miners, took great pleasure in his garden, and as a lad I was happy to spend time in it with him. When I would ask him how he was able to do all those things he would usually reply, "It's all about knowing your onions." It was his distinctive way of saying that it was knowing what had gone wrong previously and how to patiently learn from the mistakes. Another of his quirky sayings was "square corners can be shaved smooth ~ with patience."

Well, everyone has their patience tested at times, especially nowadays, but the sentiments of folk like Cuthbert and even my Grandad, encourage us to keep trying, if we can, at whatever is the particular sticking point for us. And although I can't find any record of him saying it, I am sure St Cuthbert would want the message to ring out would that the world was full of folks who knew their onions.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for October 2021

Sunday	3rd	<u>Eighteenth after Trinity</u>		
		8.30am	Harvest Festival	St John's
		10.00am	Harvest Festival	St Alban's
Wednesday	6th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	10th	<u>Nineteenth after Trinity</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	17th	<u>Twentieth after Trinity</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	24th	<u>Last after Trinity</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	31st	<u>Fourth Sunday before Advent</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	3rd Nov	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	7th Nov	<u>Third Sunday before Advent</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

St. Alban's and St. John's

Gospel Readings for October 2021 :

3rd

Mark 4. 1-8

10th

Mark 10. 17-31

17th

Mark 10. 35-45

24th

Mark 10. 46-end

31st

Mark 12. 28-34

7th November

Mark 1. 14-20



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

[link-october-2021-final11707247078.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/link-october-2021-final11707247078.pdf)

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



Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November) will need to be in before Wednesday 27th October 2021.

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Marti's Musings 91

What an exciting month! We had lots of visitors for the Heritage weekend and the scarecrows were fantastic. I was rather pleased with my mini me and everyone recognised me; apparently I got lots of pats on the head from passers by.

It was great to see you all at the sunflower festival, our hot dogs went down a treat and the children definitely had fun. It's so good to be able to attend social events and I can't wait for the next one.

I'm sad that the walks have ended and I think we should still all meet on a Tuesday night to plan some jaunts. They may have to be close as people are going a bit crazy queuing at the petrol stations. I have some toilet roll if anyone wants to swap?

Looking forward to the next social event, lots of greetings
Marti xxx

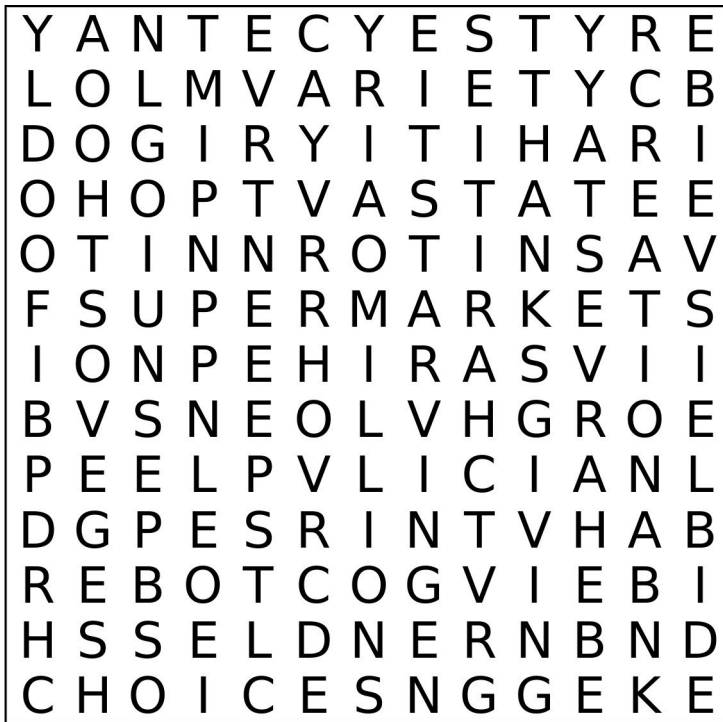


WORDSEARCH

HARVEST

October brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we thank God for all the bounty of Creation. If you ever doubt God's generosity towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local supermarket: they are groaning with food of a vast variety, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a hedonist when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic edible things for us to eat; instead, the choice seems endless. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the millions of people worldwide who are starving this month, desperate for any kind of food. Before God in prayer, decide how much you can give this month to one of the many charities who are trying to help people in need, and be generous.

October
Harvest
Thanksgiving
bounty
God
creation
generosity
supermarket
food
vast
variety
edible
choice
endless
millions
starving
pray
give
charities
eat
help
desperate



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

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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

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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.

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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.