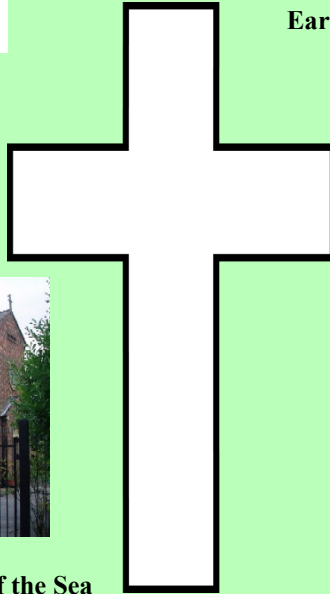




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



**Earsdon Methodist**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**August  
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

## August 2021

We all have a favourite month or a time of year; our greatest writers record their joy in their favourite times – we would be poorer without Dickens’ Christmas, Chaucer’s April pilgrimage, or Keats’ Autumn of ‘mists and mellow fruitfulness’; Wordsworth loved skating on frozen lakes ‘all shod with steel’, as well as wandering among his ‘host of golden daffodils’. I love their personal celebrations, but my favourite time is not theirs.

My favourite month is August for so many reasons, many of them stretching back further than I like to admit. My Augusts have had so many different aspects – the long, long still evenings playing out (British Double Summer Time then), flying my first balsa wood gliders in the park, the family bike trips to the far reaches of Seaton Sluice, first hearing pipe bands playing in the Panama Dip on warm Sunday evenings. August growing up meant sea swimming or enjoying tennis with friends. The lazy – and now sometimes - hazy days of summer.

And August was always a time of anticipation. Looking forward to wearing my first school uniform, putting the “Scholar” train pass in my first wallet, the adventure of travelling to school in Newcastle by train and trolley-bus. Later what seemed like a geological age waiting for O-Level and A-Level results – something that much younger readers can still share with me.

Later still, August was the vacation time away from study to earn sorely needed cash. Friends worked on building sites, as hospital porters, and long before we met, my future wife even drove an ice-cream van. I enjoyed lots of jobs. Factory Fortnight was a blessing not just for the holidaying workforce. Several summers found me cleaning up and working with the maintenance teams at the George Angus Oil Seals Division on the Coast Road. A less lucrative – but more fun in the sun - job was dispensing beach tents and deck chairs on the Long Sand near the Plaza, and collecting those abandoned rather than returned at the end of the day. We all marvelled at the extravagance of those who could afford to abandon the half-crown deposit to save the effort of carrying them back to the store.

The end of season highlight was taking all sunny morning to row the bathing patrol boat back from King Edward's Bay to the Long Sands – well we had to battle all those fierce winds and strong currents didn't we? Another happy earner was carrying passengers' cases to and from the trains on to the Venus and Leda of the Norwegian Line and the Blenheim and Braemar of the Fred Olsen Line on the Bergen Quay.

As a teacher, August was the long holiday to enjoy time with my own family, at first in this country, when we became authorities on overnight drives to the West Country and connoisseurs of caravans, later still exploring France and Germany. The end of every August was always results time, and a brief but early return to school, watching the trepidation with which the dreaded buff envelopes were opened, sharing the joy of those for whom it meant wider horizons, and, more sadly, sharing the disappointment of the less fortunate. Sharing those highs and lows was part of my August too, and the familiarity of doing it every year did not make the wait any easier in the year my younger son awaited his GCSE results while his elder brother waited for A-Levels. Then I really did understand why parents got so anxious.

It's a month that for me has never been dull, and although the pace may be slower it's still my favourite time. On long walks now the lanes and paths are gently shaded by the leafy trees I saw earlier in the year as stark skeletons against the snow. The effort of digging and planting on cold wet Spring days is being handsomely repaid by the garden's colour and growth. All the effort of potting up in February and March, of taking cuttings in April and May is giving its usual ample reward.

As I write, Covid restrictions are being eased so I have still more reasons to look forward to this August – particularly enjoying the life and love and laughter of our family again, knowing the happiness of meeting friends once more, catching up with news we have missed, enjoying the quiet fellowship of community worship and prayer. It will be a grown-up version of those childhood anticipations - looking forward to things being different, looking forward to changes, welcoming new happy times. Above all a time to thank God for the chance to enjoy again this wonderful world and the gifts we have been given.

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

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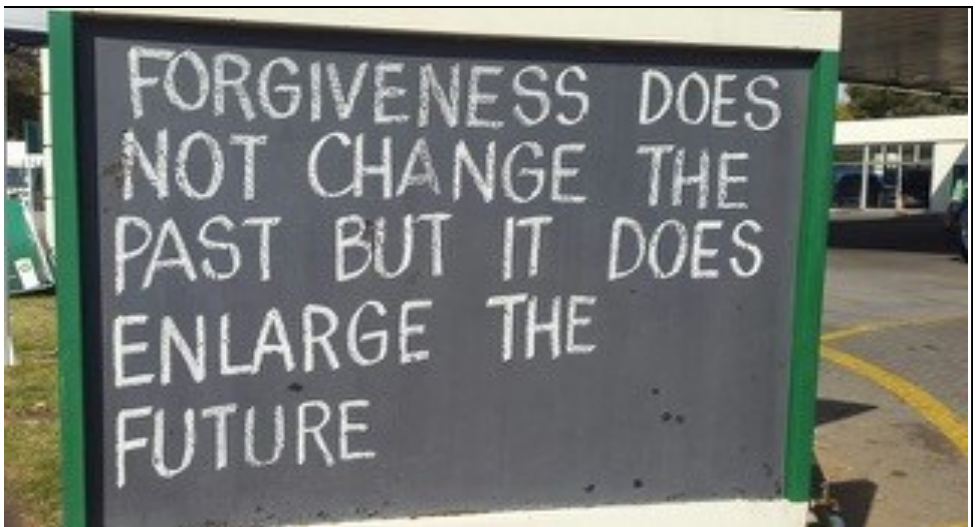
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth has new events starting to appear!

For notice of a Family Fun Day, incorporating the kids' Summer Sunflower Competition on Saturday 4th September, see page 10.

St Alban's Walking group: see pages 18 & 19, plus page 27.

From Joan Armstrong:

Saturday 18th 10.00 - 5.00 and Sunday 19th 12.00 - 5.00 September 2021.

It's that time of year again when we open our church for The Heritage Weekend. A very busy weekend for Earsdon as it is also the Scarecrow Festival. People come from far and wide to visit St Alban's and we need guides to talk to the visitors and tell them about the church. Our church is full of history and if you don't know much about the building, now is the time to find out. We had more than 600 visitors over two days in 2019 when we last held this event so this year there could be even more.

Please consider giving a little of your time to talk to visitors about our church, and give me a ring 0191-2529239 or email [rolyjoan@icloud.com](mailto:rolyjoan@icloud.com) or just see me after church on Sunday so that I can put your name on the list.

And a letter from Rob Swindells:

### Thank You

Dear Friends at St Alban's and St John's

Many apologies for such a late response in sincerely thanking you all for your very generous gift when I retired as Churchwarden. The reason for the delay is because I wanted to be able to tell you what I had treated myself to from you all.

We have enjoyed having a gas BBQ for quite a few years but this summer it has died!!! Because of your generosity, we have been able to replace it and continue to enjoy BBQs in the garden.

Very many thanks for all your kindness and for all the support you gave me as Churchwarden, it is very much appreciated.

With Love, Rob.

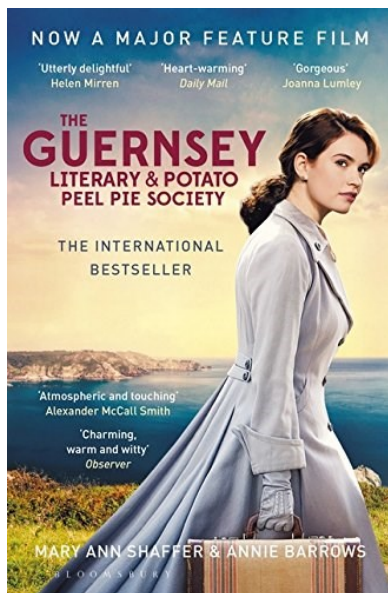


**St Alban's Book Club** have reported on:

**“The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society” by Mary Ann Shaffer.**

Just after the Second World War a book, previously belonging to writer and journalist Juliet, finds its way to Guernsey. So begins Juliet's correspondence and friendship with the members of the Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society. Through their letters the author weaves a beautiful story of love, friendship, loss and courage. As the letters fly to and forth we learn of the hardships of daily life under German occupation. The food shortages, restrictions, senseless cruelty alongside acts of personal sacrifice and a forbidden love affair. The individual characters leap from the pages, just as extraordinary as the name of their book group.

We all enjoyed the book and though the technique of writing the novel through a series of letters is unusual, we thought the author had used it to great effect. It made me realise how much we have lost, now that the art of letter writing is becoming obsolete.



*Many thanks Linda Reynolds for providing this article.*

## SUNFLOWER FAMILY FUN DAY

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September - 11:00am to 3:00pm**  
**At the Eccles Hall in Earsdon.**

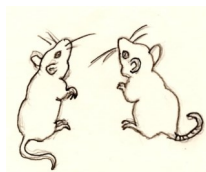
Remember when you collected your sunflower kits back in May? To jog your memory, here is Violet collecting hers, with a sunflower poster to colour in.



Judging of the best sunflowers will take place, with stalls and other activities on the day. If you are willing to take a stall could you please leave a contact number with Ali Griffiths on 07729805957  
Thank You!

Last month's crossword solution: *(Phew, I remembered.)*

D	O	V	E		O	F	F	E	N	D	E	R
R		I		T		E		G		E		U
A	L	C	O	H	O	L		L	O	S	E	S
C		A		E		L		A		P		T
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M					O		W				I	S
A	R	C	H	B	I	S	H	O	P	R	I	C
S		H				O		R				O
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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 Whitehouse, from  
St. Alban’s church.

**1) Where were you born?**

I was born in Consett and lived in Shotley Bridge until after the War. Happy times fishing in the River Derwent for minnow, with jam jar and flour-bag fishing net!

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

I would normally go to Tai-Chi and yoga class, monthly film club at St Andrew’s, meet my sister and my friends in town, and I used to go to Limelight Talks at the Theatre Royal.

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

I love music and have played piano since I was 8 years old and have taken several pianoforte exams. I am also an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction. I enjoy doing crafts and embroidery and dabbling with watercolours. Lots of walking in the past – the Lakes, the Yorkshire Dales, Northumbria.

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

I have moved around a few times – I left school at 17 years old and went to Edinburgh to do paediatric nursing. When my training was complete I came to Newcastle Children’s Hospital working in plastic surgery theatre and aftercare of severe burns and childhood deformities. My next stop was to get married and we spent 3½ years in South Africa, then back to South Wellfield in 1970.

**5) Tell us something that’s on your bucket list**

We had hoped for a prolonged car trip round rural France, which sadly didn’t happen. I would like to visit Highgrove House Gardens, the Carlisle to Settle Railway, and to see Barcelona again.

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

It’s easy to say, but to be a good Christian I find is hard work! A supportive church family helps to dispel inward-looking thoughts,

and some good role models help to keep on the straight and narrow. A good read is “How to Be a Bad Christian” by Dave Tomlinson.

**7) Do you have any prayer requests we can ask the magazine readers to pray for?**

Bring peace to our troubled world and open our minds to embrace diversity, and not allow closed minds to encourage division. Strengthen those separated from loved ones, and those worried about their businesses and future work.

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

Colossians chapter 3, verses 12 to the end (which begins “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience”)

**9) What’s your favourite hymn and why?**

I have three: “Lord, for the Years”, “Let Love Be Real”, and “Great is Thy Faithfulness”. They carry messages of hope, love and thanksgiving.

**10) Is there a character from history that you greatly admire, and why?**

It’s impossible to pick one, but I have chosen:

- 1) Churchill, for his dogged battle against Hitler and his abhorrent regime – one of the worst examples of racism the world has known
- 2) Nelson Mandela – activist turned peacemaker and a great example of forgiveness and reconciliation
- 3) Nearer to home, Lord Armstrong of Craggside – brilliant engineer, philanthropist and visionary.

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

## COVID-19 and Parishes



In his letter “Protecting the Health of Our Clergy and Congregations”, Bishop Robert Byrne has informed parishes that because the Diocese includes many areas of the highest infection rates in the country, there can be no changes to the current precautions, especially sanitising and social distancing. Although the Government relaxed some of the mandatory precautions on 19 July, the

Diocese still has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act to protect everyone affected by its activities. Because of this the numbers attending Masses must continue to be limited and he asks that all current Covid control measures and cleaning protocols in all churches and church halls continue until at least the end of August. In September the available data will be reviewed and we may then “take a cautious and staged approach to the relaxation of controls and protocols.”

## Sea Sunday 2021

Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces, was born in North Shields and later was a parishioner of Our Lady and St Edmund Church in Backworth. This year, as Promoter for England and Wales of the Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris, (appropriately for us the Latin translates as “Star of the Sea” he led the national appeal in July for the charity which supports port chaplains and volunteers who serve seamen and fishermen all over the world, and are active in our North Eastern ports. They provide practical as well as spiritual support for crews and individuals. In this time of pandemic, some seamen have had no leave for over a year. In extreme cases, crews are exploited or have even been abandoned by ship-owners, without wages or food, and the chaplains and volunteers have supplied food, clothing, SIM cards so they can contact their families, and alerted the port authorities to their situation. Donations would be welcomed via the charity’s website.





## **Sustainability**

In keeping with Laudato Si, the encouragement of Pope Francis for all of us to “work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us”, a small group has begun to consider various ways in which the parish can become more broadly sustainable. Keeping it simple is always a good starting point for change, so a starting point might be the installation of water butts to reduce the use of mains water for the gardens, using energy saving light bulbs, looking at more effective heating systems and buildings insulation. At Immaculate Heart of Mary the grounds lend themselves to sowing more wildflower areas, particularly on the grass banking in the car park to encourage pollinators and bird life. Small steps, but at least a beginning.

## **Ushaw Events**

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is not possible this year, so a “Virtual Pilgrimage” will be held in August, beginning with a day of reflection at Ushaw College, the former seminary. This will be followed by a week of



streamed services including a Service of Healing and a Bereavement Service. The links to these services can be found on the Diocesan Pilgrimage website. We have come to look forward also to the usual large number of outdoor events for all ages that will take place at Ushaw this August. For younger children there is Summer Forest Bunnies, where the beautiful woodlands can be explored; for petrolheads there is the Ushaw Classic Car Show; music lovers can enjoy the Big Gospel Choir, and for Lewis Carroll fans there is the Mad Hatters Tea Party by Activate Theatre. More details can be found online at Ushaw Events.

## **Food Bank**

The pandemic has dramatically increased the need for the parish donations to the Food Bank, which may be left at Immaculate Heart of Mary church between 10.00am and 12 noon every Monday. The organisers are grateful for the continuing very generous levels of the parish contributions.

Rob Gowdy has sent in this delightful description of St Alban's weekly walks. If it has tempted you to join, as it has me, please meet outside of St Alban's vicarage at 7pm on Tuesday evenings during the summer. Many thanks Rob. (See also page 27.)

### **Walking Group**

The Tuesday night walks have got off to a great start with some newcomers joining to swell the numbers and enjoy the fresh air and chat.

25<sup>th</sup> May was the start of the adventures with a gentle walk through the multi award winning Carlisle Park in Morpeth. This included a visit to the Emily Wilding Davison sculpture, that very famous suffragette.

1<sup>st</sup> June saw our band out again. This walk started in Morpeth centre then followed the river east. At the point where the river touches the B1337 we crossed the road and entered the blue bell woods. The blue bells were past their best but it was still quite relaxing winding through the trees back to the town centre.

Now we were warmed up, on the 8<sup>th</sup> June we crossed the Tyne and headed off to the Causey Arch country park. This walk followed part of the Tanfield railway line out through some beautiful mature woods through a ravine. The line is part disused but part used by enthusiasts to run steam trains on occasions. The highlight was the opportunity to stand on the top of that famous Arch being the oldest single arched railway bridge in the world.

15<sup>th</sup> June saw us parking up at Wylam for a walk that took us along one of the Tyne riverside paths. Previously we have seen otters on this walk but not this day. Plenty of bird life, wild flower meadows and great views of the river.

The trip home on the 15<sup>th</sup> June was tricky with the A1 north being closed at 8pm so the next two walks were south of the Tyne using the tunnel well away from the A1.

22<sup>nd</sup> June, we parked up at Cox Green. This walk took us along the river Wear taking in part of the Weardale way as it cuts through the James Steel Park.

29<sup>th</sup> June we were back south visiting Herrington Park which sits below Penshaw monument. Penshaw was made famous in song, as the hill the Lampton worm wrapped itself around. Herrington Park is an incredible example of how regeneration of old mining sites can be returned to a place of beauty. There are lakes and wetland areas, some sculptures, a lot of bird life, swans and geese.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in taking part, then we meet outside the vicarage every Tuesday 7pm. Everyone is welcome.



Carlisle Park Sculpture.



Tanfield Line, Causey Arch.

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Victoria Meehan and her children Joseph and Tilly were baptised in St Alban's on Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>. Here they are outside afterwards with Godfather Ramsey.

The baptism welcome was then offered again to Victoria, Joseph and Tilly during the service on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>. Joseph celebrated his baptism weekend by reading the gospel for us.



*(From your editor: I had the pleasure of seeing young Joseph reading the Gospel on Sunday. What an absolute star! )*

# Earsdon Methodist Church

## August 2021

### BEING LOST

One of the good things about the recent restrictions placed upon us is that I have spoken to people to whom I have never spoken before. Either when I have passed fellow walkers, who like me were getting their daily exercise, or else when I was pottering in our front garden, it seemed that people just needed to talk after spending more time than usual in their own company. I am not complaining for it has been lovely. One of the most frequent comments has been that people have been feeling lost (i.e., deprived of company) or else they have at times lost track of what day it was ~ and I could sympathise because I knew exactly how they felt. Being lost to any degree is not nice.

I remember when I was a small lad about 6-year-old, my parents and I went on holiday to Scarborough. We had a lovely time, and the weather was just like it has been recently, hot and sunny. Consequently, we spent a lot of time on the beach doing all the usual things like playing football, cricket and of course plodding in the sea. One day I was building a sandcastle, a splendid construction with doors of driftwood and shells for windows and a moat right around it. Of course, a moat needs water which was no problem as the sea was full of it! So I made several journeys back and forth to the sea filling my bucket and then emptying it around the moat. Naturally the water sank into the sand, but undeterred I carried on until after one journey to the sea I turned around and just could not see my parents. Try as I might they just did not seem to be there. I did not realise that I had taken a diagonal route and consequently they were not in my field of vision. The conclusion I came to - I was lost! The next step – panic! The result (for a 6 year old boy) - I cried! Happily, a nearby lady heard my distress and seeing my dilemma took me to what I remember as the ‘lost children’s hut.’ From there an announcement went over the loudspeaker system giving my name and describing what I was wearing, asking for someone to come and ‘reclaim’ me.

For what seemed like ages, but only could have been minutes, I waited until my Dad came and found me. Was I glad to see his beaming face and

to have his big hug? In true Biblical fashion he carried me on his shoulders rejoicing, via the ice cream man, and restored me to my family - and the dried out sandcastle moat.

So, a long winded way to say that even after all this time, the awful feeling of being lost is still very vivid to me. There are stories Jesus told of course, about a lost coin, a lost sheep and a lost son, and the point of them all was that even though being lost is an awful state to be in, God always seeks us out and assures us of his ever present love which never stops .

Whether you have felt lost or not in these recent times, may you know and enjoy such all-encompassing love ~ and the occasional ice cream.

*Wes Blakey*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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**. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



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

## Diary Page for August 2021



Sunday	1st		<b><u>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	8th		<b><u>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	15th		<b><u>Eleventh after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	22nd		<b><u>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	29th		<b><u>Thirteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	2nd Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	5th Sept		<b><u>Fourteenth after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's



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

## Gospel Readings for August 2021:

1st	8th	15th
John 6. 24-35	John 6. 35, 41-51	John 6. 51-58
22nd	29th	5th September
John 6. 56-69	Mark 7. 1-8, 14, 15, 21-2	Mark 7. 24-end

A message from our Church Warden at St Alban's:

### **De-cluttering the Church**

We are trying to de-clutter the church and in doing so have identified several CD and Tape players. Before we dispose of them we want to make sure any owners are given the chance to reclaim them. There is one in the choir vestry, two in the choir stalls and one in the vicars vestry. There are also a number in the balcony area. If any of these belong to you, can you please collect them. The side issue with electrical equipment is, if it's available for use in the church it needs to be tested and that testing has a cost to it. So removing redundant electrical equipment reduces our running costs.

For the hyperlink to the August & September newspaper "THE LINK" please go to ...

[link-augsep-2021-final.pdf\(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](http://link-augsep-2021-final.pdf(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net))

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## St Alban's ramblers reform!

St Alban's walking club might have to change their name to 'the exercise club'. On our latest walk on Cambois beach we tried out every piece of equipment!



*Many thanks to Jill for sending this article.*



# 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.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (September) will need to be in before Wednesday 25 August 2021. Thank you, *Jean*.

# The **co-operative** funeralcare

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## Marti's Musings 89

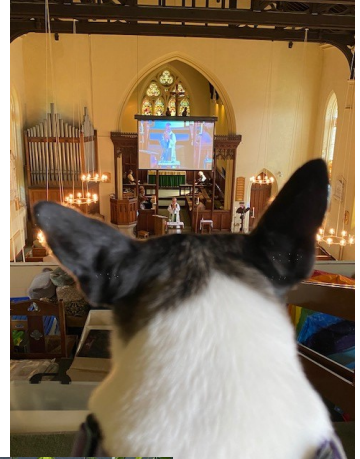
Happy summer everyone, isn't the weather fabulous!

After hearing about Mabel, Helen's grand dog, I decided I should try a dip in the water. Luckily mum's friend has a paddling pool so I decided to go for a splash. It was fun and the water tasted yummy! I still haven't got a boat yet but I'm working on that.

I was very excited to see the new drop down screen at St Alban's on Sunday. It meant you could get a close up view of what was happening from the balcony and a nice side profile of the people sitting in the choir stalls tee hee. It is good that restrictions are lifting but we still need to be really careful. I am just looking forward to being able to have a good sing again!

I'm off to put my water wings on, happy splashings.

Marti xxx



# WORDSEARCH

## The Transfiguration

On 6 August the Church remembers the Transfiguration of Jesus. The story is told in Matthew 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9. The mountain may well have been one of the three high spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to 9,000 feet. Jesus was suddenly transfigured before Peter, James and John. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Then Elijah and Moses appeared, but why? These two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. Elijah and Moses were handing on the baton, if you like. Now God's dwelling with mankind would depend on the New Covenant based on Jesus' death on the cross.

Transfiguration  
Mountain  
Peter  
James  
John  
Radiant  
Beloved  
Son  
Well  
Pleased  
Dwelling  
Mankind  
New  
covenant  
Face  
Exodus  
Mount  
Sinai  
Sealing  
Moses  
Law  
Elijah  
prophets



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