

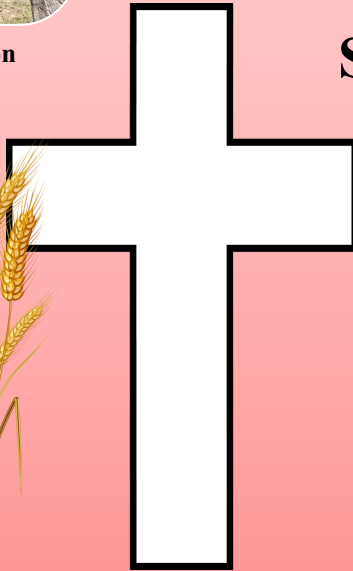


St. Alban's Earsdon

CHURCH VIEWS

**September
2025**

£1.00



St. John's Backworth



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

September 2025

You know when you wake up on Sunday and think it's Monday, or worse still when you wake up on Monday and think it's Sunday? Well, it's just happened. Oh yes, I said in July, I'll write 'Thought for the Month' for September. But the calendar has just shouted at me that 'for September' really means 'in August'. Funny thing time: how it can gallop through celebrations and crawl through Ordeal by Speeches.

But my Septembers really deserve more respect; they have always been important. Always a gateway, always special. As children it was the month we stopped playing on the allotment, our games often involving bamboo-cane bows and arrows. We always knew about Robin Hood - thank you Errol Flynn and Technicolor - but who that King Harold was who everybody kept shouting at us about was a mystery. In September we stopped playing and helped with the vegetables, producing spade-sliced spuds and blackberry-red hands and faces. But leeks were absolutely out of bounds - we were only allowed to watch, in sacred silence, as they were reverently raised, transported, bathed, combed, polished, and scrutinised before The Leek Show.

School Septembers always celebrated the 'new'. In primary school that meant a new teacher in a new classroom - whether for good or ill only the rest of the year revealed. Then there was that big September gateway, an adventure by train and trolleybus to school in Newcastle.

Later Septembers meant meeting classmates again, when we stopped being Xth Formers and became new Yth Formers. In teaching, the new academic year meant welcoming new pupils, all with the top pockets of their pristine blazers neatly lined with rows of ball point pens, and welcoming new teachers too. And those new teachers began to look younger and younger with every passing September.

But now this month is bigger than those that marked those rites of passage. Increasingly I find it's a beautiful time to pause, to take stock, to find 'time to stand and stare', to cherish things that are always a little bit the same, but always a little bit new. I know the dahlias will splash their colour against the backdrop of the apple tree and the bright borders, but none of them will ever be identical to last year.

The japonica will always shed its leaves making ready to string its autumn yellow flowers along the fences, but never repeating the same patterns. This year we are being visited by a squirrel on those fences, a completely new watch.

The Earsdon Flower Show and Scarecrow Festival will arrive as always - both of them familiar, both always different.

In my cluttered digital world of September 2025 I intend to properly file the myriad Word, Excel, Pictures and Publisher items, then file and title all the pictures accumulated over the summer, deleting all those of the carpet, my boots, and the blurs that might be anything. I'll properly organise everything on my phone, on my desktop and on my laptop. If the machines get scrambled with all the activity I can always unplug them so they clear and re-set.

Or I might just unplug myself from all of them, and take my time to clear and re-set for autumn.

Gerry Latimer

Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

St Alban's and St John's

Stepping Stones to 2030

A Vision Day for the Church Council

Revd Tim Mayfield is now significantly half way over his time as vicar of Earsdon and Backworth. Licensed to the parish on April 30th 2019, Tim is set to retire on March 4th 2030. Time then to take stock of where we've come from, to assess where we are now, and to lay plans for the future. The Church Council, and other key players, will spend Saturday September 27th At Holy Saviour's Tynemouth seeking God's vision for the way forward.

Here are some headlines of 'where we're coming from'...

2020

A Vision Day in March sees us articulate our values, shortly before the first Covid lockdown. The pandemic also puts on hold conversations just beginning about installing toilets and other facilities at St Alban's. Sunday worship moves online, before a return to simpler, pared-down in-person worship in the August.

2021

The average attendance at Zoom worship grows from 43.1 to 53.75... the drop-down screen and livestreaming equipment are installed... the PCC backs Jo McEvedy in becoming a Reader... our connection with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania begins, with a significant cash collection at Harvest for farmers impacted by climate change... Toddler Church begins.

2022

The Church Council opts for the most ambitious version of 'The Netty Project'... we begin a consultation about changing the service times... the return of in-person Christingle services sees full churches on Christmas Eve.

2023

A team begins monthly 'Prayers and Hymns' at Earsdon Grange... new service times pave the way for the highest average quarterly Sunday

attendance at St John's in Tim's time... A Stewardship Campaign sees many households transfer their giving to the Parish Giving Scheme.

2024

Ali Griffiths and Liz York are commissioned as 'Anna Chaplains' – they gather a small team around them... a Lent Course 'Act on Poverty leads to congregational request to deepen our links with Tanzania... following a significant grant from the National Heritage Lottery, work begins on 'The Netty Project' at St Alban's.

2025

'The Netty Project' is officially opened, and enables e.g. a lovely buzz over post-service coffeee... Tim spends a fortnight in Tanzania, which leads to a twinning agreement with the village of Majeleko... a new heating system installed at St John's makes it one of the first Net Zero churches in the Diocese of Newcastle.

At the Church Council's Away Day, we'll reflect on where all this has left us. And we'll think about the best ways to spend our time between now and 2030. Without wanting to short-circuit the conversation, here are some ideas...

2026

Re-establish Youth and Children's Work at St Alban's... create a Welcome Pack and deliver it in person to new homes in our parish... during Creationtide in September draw together an Environmental Working Group.

2027

Re-visit the issue of same-sex partnerships in a Lent Course on 'Living in Love and Faith'... continue to develop outreach to new estates... continue to develop a pattern of congregational Quiet Days

2028

A group visits our link village of Majeleko in Tanzania... a new '2028-2038 working group' begins to lay plans for when the government's grant aid drops away from the Biomass boiler (this will put significant pressure on the parish's finances)... Stewardship Campaign.

A newspaper snippet sent in by Mabel Henderson:

Q *What is the origin of the Christian Lord's Prayer, has it altered over the years and do different churches, such as in Europe, have a similar prayer?*

A The Lord's Prayer is the most widely known example in Christianity of a formal prayer - one that is often memorised so it can be recited or sung.

It is said across most Christian denominations and was originally written in Greek. As Christianity spread, it was translated into Latin and later into regional languages.

Each translation brought some changes, many vocabulary ones – “Which art” to “Who is” - and in theological interpretations such as “Lead us not into temptation” to “Do not let us fail” but its core meaning and content has remained consistent.

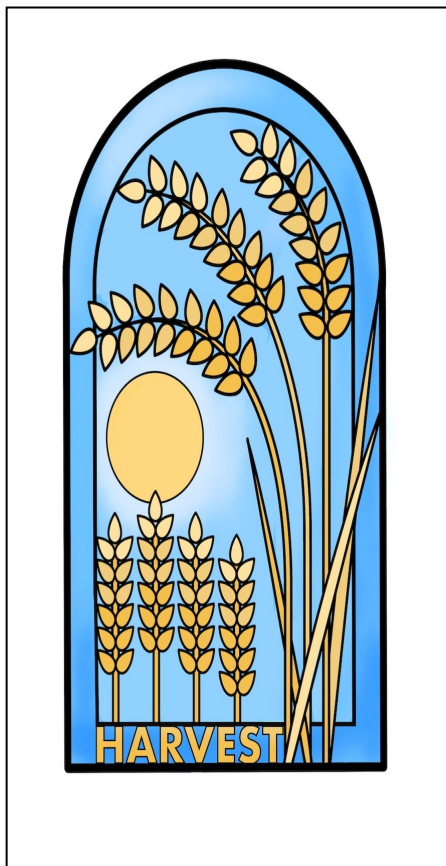
The King James version in 1611 is the most familiar to English speakers with “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...” with modern translations simplifying it for accessibility and clarity to “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

If you're visiting or attending a service in Europe, the prayer will likely be familiar but not word-for-word the same, with many orthodox churches using language that is

closer to the original Greek.

In 2017, “Lead us not into temptation” was changed by some French churches to “Do not let us enter/fall into temptation,” to reflect the theological view that God does not lead people to sin.

Two years later Pope Francis approved the revision in the Italian version of the prayer.



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Living Bread

a Quiet Day



Saturday October 11th

9.45am to 3.30pm (£5)

Church of the Good Shepherd,
Battle Hill

While we make our own bread,
we'll reflect on what Jesus means when he
says 'I am the bread of life'

Smile-lines

There are only two things a young child will share willingly – communicable diseases and mum's age.

A clergy friend of mine bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the readout, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."

The music critic enthused: "Here is Tchaikovsky at his best. Music so beautiful that it has to be heard to be appreciated."

The response: "A lot of music is like that."

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

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn-sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church hall on Friday afternoon.

You know you're getting older when you begin to realize that your parents were right, after all.

The editor of a small country newspaper, furious over several government bills that had recently been passed, printed a scathing editorial with an enormous headline: 'HALF THE LEGISLATORS ARE CROOKS.'

Many local politicians were outraged and exerted tremendous pressure on him to print a retraction. He finally gave in to the pressure and ran his apology with the headline: 'HALF OF OUR LEGISLATORS ARE NOT CROOKS.'



Weather Outlook for the month of September 2025.

Direct from the Captain's Charts.

The 30-day forecast for the North East of England indicates generally unsettled weather conditions generated by Atlantic transiting low-pressure systems, leading to frequent spells of rain and showers throughout the period. While some drier interludes are possible, strong winds and occasionally heavy rain are also expected.

The beginning to mid September.

Much of this period will be unsettled, with low pressure systems tending to dominate the overall weather pattern, this will mean showers or longer spells of rain will affect much of the UK at times. Some heavy rain or showers are expected, most often in the west and many northerly regions. Thunderstorms and hail are also possible including periods of strong winds as a result of deep areas of low pressure developing in the vicinity of the UK.

Later in the period, there may be some longer spells of drier weather that develop, with more in the way of sunshine due to higher pressure extending from the south. Temperatures during this period will likely be close to average or slightly below at times, but may rise above during any drier and sunnier spells.

Second Half of September.

Low pressure is likely to dominate for much of this period, bringing largely unsettled weather with showers or some longer spells of rain at times. Some windy weather is also likely, especially if any deep lows form in the vicinity of the UK.

There are likely to be some drier and more settled interludes, particularly at the start of this period. Temperatures are likely to be close to or a little above average overall.

Later in September: The long-range forecast suggests that low pressure may continue to bring unsettled conditions, including showers or longer periods of rain, and potentially strong winds intermixed with some drier and sunnier spells.

Temperatures.

Generally, temperatures are likely to be around or slightly below average overall, with occasional rises during sunnier periods. No significant cold snaps are anticipated.

In conclusion - expect a mix of weather conditions - sunny interludes interspersed with prolonged periods of rain and occasional strong winds.

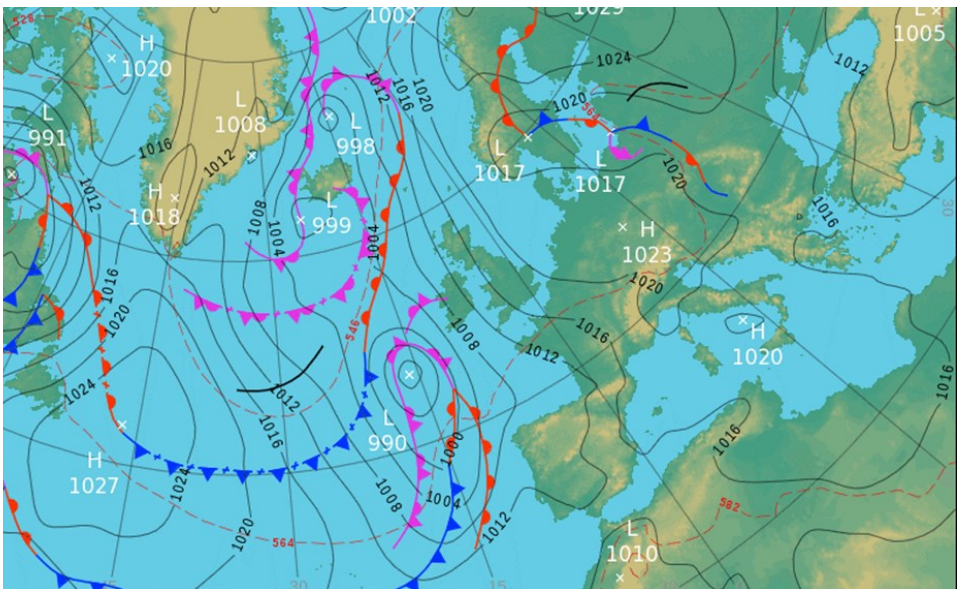
Long-range forecasts have limitations:

Due to the dynamic nature of the weather, longer-range forecasts are less precise than short-term ones and are subject to change.

Regional variations:

The North East is a relatively large area, and conditions can vary unexpectedly therefore please check daily forecasts for your specific location, especially if you are depending on the weather for any outdoor activities.

North Atlantic Surface Pressure and weather - Front Chart Prediction for 12:00 hrs (UTC) on Saturday 6th September 2025.



David Gibson

DAVID ROBSON PAINTER & DECORATOR

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

Congratulations!



St Thomas More Academy, one of the schools in the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, has once again produced outstanding examination results at A Level, GCSE and Btec levels. The Head, David Watson, says, *“Our students and staff have worked so hard, and they have been rightly awarded for their great efforts. It’s been a real team*

effort again, so thanks to the wonderful teachers and pastoral team who have supported our students.” The examination results this year make St Thomas More one of the best performing schools in North Tyneside. Most of those who have taken GCSE and Btec are going into apprenticeships, colleges or the Sixth Form, and many of those with successful A Levels are progressing to Universities. Well done everyone.

Parish £4000 Group Gift



We’ve done it! It seemed very ambitious when OLSS joined the Group Gift Scheme, committed to raising £4000 to support an already established health centre identified by CAFOD in the developing world. Thanks

to the enterprise of the fund-raisers who organised parish events and collections it has been achieved. The Walking Group’s Sponsored Walk, visiting our three churches on a six mile route, raised the final £822. Our Group Gift will provide the designated clinic with more staff and training, improve treatment, pharmacy, and services such as gynaecology and paediatric care, even pay for petrol for its ambulances. On September 27, Rachel Blaylock, the Diocesan CAFOD Co-ordinator, will give us more details and be presented with the cheque at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.



Coincidentally, on Saturday 13 September CAFOD and the Archbishop Romero Trust have organised a pilgrimage to Holy Island, and one of the clinics previously helped by a Group Gift is in Guarjila, El Salvador. It was set up when the village was cut off from the rest of the country during the civil war there. The clinic's chief, Dr Dagobertar Menjivar, says the Group Gift has enabled his clinic to transform the health of the entire district. Archbishop of El Salvador Oscar Romero was murdered for championing the welfare of such vulnerable people.

Archbishop Oscar Romero



On 24 March 1980 Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated on the altar while celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital in the capital of El Salvador. No one was ever charged with his murder, but it is generally accepted that he was the victim of a military-government death squad. He had been fearlessly outspoken in his criticism of the government's treatment of the poor and the denial of their human rights, as well as its

conduct of the civil war. This had led to support for a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize of 1979 by 118 British MPs and many US Senators. He was declared a saint when canonised by the late Pope Francis on 14 October 2018, who said that the Archbishop's ministry "was distinguished by his particular attention to the most poor and marginalised."

Parish Events Luncheon Club

The monthly Luncheon Club will be on Thursday 25 September at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at 12.00 noon. Booking is essential. If in doubt who to contact, ring the Parish Office on 0191 252 7066.

Pizza Night

Just a celebration/get together at 7.00pm on Friday 12 September at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Entertainment will be provided by the Bay Ukes. Bring your own liquid refreshment. Tickets after Masses at St Edward's and Immaculate Heart: £8.00 per individual or £20 for a family.

Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish 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

St Alban's and St John's Mothers' Union Summer Outing July '25

One of the days I always look forward to is the Mothers' Union outing. This year it was to Paxton House near Berwick, one of the finest Palladian houses in Britain. It was privately owned by the Home family until 1988 when the current Laird, John Home Robertson gave the house and its grounds to a charitable trust. Today the house and its content is cared for by The Paxton House Trust for everyone to enjoy.

Luckily it was another warm, sunny day on July 16th! Sara, my daughter, came with me and we made our way (plus wheelchair just in case) to meet the coach in Front St, Earsdon, where we were greeted by David, a very cheerful and helpful coach driver.

It was quite a long journey but we enjoyed seeing the beautiful countryside as we went up the A1. On arrival we were met by 3 guides who were going to take us around the house in allocated time slots. As our tour wasn't until 2pm we walked around the lovely gardens and had a snack at the Stables Tearoom with Pam and Pat.

At 2pm we met our guide in front of the impressively symmetrical house and visited the kitchen first. It was very like the kitchen at Cragside, full of copper pans. We learnt that the poor maids had to carry all of the hot food along the basement corridor to the main house and up the many stairs to the main dining room until a dumb waiter was installed at a later date.

The main rooms were palatial with egg and dart coving. On the walls hung many family portraits of ancestors dating back to the early 1700's! Paxton is home to a very large collection of Chippendale furniture and the uniquely commissioned Paxton Chippendale, which was less ornate but still as beautiful. The large picture gallery was magnificent and can be hired for weddings or musical evenings. The bedrooms were sumptuously furnished with William Morris wallpaper and fabrics, adding to the grandeur of the house.

After a most enjoyable day, with very interesting guides, we made our way back to the coach and we were off to Boulmer for fish n chips at the Fishing Boat Inn. Such a lovely restaurant built above the beach with views out to sea, which was like a mill pond that day. Delicious food was served to us by the pleasant and very helpful staff.

After such a full day we were all quite tired as we boarded the coach for the short run home. What a super day it was, especially so, being spent with my church family and friends. Thank you Sandy for organising such a splendid day.

Helen Jackman.

Thank you Helen.....and..... believe it or not, Helen DID NOT win a raffle prize that day!!

St Alban's summer **Open Gardens** is now over for this year, and despite some spells of awful weather, a grand total of £2,074. 70 was raised! Many thanks to all 10 who opened their gardens, and to everyone who turned up, contributing to this impressive total. Here we have a few shots from Liz Rogerson's spectacular garden, and yes, it poured down.

Liz's beautiful garden before the rain:



Continued on next two pages...

Before
the rain:



Liz says it was a shame that the weather drove everyone into the kitchen ... and then when the sun came out everyone was so happy chatting where they were that no-one wanted to move outside!



Liz did manage
to get at least
one shot with
people outside
enjoying the
garden.



Editor - I love
this one with
the little
creatures on the
wall.





This annual event takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 13 September 2025 in the Eccles Hall and around Earsdon village.

Come along and see the weird and wacky Scarecrows which appear around the village for one weekend in September! This is a lovely community event and always coincides with the Heritage Open Days, so you can also visit St Alban's church on Scarecrow Festival Day.

Entrance to the Festival is free, but there are things to buy, and things to take part in if you wish. Tombola, raffle, Scarecrow Trail, cake stall, children's crafts, pocket money toys, candyfloss, and more!

This year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary, and we've got a Scarecrow Ball in the evening, from 7pm to 11pm. £5 a ticket, or £10 for a family of up to 2 adults and 2 children. Disco and quiz. Dress as a Scarecrow if you'd like.

More information about the Festival can be found via Facebook (search "Earsdon Scarecrow Festival 2025") and tickets for the evening disco can be purchased by scanning this QR code:



Harvest Festival

The Earsdon and Backworth Harvest Festival falls on Sunday September 28th. There will be three services – at 9am at St John’s and 10.30am at St Alban’s (with preacher Jo McEvedy), followed by Children’s Church at St John’s at 4pm.

Cash collections will be for the work of Conservation Agriculture in Tanzania. Contributions in kind will be for The People’s Kitchen’ in Newcastle – look out nearer the time for a list of the kinds of things the People’s Kitchen needs.

Incidentally, while on Harvest, you might like to note this text exchange between Revd Tim and Shaun at Holywell Farms:

Tim: Hi there Shaun, Tim the vicar here. How are you doing? Looks like a better harvest this year? I hope so. Thinking of you all. Tim Mayfield.

Shaun: Hi Tim, thank you for asking. Yes, harvest has been fairly good, plenty of sunshine to fill the grains. The land suffered a bit with the drought. But in general I can’t complain. It’s been the easiest harvest on record.



St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for September 2025

Sunday	7th	<u>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	14th	<u>Thirteenth after Trinity</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	21st	<u>Fourteenth after Trinity</u> (St Matthew's Day)		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	28th	<u>Fifteenth after Trinity</u> <u>Harvest Festival</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Warm Hub

Please note that, with a heavy heart, we have decided to postpone the Warm Hub pilot scheme at St Alban's. This is due to illness and other medical issues among the team, along with an apparent low take-up among the congregation.

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for September 2025 :

7th

Luke 14.25-33

14th

Luke 15.1-10

21st

Matthew 9.9-13

28th

Luke 8.4-8

Sneak Previews...

The weekend of 13th and 14th September sees the ever-popular **Scarecrow Festival** return to Earsdon Village. As in recent years, the national Heritage Open Days will run alongside the Scarecrow Festival.

Our next **Quiet Day** will be called Living Bread, and is on Saturday October 11th at The Church of the Good Shepherd, in Battle Hill. We'll mix, knead, shape and bake our own bread, reflecting on what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the Bread of Life'.

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.

Tim and a team lead the **Carbon Literacy Project** on November 16th and 26th and January 14th. Three online sessions (7 till 9pm) will examine the science of climate change, our own personal carbon footprints, and what we can be doing together as church. The course can lead to Carbon Literacy Certification for those who choose to take this option.



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* If you have any suggestions, comments or requests *
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* email it to **magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk** *
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St Alban's Ramblers have ended their summer walks.
Let's hope they are back again next year.



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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.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (October 2025) will need to be in *before* Wednesday 24th September . Thank you, *Jean*.

(Sorry Pam, he's on holiday.)



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All in the month of September

It was...

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925 that England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 that the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

100 years ago, on 8th Sept that Peter Sellers, actor and comedian was born. Best known for the Goon Show, and as Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther film series. (Died 1980.)

90 years ago, on 15th Sept 1935 that the Nuremberg Laws were passed in Germany. Jews were no longer classed as German citizens, and the Nazi flag was adopted as the national flag of Germany.

80 years ago, on 2nd Sept 1945 that V-J Day (victory over Japan Day) took place. Representatives from Japan signed the formal

instrument of surrender on board the US battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

70 years ago, on 4th Sept 1955 that Kenneth Kendall became the first newsreader to appear on screen in the UK, reading the *BBC Television News*.

40 years ago, on 9th to 11th Sept 1985 that the Handsworth Riots took place in Birmingham. Unemployment and racial tensions fuelled a mass riot following the arrest of a man in a café and a police raid on a public house. 45 shops were looted and burned, and at least two people killed. Several more riots occurred across England that autumn.

30 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1995 that the online auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb). The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.

20 years ago, on 12th Sept 2005 that the evacuation of all Israeli security forces and Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip was completed. Israel had occupied the Gaza Strip for 38 years.

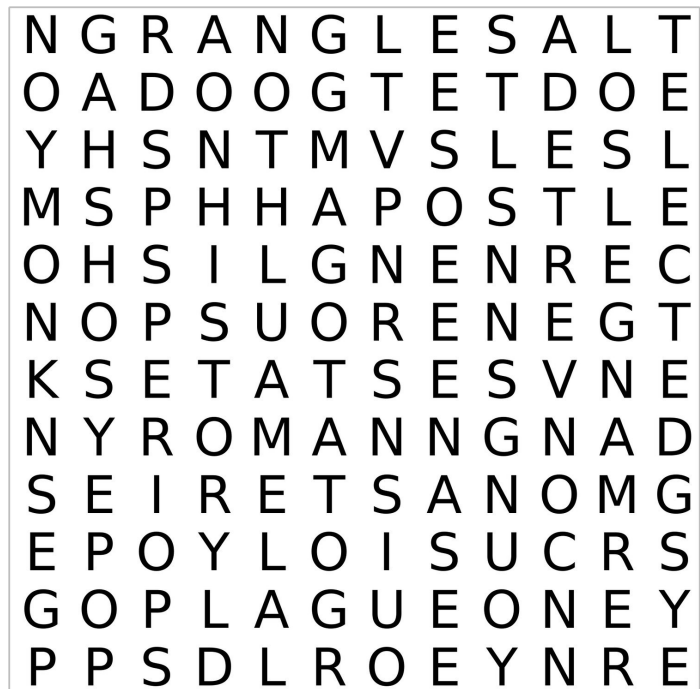
WORDSEARCH

September 2025

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, “They are Angles.” Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, “They are not Angles, but angels!” He planned to go to England to evangelise the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory
History
Son
Roman
Senator
Converted
Young
Estates
Monasteries
Generous
Poor
Monk
English
Slaves
Angles
Angles
Plague
Pope
Apostle
elected



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