



**St. Alban's Earsdon**

# CHURCH VIEWS



**October  
2024**

**£1.00**



**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## October 2024

Well, so far I have very purposefully typed ‘Thought for the Month’ and the rest of this empty page has the ominous air of that ancient map label ‘Here be Dragons’.

Come to think of it though, that used to cover uncharted regions and October isn’t uncharted - it opens with Harvest Festival and closes with the end of Daylight Saving as the clocks go back. There’s even Hallowe’en. Sandwiched between them is a Budget all grown up to be an Autumn Statement, but whatever its name it always reminds me of Walter Witchell’s definition of the oboe, ‘an ill wind that nobody blows good’.

Oh yes, and it’s my birthday.

When I mentioned that to someone their response was “A big one?” It was kindly meant so I didn’t say that now they are all big ones and every one of them is better than the alternative. To answer the politely inquisitive reader: yes, I remember Ration Books, the ‘divi’ and that first off-by-heart learning, the family Co-op number. That’s still useful when I am suddenly instructed on-screen “Please enter a five digit code”. And no, I didn’t have to remember a National Service number.

Like all people of a certain age I am guilty of recalling past times and places with increasing frequency, often triggered by change. Yesterday for the first time in many years I had to drive from Backworth to Killingworth, a journey I used to make every school-day. Houses now fill my remembered empty fields and there are roundabouts on an erstwhile country road where I was sometimes late for school because a farmer was driving sheep along it.

I love old photographs, and last week I visited St Edmund’s Church, soon to be emptied, and a rich site of remembered occasions and people. I was there to retrieve a flower-arranging stand and some historic photographs.

We all have our own favourite old photographs, real hold-in-your-hand pictures, not transient images on screens. They conjure up the long-past places, times and events we loved - is that young, elegant, dark haired couple on the steps of Sacré-Cœur really us?

We may treasure the pictures but we know when it's time to put them away. Nostalgia is a comfortable place because it's always selective, but if we walk looking over our shoulders it's too easy not to see things coming that we should have been prepared for.

The St Edmund's photographs will go into the archive, put away to trigger other memories for other people. The flower stand, however, is already in use. It has been filled with flowers showing the colourful joy of our October, a fitting image of the wider Harvest. Those flowers are, for me, a celebration of the present, and our thanks for the beautiful world the good Lord has entrusted to our care.

L P Hartley said the past is a foreign country. Well, I'm happy to visit - but I wouldn't want to live there.

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



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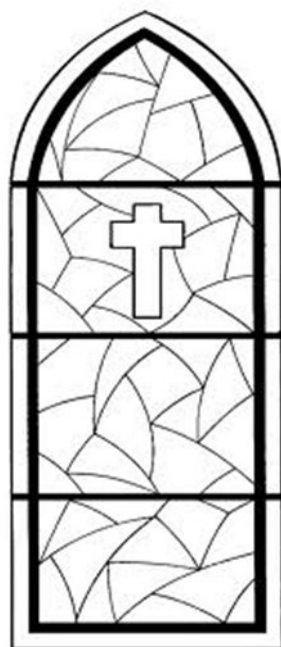
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If our clients or their families are feeling unwell, cannot manage or just have no time, they ring us and we can help. We have popped in to see clients to change light bulbs, take pets to the vets, and pick up shopping. We have accompanied clients to hospital/doctors, walked dogs, called plumbers/electricians, mobile hairdressers and arranged to have bins emptied and rubbish removed. Just to mention a few of the things we have done for our clients. Anything clients need doing (within health & safety guidelines), we will do our best to help. Our services can be increased or decreased according to changes in circumstances.

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The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Earsdon Scarecrow Festival took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and it was extremely well received, as ever! Local residents had put scarecrows out on public display, and hundreds of people descended on the village to see if they could spot them all. The atmosphere was great, and people said the village was “buzzing”. The three winning scarecrows, as a result of the public vote, were the Harry Potter, the Taylor Swift, and the Minions. They each received a rosette and some merchandise from the festival’s sponsor, Poseidon Plumbing and Heating.

As well as the scarecrows, there were stalls in the Eccles Hall including a raffle, tombola, children’s crafts, candyfloss, cupcake decorating, and a scarecrow photo-booth. In the village were a coffee van, our living Scarecrows, and some local Northumbrian pipers.

The event raised money for the local cause, Bloomin Earsdon, which provides flower tubs and other accoutrements to keep the village looking good.

Join us next year on Saturday 13th September 2025 for our 10th anniversary festival, which promises to be even bigger and better!





More scarecrows on next page.



Continued from previous page ...





## Our hedgehogs are in crisis

It is feared that there may be just one million hedgehogs left in Britain. This compares to about 36 million during the 1960s. About 150,000 hedgehogs are killed on our roads every year.

With this in mind, England's first 'hedgehog crossing' road signs have recently been launched in several Borough Councils around the country. The aim is to try and save the species from eventual extinction.

The new sign features a hedgehog with white quills inside a red triangle above a message that reads 'hedgehogs crossing'.

The design has been approved by the Department for Transport and it is hoped that the signs will make a big difference in preserving the hedgehog population. The aim is to raise awareness among motorists, to get them to slow down, and also among people using a strimmer in their garden.



Please do consider using the services of our advertisers who loyally support our church magazine. If you know anyone who would be interested in taking out an advertisement, please

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**or call Jean on 0191 2377273**

## **Weather for the month of October.**

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

#### **Monday 30th September to Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**

Rain, heavy at times, along with strong winds are expected to arrive into the far west early on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, then spread across to many parts of the UK including the Northeast during the early part of the week. The heaviest and most prolonged spells of rain are most likely to be in the west to begin with then extending north-eastwards over our region.

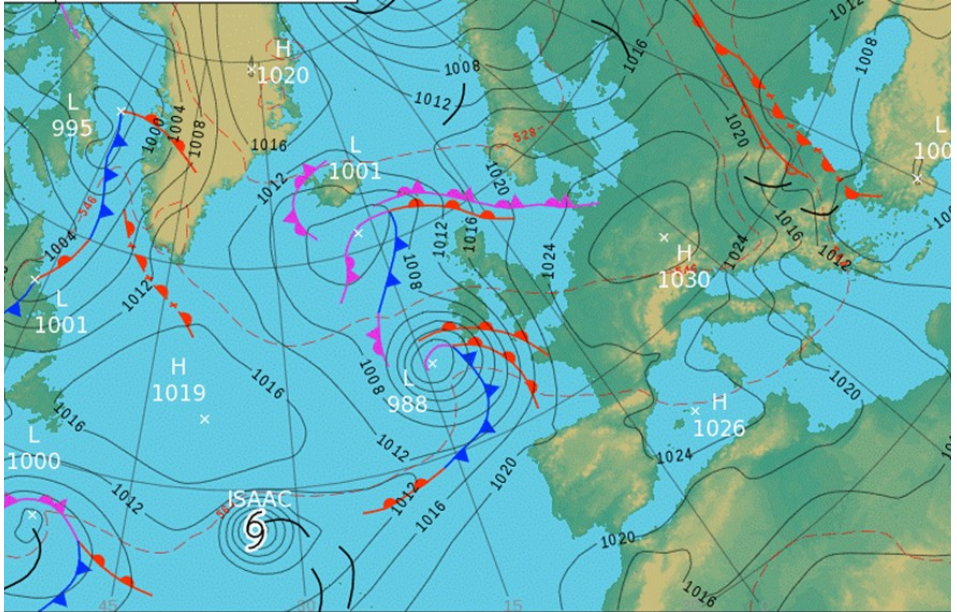
During early October, conditions are most likely to remain unsettled with occasional spells of rain and strong winds for all regions. There will also be some drier interludes with some patchy fog, and frost may form at night. The driest conditions are likely further north of our region including western areas, with southern and eastern areas probably the wettest. Overall, temperatures will be near or slightly below normal for the time of year.

#### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.**

A continuation of the unsettled weather pattern in early October is most likely to continue further into the month with increased spells of rain and strong winds for all regions, with drier weather interludes at times.

The chance of more settled weather for the northeast increases during the second half the month with longer periods of dry weather developing at times, but with increasing amounts of fog patches and frost developing at night. However, the weather forecasting confidence is low for the second half of the month and there remains a chance that wetter and more unsettled conditions could continue. Temperatures are most likely to be close to or slightly below normal.

**North Atlantic Surface Pressure Chart Prediction for 12:00 hrs (UTC) on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**



**Tropical Storm Isaac developing in the Atlantic will rapidly move towards the UK & Europe bringing associated weather fronts and strong (mainly) south-westerly winds in the coming days.**

*David Gibson*

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# CHURCH VIEWS FOR OCTOBER 2024 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

The camera sometimes lies....



I was gardening in the grounds at Immaculate Heart of Mary when the driver of this removals truck explained his clients had not yet arrived so he could not unload and he did not want to block access to Church Close. He asked if he could park the truck in the church car park until they turned up. Naturally I said yes – who could resist a picture like this?

## Stella Maris - Ring of Prayer



The Rosary will be prayed at 9.15am before Masses at OLSS on 1-5 October as our part in the relay of prayer by 50 UK coastal parishes to support Stella Maris in its work for the protection and safety of all those at sea and those who care for them.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our cake stall volunteers anticipated a rush on their services at the recent Macmillan Coffee Morning at Immaculate Heart of Mary church. They weren't wrong; the morning was its usual well-attended success. The current total raised stands at £680, but late contributions are still arriving. Thank you to everyone who helped, attended or contributed.



## Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Malta



Next year will be the Jubilee Year of St Edward's church, and the possibility of an Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Pilgrimage to Malta and Gozo is generating a lot of interest. Their history as bastions of Christianity certainly make them appropriate centres for pilgrimage.

## It's Captain Hook – Oh yes it is!

There was a brisk demand when tickets for the Playhouse Christmas production of Peter Pan on 8 December went on sale after recent Masses. It really was a case of booking early for Christmas.



## Thank you

The recent open meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council reported that £4,515 had been raised for a large number of charities in the past year. Thank you everyone for your great generosity.

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

## Mass Times from 9 September

St Edward's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday & Friday 9.30am. Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Wednesday 9.30am St Mary's: Sunday 11.00am, Thursday 10.00am, Saturday 10.00am

## From Rev'd Tim Mayfield

### THE NETTY PROJECT BEGINS!

I'm writing this on an auspicious day for St Alban's. On Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, building work started on 'The Netty Project'. This aims to install two toilets (one of them fully accessible) along with ramped access, a simpler entrance, a kitchen, and a Media Room. The Media Room will better enable the livestreaming of our services the world over.

We'll aim in 'Church Views' to give you progress reports as we go along. However, as a baseline, these four pictures show what four of our 'action zones' look like before any of our building work has begun. It's easy, isn't it, to forget what a place ever looked like once building work is complete. So keep this copy of the magazine if you would like a souvenir.

### Empty Porch



## Empty Media Room



## Empty Kitchen



## Empty Font

## **NOT THE END OF THE WORLD**

*In just a decade, solar and wind energy have gone from the most to the least expensive forms of energy. The price of electricity from solar has declined by 89%, and the price of onshore wind has declined by 70%. They are now cheaper than coal. Leaders no longer have to make the difficult choice between climate action and providing energy for their people. It's staggering how quickly this change has happened.*

That's an extract from a book called 'Not the End of the World' by researcher Hannah Ritchie. Her very important book is packed with encouraging statistics about the ways in which we can tackle the climate emergency. You're invited to a special 10.30 service at St Alban's on **Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>**. The service will move from reflecting on the gravity of the climate crisis to hope in finding ways through it.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE 6pm SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**

On Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.00pm St Alban's Church in Earsdon is to host a special Memorial Service. During the service we shall light candles in memory of all whose funerals have been held through St Alban's Earsdon and St John's Backworth in the last twelve months, naming them as we do so. Please consider yourself warmly invited to this service, as we will also remember in the same way anyone you would like us to remember. If there's someone special to you and you'd like their name to be included, please email [tim.mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mayfield@btinternet.com)



The Tuesday ramblers from St Alban's church have had a lovely summer of walks, always ending in a hostelry! Weather has been mostly fair and occasionally foul. We have spotted many of God's creatures, some great and some small, but we always had such fun! Looking forward to next year!



## The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed Grandma  
Yes, honestly it's true;  
She pressed "Control and Enter"  
And disappeared from View.

It devoured her completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus,  
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet  
But nothing did I find.

I consulted Jeeves and Google too  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from them was negative,  
Not a thing was found online.

So if inside your "Inbox"  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please "Copy", "Scan", and "Paste" her  
And send her back to me.

*Thank you Yvonne, for sending this in.*



Pupils, parents and staff at Monkseaton High School have been stunned by recent news that the Council is proposing the closure of the school at the end of next academic year. Financial deficits and falling birth rates are blamed for this situation. Many people feel very strongly against this proposal, and working groups have been set up to look more closely at the situation and to suggest alternative solutions. If you would like to get involved, you can take part in the consultation at

<https://haveyoursay.northtyneside.gov.uk/monkseaton-high-school>

and/or sign the petition at

<https://www.change.org/> (search “Monkseaton High School”).

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

## Diary Page for October 2024

Wednesday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	6th		<b><u>19th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	13th		<b><u>20th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	20th		<b><u>21st Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	24th	9.00am	Holy Community	St John's
Sunday	27th		<b><u>Last Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed/Thurs	30/31		<b>No mid week service this week.</b>	



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for October 2024 :

6th

Matthew 7.17-19, 24-27

13th

Mark 10.17.31

20th

Mark 10.35-45

27th

Romans 15.1-13

***Please note: while there are building works at St Alban's church, all of the weekday services will be at St John's.***

***The Sunday services will continue to take place as before.***

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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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Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November) will need to be in before Wednesday 23rd October. Thank you.

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## All in the Month of October

It was:

175 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1849 that Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and piano virtuoso, died.

125 years ago, from 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1899 to May 1902 that the Second Boer War in South Africa took place. 22,000 British forces were killed, and nearly 100,000 wounded. More than 6,000 Boers were killed, and more than 46,000 African civilians died in concentration camps.

90 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 1934 that the earliest known recording of the song *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* was released. Performed by banjo player Harry Reser and his band and sung by Tom Stacks, it has since been recorded by more than 200 other artists.

80 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1944 that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin met to discuss the future of post-war Europe.

75 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1949 that the People's Republic of China was founded by Mao Zedong.

70 years ago, from 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1954 that the first Rugby World Cup was held in Paris. Great Britain beat France 16-12 in the final.

65 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1959 that Britain began introducing postcodes. They began in Norwich, and by 1974 had been rolled out across the whole country.

60 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1964 that the American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace

Prize for combating racial inequality in the USA without violence.

50 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1974 that Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungarian-born German businessman, died. He saved more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film *Schindler's List*.

40 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1984 that an IRA bomb exploded during the Conservative Party Conference at the Grand Hotel in Brighton, killing five people. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was apparently the primary target, but she escaped injury.

Also 40 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1984 that South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid.

30 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994 that the three main loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland announced a ceasefire following the IRA's ceasefire announcement on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.

Also 30 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1994 that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres jointly won the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize.

25 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1999 that the United Nations announced that the world's population had reached six billion. It reached seven billion in 2011/12.

20 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2004 that the first Parkrun was held in Bushy Park, London. Parkruns are now held every Saturday morning at more than 2,000 locations in 22 countries.

# WORDSEARCH

## All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or ‘Summer’s End’. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows’ Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

All  
Hallows  
Halloween  
Druid  
Priests  
Festival  
Samhain  
Bonfires  
Magic  
Dark  
Supernatural  
Powers  
Winter  
Christians  
Prayer  
Charms  
Deeper  
True  
Eve  
Closer  
Christ  
Thanks  
Loved  
Death  
Gone



## Church Contacts

### St. Alban's Earsdon:

#### *Vicar*

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#### *PCC Treasurer*

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### St. John's Backworth:

#### *Vicar*

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Tel: 07414 601 351

#### *Church warden*

Mr Ali Griffiths, 2B Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 1EF.  
Mobile: 0772 9805957

#### *Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden*

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### Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

#### *Parish Priest*

Mgr. Andrew Faley

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