



**Earsdon Methodist** 

# CHURCH VIEWS

March 2020

£1.00



Our Lady & St. Edmund



St. John's Backworth



**Immaculate Heart of Mary** 

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH March 2020

During February we certainly endured some wild weather; mind you March is renowned for its winds, so we may not yet be out of the woods. However, for me there is a positive side to all of this. Whilst I grieve with those whose homes have been flooded and battered by the wind and rain and cannot imagine the horrors they have faced, I feel really blessed when returning to our own home when the roads are wet and the gutters are streaming, for I can put on the kettle and get warm by drinking tea and sitting by the fire.

I guess for most of us we would happily turn up the television volume to drown out the rumblings of thunder. (Unless like one of my elderly relations you rush around the house unnecessarily unplugging every electrical device you can lay your hands on). Then the joy of coming home and shaking the water from your umbrella and leaving it to look like an abandoned satellite dish propped up in the kitchen; and the delight of taking off your soaked coat, draping it over a chair beside the radiator and sliding out of wet shoes and slipping into your slippers, making your toes tingle, must be some of winter's delights.

Certainly, it is nice to be home when the weather outside is fine, but the snugness is just a little bit extra when it's tipping down and blowing a hooley.

Mark Twain is reported to have said, "The rain is famous for falling on the just and unjust alike, but if I had the management of such affairs I would rain softly and sweetly on the just, but if I caught a sample of the unjust outdoors I would drench him." This may be a sentiment with which we feel sympathy at times, but not what Jesus originally intended, I am sure.

As we are now in the season of Lent, some of us may have tried to give up certain things as a token observance of Jesus's forty days of fasting in the wilderness. I have always found this hard to do, and for me it is unhelpful  $\sim$  a bit like going out into the storm to deliberately get wet because it seems a way to punish myself.

Rather I prefer to see the positive side to this. It is a time to reflect on how love was shown in the life and sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus and what that actually means for me today, and how should I react to this. Can I be kinder? Can I do something positive that I would not normally do? It is still not always easy, but as well as speaking about the equal distribution of rain, Jesus also said that God made the sun rise on the bad and the good. So, I am really going to try to cause at least one bright spot this Lent.

Wes Blakey

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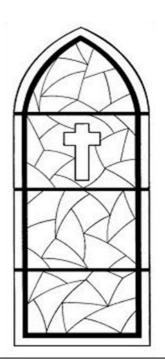
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#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

#### Forthcoming events

#### **EARSDON & BACKWORTH MOTHER'S UNION:**

Wednesday, 18th March, 1.45pm in the Eccles Hall. The speaker is Georgia E Brown -Author.

#### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 6th March, 2pm at St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Eastfield Avenue, Monkseaton. This Service has been prepared by The Christian women of Zimbabwe.

### EARSDON & WELLFIELD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Friday, 20th March 2020 - BIRTHDAY PARTY!



#### **ECUMENICAL SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Just to bring you up to date with the two events that we organise each year. They are a Coffee Morning in January, which is usually in the same week as the Week for Christian Unity, and a Cheese and Wine Evening with entertainment, which is held in June.

The Coffee Morning this year made £296.80. As usual it was well attended and very sociable.

The next Cheese and Wine Evening will be on Thursday, 2nd July at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

#### Donations made last year went to:

North of England Children's Cancer Research	£200.
Whitley Bay Beach Wheelchairs for the Disabled	£100.
Tynemouth Voluntary Life Brigade	£100.
People's Kitchen	£200.
Greggs Vouchers for the Homeless in Whitley Bay	£ 50.

Ella Heaney (Committee Member.)



Two 80 year olds celebrating with cake and wine in the Eccles Hall. Congratulations to Alan Storey and Sylvia Turnbull!

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

email: magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk or call Jean on 0191 2377273



Sister and brother, Charlotte and Daniel were both active members of St Albans Sunday school, and have now graduated to become servers; a very special moment in their young Christian lives as they serve for the first time together.

Charlotte also competed in the national cross country competition yesterday and she came in at a very well deserved third place!

(Many thanks, Cathryn.)

#### Birthday celebrations at Mothers' Union



From left to right as we look at the picture ... Mabel, Sylvia, and Kath.

Hope you enjoyed yourselves, ladies!

I'm not mentioning any names, but "someone" is also celebrating on page 9.

Is there such a thing as too much cake, Sylvia?

Thanks to Pam (MU) for sending these in.



#### Call Ali G

Hi All. For Lent this year, I would like to do something a little different than the norm.

So this year I will be donating my time to help any member of St Alban's congregation in any way I can.

E.g. if you have any minor repair work that needs doing to your homes (nothing electrical)

CALL ALI G!!!

If you need shopping and aren't able to do it yourself - CALL ALI G!!!

If you need transport for local travel, instead of calling a taxi - CALL ALI G!!!

If you need your windows cleaned, or a bit of housework done e.g. dusting, hoovering, washing-up etc. -

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My motto: I'M HAPPY TO HELP!

SO IF YOU NEED ME, CALL ME!

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I really hope that Ali knows what he's let himself in for! As I said on Facebook - I, for one, have loads of jobs need doing!







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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 Joyce Taylor, from St. Alban's church.

#### 1) Where were you born?

North Shields Frater Maternity Hospital which is now a housing estate.

#### 2) What do you do during the week, when you're not at church?

I work full time as an Occupational Health Co-ordinator for North Tyneside Council and volunteer at Cruse Bereavement Care in Heaton supporting children and adults through their grief.

## 3) Surprise us with one of your hobbies, or something we may not know about you

I am currently taking a Degree course at TyneMet College on a Thursday to become a Counsellor.

#### 4) What's your favourite book or film?

Favourite book is Charlotte's Web Favourite film: Legend (One of Tom Cruse's first films).

#### 5) What's your least favourite food?

Cod Roe.

#### 6) Tell us something you've learnt recently.

I've learnt that I have an amazing circle of support in friends and family which I have needed to lean on recently. To know they are there, makes me feel I am truly blessed.

# 7) What's the furthest-flung place you've ever visited, or tell us about somewhere interesting you have visited?

Arizona.

The Biosphere - was a test centre for astronauts hoping to go to Mars. Now it's an ecological centre doing research on the climate and atmosphere.

# 8) Tell us something that's on your bucket list, or something you've always wanted to do

To see the Northern Lights.

# 9) Sum up what being a Christian/being part of the church family means to you

It's about connection with the community, helping each other and knowing that no matter what, people are always there for you in your hour of need.

# 10) Do you have any prayer requests that we can ask the magazine readers to pray for?

To hold those always in your thoughts who suffer from addiction and have lost their way in life. Our paths are not always straight and we can take a wrong turn sometimes or veer off course a little. The path is still there but we sometimes need a little help to get back on it.

# CHURCH VIEWS FOR MARCH 2020 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

#### Stations of the Cross in Lent



Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated in the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea. These will be led on two evenings a week by volunteers at St Edward's Church in Whitley Bay on Tuesdays at 6.45pn prior to Mass, and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in West Monkseaton on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. The individuals or couples leading the meditation on each Station will provide their own thoughts on the stages of Christ carrying his cross to Calvary.

The Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church were carved and donated by

the late parishioner John Carr, a senior shipwright at Swan Hunter's in its heyday, whose hobby was wood carving. Their form will be familiar to parishioners of St Alban's in Earsdon. John also provided the beautiful large crucifix behind the main altar at Immaculate Heart of Mary, all of his work evidence of his faith and his talent, both of which he practised without fanfare.

#### Racial Justice Sunday

In February, on this increasingly important day, parishioners were asked to consider the words of Pope Francis:

"The time has come to put an end to age-old prejudices, preconceptions and mutual mistrust that are often the base of discrimination, racism and xenophobia. No one is authorised to trample on the dignity and rights of others."

#### John Henry Newman, 1801 -1890

At the end of February, Professor Eamon Duffy, Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Cambridge, gave a lecture on this most recent Saint at a crowded Holy Name Church in Jesmond, which was attended by a number of parishioners. Professor Duffy's lecture was introduced by Bishop Robert Byrne CO.



#### First Communions

Parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea are delighted to learn that forty youngsters are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time later this year. This will be not only a most important step for them, but will be celebrated by their families and the parish.

#### Thanks from the Scouts

During the recent Gang Show, St Edward's Church in Whitley Bay was happy to offer the participating Scouts their facilities as dressing rooms. The Scouts were generous enough to make a £300 donation to the parish, but even more welcome were their appreciative comments on the warm welcome and great assistance they had received.

#### Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage

This year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes, under the leadership of Bishop Robert Byrne CO, will be from 31st July to 7th August.

Gerry Latimer.

On 25th February it was Shrove Tuesday. Also known as Pancake Tuesday.

St Alban's held what has now become our traditional Pancake and Quiz night. What a wonderful night we had ...

#### Preparation first:









Then the evening begins for the rest of us. The pancakes were so delicious they were gone before anyone could take pictures. These are from the quiz.









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More from The pancake & quiz Night.

Thanks to Ali, Jill and Joan for the pictures.



### **Earsdon Methodist Church**

Diary for March 2020

	Diary for March 2020				
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Rev'd. Rob Hufton.		
Thursday	5th	12.30pm	Lunch Club.		
		2.00pm	Lent Meeting - 1.		
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Rev'd. John Mason.		
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Rev'd. Wes Blakey.		
Thursday	19th	12.30pm	Lunch Club.		
		2.00pm	Lent Meeting - 2.		
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Rev'd. John Mason. (Mothering Sunday)		
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Rev'd. Eva Walker.		

#### **Door Stewards for Sunday Services.**

1st Mrs. B. Mangles. 15th Mrs. A. Sutton. 29th Mrs. B. Mangles. 8th Mrs. A. Finch. 22nd Mrs. H. Tilley.

#### Income for January.

5th - £121.00: 12th - £201.76: 19th - 119.00: 26th - £104.15.

#### Lent Meetings.

After the Lunch Clubs during March and the first one in April, we will be holding a series of meetings for Lent. These meetings will start at 2.00pm and will be led by Rev'd. John Mason. The resources for our meetings have been prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and titled "Inspirational Scripture". Please feel free to come and join us even if you do not come to the Lunch Club.

#### **SMILE LINES**

#### **Church Magazine Bloomers**

When you know what they meant, but what they actually said was..

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to see the organist after the service.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Parish Supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

Don't forget the Singles Progressive Dinner. Attire is optional.

#### **School Days**

Physics Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"

Student: "The telephone rings."

\*\*\*\*



This made me smile when Cathryn sent it ... found when she and Lesley were clearing their mum's house.

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

# Diary Page for March 2020



Sunday	1st		First Sunday of Lent	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Family Service	St Alban's
Wednesday	4th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	8th		<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Alban's
Thursday	12th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	15th		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Alban's
Wednesday	18th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	22nd		<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Alban's
Thursday	26th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	29th		Fifth Sunday of Lent	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Sung Eucharist	St Alban's



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

#### Sunday Readings, March 2020:

1st 8th 15th

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Genesis 12:1-4a Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:12-19 Romans 4:1-5. 13-17 Romans 5:1-11

Matthew 4:1-11 John 3:1-17 John 4: 5-42

22nd 29th

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ephesians 5:8-14 Romans 8:6-11

John 9 John 11:1-45

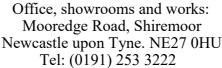
#### St. John's collections for January 2020

5th	12th	19th	26th
£58	£45	£74	£60

Bankers Orders: £49.

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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### **SUDOKU**

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

2		32			3	4	1	
	1		8					5
		6		9				
5							6	
	2	4		7		8	3	
	6	44			2			2
				8		6		
6					4		2	
3	4	1	9		Ş. V	ώ <i>9</i>		8



Please note - all material for next month's magazine (April) will need to be in before Wednesday 25th March 2020. Thank you, *Jean*.

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### Marti's Musings 72

Lent greetings to everyone. I hope you are all considering your sins and doing more good deeds. I'm trying not to bark at other dogs and snuggling with my humans more as it makes everyone happier.

We had great fun at the shrove Tuesday pancake quiz. Craig was, as ever, an excellent quiz master and he must have listened to me as this year we actually won! My team, Marti's Marauders got the most points! Good team effort with a lovely wine reward. The pancakes were delicious and I got several yummy treats from Jean. It was good to see all our newly confirmed family taking part too.

Mum came in the next day with a black cross on her forehead from the Ash Wednesday service at Backworth. She said it was low in numbers but high in feeling. A lovely service.

It's so nice to see the little bursts of colour in the garden from the purple crocuses and snowdrops. I can't wait for the tulips from Amsterdam to start flowering!

Open gardens this year? Lots of ashings Marti xxx







### WORDSEARCH

Lent lasts for 40 days. Sundays in Lent are 'oases'; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their '40 days in the wilderness', when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth. Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ. The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter! The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word 'lencten', or 'lengthen'. At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer...

Lent **Forty** Days Sundays **Fasting** Weekly Celebration Resurrection Jesus Wilderness Indulgences Inward **Spiritual** Renewal Growth Cross **Empty** Tomb Redemption **Daffodils** Lencten

DREDEMPTIONS WBMFANOL Μ Р F  $D \cap T$  $\mathsf{F} \mathsf{E}$ S K NRATYAR R Ε S G F R Ν F Т TWORGN

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