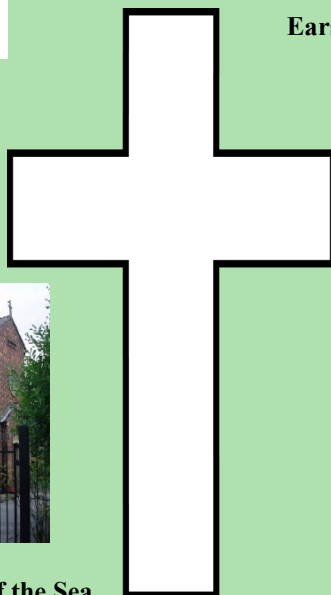




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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

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# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## August 2022

I wonder if you've come across Flanders and Swann's wonderful 'Song of the Weather'? It begins innocuously enough:

*January brings the snow  
Makes your toes and fingers glow*

Which I think was originally a nursery rhyme, but in F & S's version, the weather never really improves. In one of my favourite verses

*April brings the sweet spring showers  
On and on for hours and hours*

And so on, until

*Freezing wet December then...* (long pause for effect as Swann trills on the piano)

*Bloody January again.*

At the risk of killing the gentle humour by explanation, it of course refers to our famously poor weather in which each month promises much but delivers little, especially in the summer.

I am writing this on 20<sup>th</sup> July.....

*In July the sun is hot.  
Is it shining? No, it's not.  
August cold and dank and wet  
Brings more rain than any yet.*

Well, you don't need me to tell you that the July sun has shone on destructive levels, maybe not so much in our region, but certainly in the majority of the country, and that this year we would probably all be grateful for a cold, dank and mercifully wet August (as long as it doesn't ruin the harvest).

A week or so ago, when I started thinking about what I would write here, I was going to pick up on Gerry's July piece and his wonderful words about the dual nature of that month. As a just-retired teacher, I was full of similar thoughts about one door closing and another opening; I thought to touch on all the exciting possibilities I see before me, especially the advent of Reader ministry; I planned to outline that this is a great chance to re-invent myself and/or consolidate some of my better aspects...and

But, watching those shattering pictures yesterday of an ordinary village in Kent going up in flames, I felt jolted out of my personal complacency. I love the sun and the summer (as I think I may have mentioned last October at some length), but now would be only too happy (to paraphrase another nursery rhyme) to sing

*Sun, sun, go away!  
Come again another day!*

It seems we are turning the kindly, life-giving sun into our enemy; he blisters our skin, burns our fields, and gives even greater misery to people whose lives have already been knocked awry by soaring prices and failing public services. August now stretches before us with threat, not promise; the heat yesterday was a step up from the actually quite-pleasant Monday to become something to be endured, not enjoyed.

We probably can't do much to avoid this – except pray earnestly. For rain and cooler temperatures; for wisdom in governments to make effective decisions to avert climate change; and for inspiration ourselves to make changes, however small, that might make a critical difference.

Sunday coming (24<sup>th</sup> July), though should give some comfort: *Everyone who asks, receives and everyone who searches finds*. So it is worth continuing to drop a word into the listening ear.



In the meantime, if you haven't before, stay in the shade and check out F & S's hilarious catalogue of comic songs!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qV-VO5eXOA>

*Jo McEvedy.  
St Alban's, Earsdon.*

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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.

## **Earsdon and Backworth Mothers' Union:**

Magical Mystery Tour.

On Thursday July 21st 37 members and friends set off for a visit to the Jedburgh Woollen Mills. Full of hope and high spirits the journey began. Picking up in Wellfield, Earsdon and Backworth, we set off for Corbridge on our Magical Mystery Tour!

Did we take the direct route via the A1? No. Instead we set off on a scenic tour via Blagdon, and Ponteland, eventually joining the A69. Picking up four more passengers we set off for Jedburgh, and this is where the map and knowledge disappeared while the driver followed his sat nav.....

We finally arrived in Jedburgh half an hour later than planned, where we stormed the 2 coffee shops before quickly looking around the shops. Even though short of time most people did find something to buy that they didn't know they needed!

We returned to Corbridge for tea using a road we did at least recognise but because of tractors and road works, we arrived at The Angel, again half an hour later than we thought. The staff were lovely and everybody enjoyed their meal, at a very leisurely pace of serving. Consequently it was 3 hours later when we were on our way once more, before the driver ran out of hours!!

Another 'interesting' detour finally saw us arrive back home at 9.45pm!!! All I can say is everybody enjoyed the day and thank you for not complaining.

The positive from the day.....we all slept well that night!!

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## **Advance Notice from Susan Goodchild of St Alban's**

I am holding a coffee morning with cake stall and a raffle on Saturday

October 22nd between 10 am and 2 pm in the Eccles Hall for the charity Target Ovarian Cancer.

Target ovarian cancer is the UK's leading ovarian cancer charity who work to improve early diagnosis, fund life saving research and provide much needed support to women with ovarian cancer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank people for their support to Margaret, Colin and myself during this difficult year and hope they will come along on Saturday 22nd October to support this event and help raise funds for this charity.

## **Earsdon and Wellfield Women's Institute:**

The Leg of Mutton Allotment Association and Earsdon & Wellfield Women's Institute are delighted to announce their 56th Annual Flower, Vegetable and Handicraft Show!

Saturday 3rd September 2022, from 2.00pm to 4.45pm at Earsdon Community Centre. Entrance fee: adults £1.00, children free.

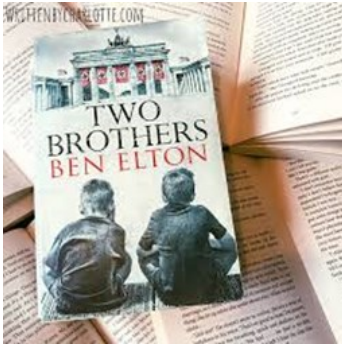
**St Alban's Ramblers group** is back again for the summer, meeting every Tuesday outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to come and join us.



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 Albans Book Club

### Two Brothers by Ben Elton



What a brilliant read! One of our most favourite books to date. That was the consensus of our group about this month's book club choice.

Ben Elton weaves this story of the lives of two boys, their family and friends, through 1920s Berlin, the horrors of Nazi Germany to 1950s London and a post war divided Germany. Born in Berlin on the same day the boys are raised by a Jewish couple; Wolfgang a jazz musician and Frieda a doctor, but one boy has been secretly adopted and as the political landscape changes this has frightening consequences. The author draws the reader in with a fast paced plot and brilliant twists, engaging characters and the ability to create a range of atmospheres. We particularly liked the evocation of the heady jazz scene of 1920s Berlin. But the heart of the story is the choices the boys, their family and friends have to make to live and finally stay alive, through the insidious erosion of civil liberties and slow strangulation of Jewish life in Nazi Germany.

Though this a work of fiction, in an afterword Ben Elton revealed that it was inspired by the real life experience of his own family, some of whom came to England as refugees.

*Many thanks to Linda Reynolds.*

# Smile-lines

As you enjoy your children during the holidays, remember ...

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and be quiet.
2. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
3. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children even more awful than your own.

\*\*\*

\* Be careful not to fall here. It's dangerous. But if you do fall, remember to look to the left on your way down. You get a wonderful view on that side.

\* Tourist: Officer, what is the quickest way to the hospital?  
Officer: Close your eyes, then cross this street, and you'll be there in 15 minutes.

\* In a church, at the font, where her small brother was being christened, A little girl whispers: "Behind his ears, too, Reverend Smyth!"

\* As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient's wrists.

Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas.

Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses' station demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"

\* So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to need a lot more help, as I get out of bed. Amen

# BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

200 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1822 that Herschel, German-born British astronomer died. He discovered the planet Uranus and infrared radiation, conducted the first deep sky surveys, and was the first president of the Royal Astronomical Society.

125 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1897 that Enid Blyton was born. This enormously popular British children's writer created Noddy, the Famous Five, and the Secret Seven. She is among the world's bestselling writers, selling more than 600 million copies of her books. She sometimes wrote 50 books a year.

100 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1922 that Alexander Graham Bell died. This Scottish-born American audiologist and

inventor is credited with developing the first practical telephone.

80 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942 that the world premiere of Walt Disney's animated film *Bambi* was held in London.

Also 80 years ago, from 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1942 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1943 that the Battle of Stalingrad took place. Soviet victory, and the turning point of the war in Europe. Regarded as the largest and bloodiest battle in the history of warfare.

75 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 that first Pakistan and then India gained their independence from the UK.

60 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1962 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian security agent, writer and journalist, was born. He was killed (probably

assassinated) by radioactive polonium in London in November 2006.

50 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1972 that the Washington Post newspaper published the first article that exposed US President Richard Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal.

25 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1997 that Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Fayed and their driver, died in a car crash in the Place de l'Alma underpass in Paris.

10 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012 that Neil Armstrong, American astronaut (Apollo 11) died. He was the first person to walk on the Moon.



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## Saturday Summer Gardens .....by Dianne Morgan

St Alban's "Open Gardens" project got off to a sunny start in Ella's colourful garden. The poppies were looking spectacular nearby the pond, where "The Bird", as Ella calls him, guards his territory. Ella told me that this much beloved permanent feature was purchased on a trip to an Open Garden many years ago, which she and her husband enjoyed visiting. Isn't "The Bird" majestic ?!

I spent the following week on bended knees, weeding and praying for sunshine. - I didn't manage all the weeds but my payers were answered with glorious sunshine and lots of friends popping by. THANK YOU!



Barney really enjoyed greeting everyone, and seeing Marti too !

Looking forward to more garden visits over the coming months.  
(Joan still has programs available.)







## CHURCH VIEWS FOR AUGUST 2022 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA



### **Fr Dermott Donnelly RIP**

The Diocese was shaken by the news of the sudden death of Fr Donnelly, the Director of Youth Services on 8 July at the age of just 55.

Brought up in Newcastle – with his younger more famous brother Dec – he was ordained in 1992 and served in parishes in Chester le Street, Blackhill, and Stanley and later at St Mary's Cathedral. He was parish priest of Sacred Heart parish in Byermoor at the time of his death. He dedicated much of his ministry to young people, concerned not only for their futures, but through them the future of the Church. Ideally, he wanted to establish a base where young people could be brought together to share their experience and their faith.

In 2004, a suitable site was found at Allensford, and after much fund –raising and the support of Bishop Ambrose and the Diocese, the Youth Village with its five beautiful residential chalets was officially opened in 2010.

Now the Emmaus Village, it has become a place where young people can pause on the road like the disciples in the Emmaus story, to share their experiences. It is the base of the Youth Ministry Team, and is used by many schools.

When the national Catholic youth gatherings Flame and Flame 2, were held in Wembley Stadium in pre-pandemic days, Fr Donnelly ensured that the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese was well represented.

May he rest in peace.





## **Walking Group**

Dropped by the Cramlington Giant?  
The walking group were delighted to discover this 15 foot high spoon on a recent walk near Cramlington, one of the North Tyneside sculptures. Cramlington hospital is in the background – which might be handy should the spoon fall over!

The next walks will be on Monday 1 August (from Hartburn to Longwitton) and Monday 15 August. The group meets at Immaculate Heart of Mary for 9.30am departures in shared cars.



## **Food Bank**

Items for the Bay Food Bank continue to be collected on Mondays between 10.00am and noon at Immaculate Heart of Mary church. The demand on this local food bank has increased dramatically in recent weeks because of the current economic situation and it has also found that collections have diminished because those who usually donate are affected also. Baby food is a particular necessity.

## **Stella Maris**

Sea Sunday was celebrated in our churches in mid-July, and the international organisation (formerly Apostleship of the Sea) which supports seafarers in our ports, local and national, and their families, benefited from retiring collections which raised £821.00.

## **Returning to normal**

The Wednesday coffee and biscuits gathering after morning Mass is making a welcome return; always an informal chance to catch up with friends and their news. Yet another post-pandemic step.

## **School's Out!**

Let's pray for the safety of our youngsters during their long holiday, and hope they have fun in this beautiful world we have been given.

From Dianne Morgan, a little reminder that Durham Cathedral is always nice to visit!

## A little something from Durham Cathedral

This year Durham Cathedral marks 1000 years since the remains of the Venerable Bede were moved to the cathedral.

Join us to celebrate this famous northern saint:

- See National Glass Centre artwork showing scenes from Bede's life, displayed until September 2022.
- Explore Bede's legacy in Durham Cathedral Museum's new exhibitions throughout summer and autumn.
- Experience Life by Luxmuralis, spectacular sound and light performances on 12-16 October, bringing our natural world to the inside of the cathedral.

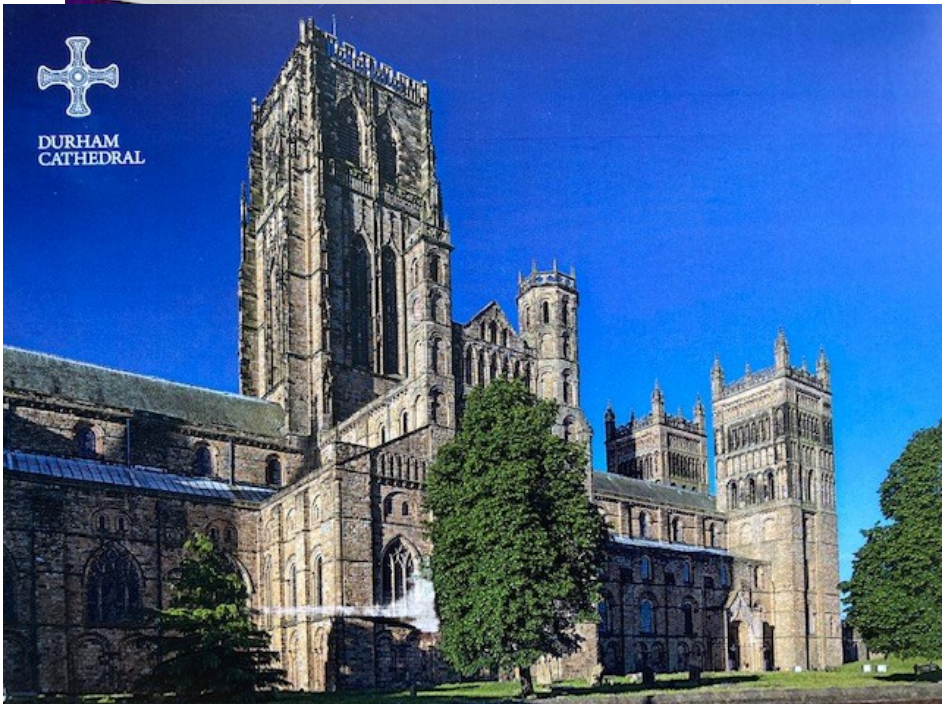


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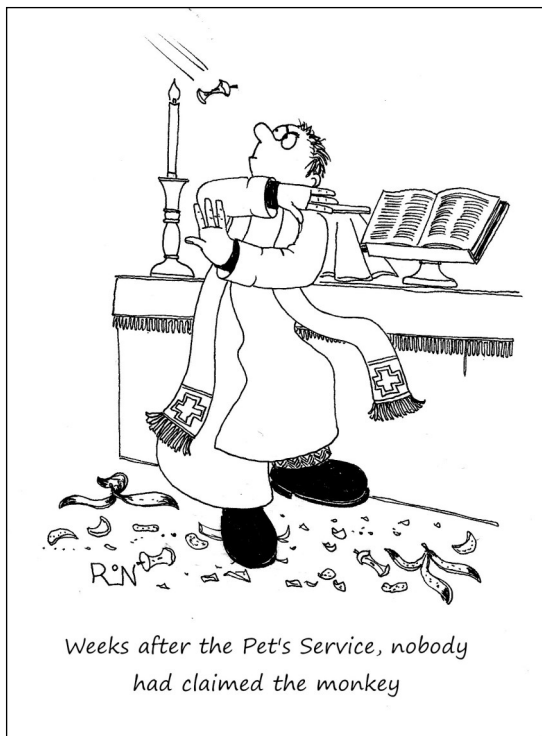
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# Earsdon Methodist Church

## **Preachers for August 2022:**

Sunday	7th	Mrs. Joyce Firth.
Sunday	14th	Rev'd. Linda Eccles - Holy Communion.
Sunday	21st	Rev'd. John Mason.
Sunday	28th	Mrs. Sue Mason.

*Norman Bloomfield*

## POLICEMEN AND DOUBLE DECKER BUSES

I read an article where someone had suggested that Britain should return to imperial measurements in place of metric. I might be biased being brought up with imperial measurements, but I think reverting now would cause all sorts of problems. However, I don't think it would have bothered Uncle Albert who never got the hang of metric measurements and developed a standard all his own and measured things in policemen and double decker buses. For instance, he would say that a room was as long as 3 six-foot policemen, or a building was as high as 4 double decker buses.

You see he could visualise these things and this standard of his was quite accurate and navigated him through his uneasiness of "these new fangled" metric measurements.

I think that some of his apprehension has been passed on to me, for I am becoming increasingly bemused with measurements.

For example, when I was first married, I knew the exact measurements for trousers that would fit me. Nowadays, I swear that makers do not put so much cloth into garments and so I always have to buy what the label says is a larger size.

On my phone I have an app that encourages me to walk 10,000 paces a day. When I do achieve this, it tells me how far I have walked in kilometres, which does not mean a lot to me for I like to know in MILES. And why does my watch have numbers one to twelve, but the Metro timetable works on a 24 hour clock which speaks confusingly of such times as 17 hundred hours?

Perhaps Uncle Albert was wiser than we thought when he had this personal standard of measuring in which he was confident. We all have standards by which we measure events, circumstances, or people ~ they may not be using policemen or double decker buses but as the author Alan Paton once wrote,

Ask yourself not if it is expedient but if it's right.

*Wes Blakey*

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



## Diary Page for August 2022

Thursday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	7th		<b><u>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	14th		<b><u>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	18th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	21st		<b><u>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	24th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	28th		<b><u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	1st Sep	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sun	4th Sep		<b><u>12th Sunday 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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for August 2022 :

**7th**

Luke 12. 32 -40

**14th**

Luke 12. 49 -56

**21st**

Luke 13. 10 -17

**28th**

Luke 14. 1, 7 -14

**4th September**

Luke 14. 25 -33

Here is the hyperlink to the newspaper THE LINK ...

[link-augsep-2022-final.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/link-augsep-2022-final.pdf)

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (September) will need to be in before 24th August 2022. Thank you, *Jean*.

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## Marti's Musings 101

Summer has arrived and it's been hot and then very wet. The weather is definitely doing some strange things of late. I'm just pleased the open gardens have been going so well and the sun has stayed out. I'm loving going round to everyone's gardens and having a good nose at their plants. It's mum's on Saturday and I can't wait for all the visitors. Mum has been working hard getting it all beautiful, but is really disappointed that Pennine windows haven't finished the job they started 8 weeks ago so it's not how she wanted it to look. I told her not to worry and keep watering the plants!

It has been quite an eventful week; I had a moment of fame when I was walking round Earsdon with Grandma. We bumped into George, a local councillor, and he recognised me from reading the church magazine! I was very impressed.

We've also had a house guest, Snowy the rabbit has come to stay with us.

I was so excited to have a bunny in the house as you all know I love rabbits, I really wanted to say hello but mum wouldn't let me and mum's frangipani that she brought back from Swaziland in 1997 has flowered!

Hope more good things are to come. I'd better go and help mum with weeding.

Lots of flowerings,  
Marti xx



# WORDSEARCH

## John the Baptist

This month, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John  
Baptist  
Rough  
Obscurity  
Desert

Bugs  
Camel  
Heat  
Sun  
Challenge

Muddy  
Jordan  
Arrested  
Dungeon  
Head

Cut  
History  
Great  
Unique  
prepare

E	E	Q	E	U	Q	I	N	U	D	E
G	G	C	R	C	Y	D	D	U	M	E
N	G	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	S	A
E	G	M	P	R	I	G	R	E	A	T
L	E	B	E	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H
L	N	I	R	R	U	E	B	C	A	G
A	J	A	P	E	C	U	S	U	T	U
H	H	O	D	E	S	E	R	T	Y	O
C	E	E	H	R	B	U	G	S	E	R
U	A	A	M	N	O	E	G	N	U	D
D	D	U	T	Y	R	J	H	T	E	S

## Church Contacts

### Earsdon Methodists:

#### *Minister*

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#### *Church Treasurer*

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Mrs B Henderson 46 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 1JJ. Tel: 291 3678

### St. Alban's Earsdon:

#### *Vicar*

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#### *Church wardens*

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#### *Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden*

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### Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

Mgr. Andrew Faley Tel: 252 8021

Parish Office Tel: 252 7066- open on Weds, Thursdays, & Fridays, 10am to 1pm.