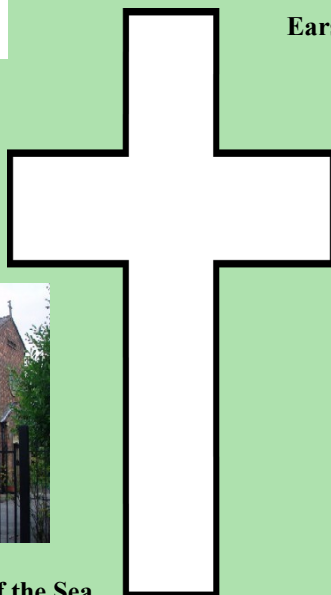




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**April
2023**

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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

April 2023

As a child, I loved musicals. And I'm getting back into them now, as my older daughter is a huge fan of several musicals, many of which hadn't even been written when I was young.

A favourite musical of mine is the 1970s classic, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. It's one that I revisit periodically, often getting different things from it. It traces the story of Jesus' last week on earth, the week that Christians call Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It's a fascinatingly human take on the gospels' accounts of the days from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, exploring the events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, through his betrayal by Judas, to his death on the cross.

I had a friend who said he couldn't bear to watch *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as it ends with the death of Jesus, and doesn't reflect any of the resurrection narratives that are central to Christianity. But for me that's not the point. Yes, *Jesus Christ Superstar* stops narrating on Good Friday; but it doesn't deny the resurrection, it merely stops telling the story before the resurrection happens. It is a useful commentary on the events of Holy Week, but it's not the only one.

Jesus Christ Superstar reflects on the human emotions which are brought to the fore in Holy Week. It imagines Mary Magdalene's unrequited love for Jesus; it recreates the crowds' euphoria in seeing Jesus up close; it feels Judas' angst after betraying Jesus; and it reflects on the utter pain experienced by Jesus on the cross.

To live Holy Week fully means to enter as best we can into the events which led to the thing which defines Christianity: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What better way to enter into the richness of Holy Week, than to rewatch *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Gillian France.

Some beautiful daffodils knitted by the lovely Alison Hudspith in honour of Mothering Sunday at St John's Church, Church Road, Backworth.

While she was putting out these lovely daffodils for people to take away, Alison met a woman who was out walking her dog. The woman told Alison that she had just lost her husband the day before.

Alison gave the woman a hug and one of her knitted daffodils before she left.



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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.

St Alban's:

There are already a few events planned for the coming year, so please put these dates in your diary.

Save the Dates

Saturday 15th April	3.00pm in the Eccles Hall	RAVENSWOOD SINGERS Coronation Celebration Concert (See next page)
Sunday 7th May	After church in the Hall	Coronation Lunch
Saturday 24th June	7.00pm in church	Backworth Male Voice Choir and Backworth Brass Band Concert
Saturdays throughout the summer		St Alban's Parishioners' Open Gardens

At St Alban's we are planning another church cleaning session prior to Easter. If you can help please come along on Wednesday 29th March at 1pm. Cleaning materials will be provided.



Join us for our

Coronation Concert

With The

Ravenswood Singers

Saturday 15th April 2023 at 3pm
In The Eccles Hall, Earsdon



Tickets £7.00 from St Alban's Church
OR
contact Joan on 07813 247 815



Refreshments



Raffle



In aid of the Netty Fund for St Alban's Church.

'Creation is Singing'

In today's world of natural disasters and human devastation, it is easy to lose sight of the beautiful world in which we live.

As Spring bursts forth with colour and the flowers attract the tiny birds and insects, new life is seen in abundance.

In Accord's Spring concert has been chosen to appreciate what is good in our world. The program reflects upon the '*Ordinary Miracle*' of Spring, the '*Colours of my Life*', and '*What a Wonderful World*' we do live in. We have so much to be '*Thankful*' for.

'*Creation is Singing*' is on Saturday the 22nd of April at 6:00 p.m.
North Shields Methodist Church, Hawkey's Lane, North Shields.
Tickets to include refreshment £7 (children free) are in aid of Tiny Lives charity at the RVI supporting the birth of babies with born with problems.
Tickets can be obtained from Rob Swindells 07971-775498



Smile-lines

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

At the Pearly Gates, St Peter greeted a minister and a Member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." When the vicar protested that this was unfair, St Peter explained: "Look, ministers are ten a penny up here, but this is the first politician we've ever seen."

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him/her and a cat to ignore him/her.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

Getting older is just one body part after another saying, 'Ha ha, you think that's bad? Watch this!'

The good thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

150 years ago, on 4th April 1873 that the Kennel Club was founded in London. It oversees dog shows and dog agility competitions and operates Britain's national register of pedigree dogs.

100 years ago, on 15th April 1923 that insulin became generally available for the treatment of diabetes.

80 years ago, on 30th April 1943 that the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was established in Germany. The former prisoner-of-war camp was converted into a holding camp, mainly for Jews. Tens of thousands of people died of starvation and disease in the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions.

75 years ago, on 7th April 1948 that the World Health Organization (WHO)

was founded in Geneva, Switzerland as a specialist agency of the United Nations.

60 years ago, on 16th April 1963 that American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jnr. wrote his famous 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' while imprisoned in Alabama. He stated that the Black community was forced to protest when the white power structure left them no choice.

40 years ago, on 1st April 1983 that tens of thousands of anti-nuclear weapons protestors formed a 14-mile human chain in Berkshire. They linked the US airbase at Greenham Common, the nuclear research centre.

30 years ago, on 22nd April 1993 that Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old British teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack while

waiting for a bus in Eltham, London. The high-profile case was widely covered by the media, and an inquiry found that the Metropolitan Police Service, which originally investigated the crime, was institutionally racist.

Also 30 years ago, on 30th April 1993 that CERN, the creators of the World Wide Web, announced that it could be used for free by anyone. That decision has shaped the modern world as we know it.

25 years ago, on 10th April 1998 that the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland.

20 years ago, on 14th April 2003 that the Human Genome Project was successfully completed, with over 99% of the human genome sequenced and mapped, including all of the genes.



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You may have read in last month's 'Church Views' a piece about the Wednesday Walkers from St Alban's, and how the group came into being. They have now arranged this entertainment as shown here:

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CHURCH VIEWS FOR APRIL 2023 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

OLSS Springs into Easter



One of the joys of helping with the gardening at Immaculate Heart of Mary church is seeing the Spring results of last year's work.

The daffodils are yet again ushering in brighter days and giving the toddlers their own trails to explore between the flowers as part of their church visits.

It offers a more colourful welcome for those who have attended the Saturday Vigil Mass during those dark winter nights.

It's a timely reminder of the rewards of patience; there is nothing we can do to hasten nature's progress from the first shoots to the golden flowering.

And Eastertide is such a beautiful season in so many ways; a time to wait, and watch, and welcome the coming of light.

A time to enjoy the Light of the World.

*A poor life this, if full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*
(W H Davies)



Walking Group

You can see what a strange Spring it has been; this snowy picture - taken on the Ides of March, no less - shows the group on the last walk along the Red Kite Trail in the Derwent Valley only six days before the daffodil pictures on the other page. Despite the snow, we could see that life was returning - we watched red kites and several deer as well as admiring the Highland cattle with their calves.



Tynemouth Priory Partnership Annual Retreat

This year the Retreat at Ampleforth Abbey will take place from Monday 24 July until Wednesday 26 July and will be led by one of the monks from the Abbey. Cost will depend on the number attending but will probably be in the region of £215. A £75.00 deposit is payable by Easter Sunday 9 April. More information may be obtained on the Abbey www.ampleforthabbey.org.uk

Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage 2023

Help is needed on the Diocesan Pilgrimage, particularly from nurses, healthcare assistants doctors and volunteers to provide care for the assisted pilgrims. The Pilgrimage will leave on Friday 28 July. Younger volunteers (16-24years) may apply for financial assistance from the Catenian Association Bursary Fund at www.thecatenians.com

Easter Services at OLSS

All Easter Masses and other Services will take place at St Edward's Church, Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay to accommodate numbers.

Holy Thursday	7.30pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Good Friday	3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	
Easter Vigil	8.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass	
Easter Sunday	10.00am	Easter Sunday Mass	<i>Gerry Latimer</i>

Parish Mass Times Except Easter:

St Edward's: Sunday 10.00am, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30am

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am

Update from St Albans Book Club

Hello everyone, and yes the “St Alban’s Book Worms” are still reading and meeting up. Now enjoying supper, chat and reviewing our book, at the Cannon pub in the village. Jill has brought Marti who is developing her literary knowledge - I’m afraid Barney has yet to join us !

Linda continues to collect our reads from the local library, a service we can recommend and during this recent cold weather the Library does offer another warm space.

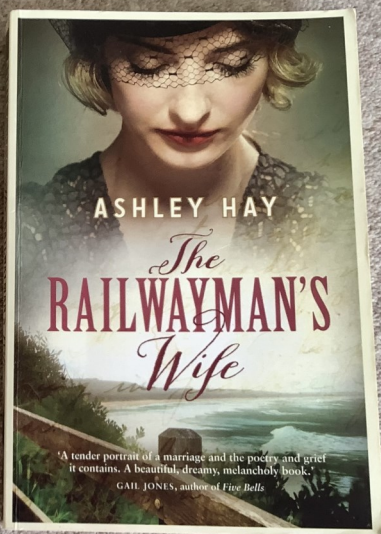
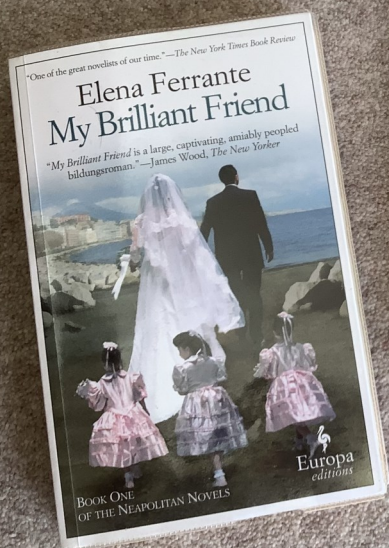
Since the start of 2023, we have discussed with varied levels of enthusiasm, “ My Brilliant Friend” by Elena Ferrante: it’s part of a trilogy but we won’t be doing them all! Set in southern Italy, the friendship between Lila and Elena takes twists and turns in the colourful and often violent Neapolitan region, undergoing change from 1950s onwards. There are lots of characters in the novel ... Italian families are often extensive but a “who’s who” is given for reference.... Thankfully !

We hope to have another night out at the People’s Theatre to see Jo in a play to be performed in May. Our “ Reader in training” is a busy lady! Recently she and Eustace were at Crufts where the hound picked up a rosette in his class ! Well done Eustace. (Marti and Barney send congratulations!)

We are currently reading “The Railwayman’s Wife” by Ashley Hay, our location is Thirroul, Australia in 1948. We do get about without leaving the NE !

Whatever your armchair reads are ... enjoy those quieter moments .

Many thanks to Dianne for this. I’m tempted to join in, but maybe it’s just the lure of a warm, cosy, dog-friendly pub and good friends that attracts me. Our Suzie-dog would not be good in there though. I have been really amazed with Jo’s dogs’ achievements. Yet again, this lady has impressed me. Surely there can’t be anything else ?



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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St Alban's, Earsdon
Music and Silence for Holy Week 2023

In a sacred place... listen to beautiful music... with silence to let it breathe. Explore the place, and its Stations of the Cross... read Matthew's account of the Passion of the Christ.

Monday April 3rd 7.30pm

Allegri

Miserere [12.22]

Beethoven

Cavatina from String Quartet in B Flat Major op. 130 [7.13]

Eric Whitacre

Lux Aurumque [4.15]

Tuesday April 4th 7.30pm

J. S. Bach

Concerto for two violins BWV 1043 – second movement [6.58]

Mozart

Clarinet Quintet in A major K581 – second movement [6.41]

Arvo Part

Spiegel im spiegel [8.23]

Wednesday April 5th 7.30pm

John Dowland

Seven Tears [4.17]

Schubert

String Quintet in C major, D956 – second movement [14.50]

John Tavener

Song for Athene [6.10]

Earsdon Methodist Church

Sunday Services for April 2023

2nd	Palm Sunday		Mrs J Firth
9th	Easter Day	Holy Communion	Rev Canon J W W Blakey
16th	Sunday		Rev L. Eccles
23rd	Sunday		Rev G Ridley
30th	Sunday		Rev T Farrer



THE SIGN OF HOPE

I confess to being a galanthophile – a lover of snowdrops. We have a few in our garden and each year they are slowly multiplying, but my ambition is one year to have a patch that resembles a small carpet – or a small doormat at least. My gardening book tells me that one of the collective nouns for snowdrops is ‘a hope’ – what a lovely noun, and so much better than doormat don’t you think?

This month we celebrate Easter which often we celebrate with daffodils, but my preference would be to do it with snowdrops if we could. For it is the season of hope when we celebrate the overcoming of evil with love, and we celebrate that the divine and perfect love of Christ permeates all living if only we would let it.

But here is the rub. How can we display perfect love?

Well, if you bear with me, this question is partly answered for me by the small Persian carpet prayer mat that I was given some years ago which had a most intricate pattern and picture in vivid red and gold colours. I confess when I first received it, I thought that it was a second, because when I looked at it carefully, I found a noticeable fault in the pattern.

Undiplomatically I voiced this in the hearing of the person who gave it to me but was readily told that Persian carpet makers always include a deliberate mistake to show that nothing and nobody is perfect except Allah. At the time I wondered if this was true, or if it was just something that the person from whom this gift came was just covering her tracks – but I said nothing.

So here is the connection for me ~ The Easter story shows hope amongst imperfection; light in darkness; love amongst wickedness. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we can be assured that even through our own wobbly discipleship something of God’s love can be shown. So I will enjoy the sight of a hope of snowdrops and whilst I am amongst the first to recognise that I am far from perfect I am nonetheless encouraged that Easter gives us strong hope as well as joy. This must be good news for all ~ as well as galanthophiles like me.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for April 2023



Sunday	2nd	<u>Palm Sunday</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
3rd 4th 5th	** please see page 21 **			
Thursday	6th	<u>Maundy Thursday</u>		
		7.30pm	Holy Communion and Gethsemane Vigil	St Alban's
Friday	7th	<u>Good Friday</u>		
		2.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	St Alban's
Sunday	9th	<u>Easter Day</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed/Thurs	No weekday service			
Sunday	16th	<u>Second Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	23rd	<u>Third Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	30th	<u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for April 2023

2nd

Matthew 21.1-11

9th

Matthew 28.1-10

16th

John 20.19-end

23rd

Luke 24.13-35

30th

John 10.1-10





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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (May 2023) will need to be in before Wednesday 26th April.
Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 109

March came in like a lion as ever! We had such a cold start to the month but it's good to see the sun. Mum has stopped complaining that she goes to work in the dark and comes home in the dark and now actually sees some light.

I was excited to watch crufts and more excited to find out that we had 2 champions in the choir! Mabel's dog Indy and Jo's dog Eustace both came 4th in their categories! I told mum I wanted to go in the Boston Terrier category next year but she said I'm too old and would be far too interested in the surroundings to stay still. I begrudgingly admit she is probably correct. Although I did remind her that my grandad won his category at crufts many years ago.

My latest annoyance is dog discrimination in shops. I see no reason why I can't go in everywhere, especially clothes shops. I mean really, what damage would I do in a shoe shop? We had to wait outside while David looked at shoes. Ridiculous!

Much grumping

Marti xxx



WORDSEARCH

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

Jesus

Ate

Last

Passover

Meal

Disciples

Warned

Betrayed

Bread

Blessed

Wine

Thanks

Drink

Covenant

Law

Old

New

Body

Blood

Gethsemane

Cup

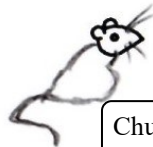
Removed

Will

Easter

Approach

God



Church Mouse

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