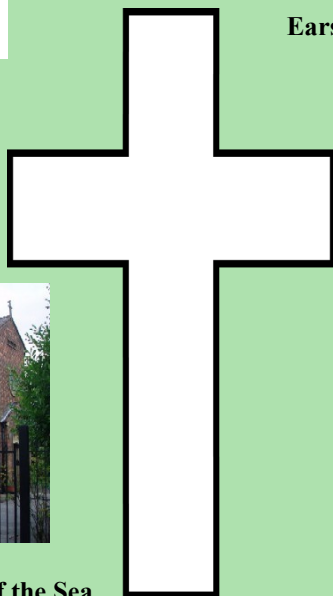




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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**August  
2023**

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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## August 2023

I'm going to my friend's baptism on Sunday. I'm slightly apprehensive, because it's in a church I haven't been to for ages. That's silly really – why am I nervous about going there?

People are sometimes afraid of going into a church. They think they will be judged by the people in there, and that they won't fit in. And I understand that. We want to blend in, don't we, and not stick out like a sore thumb.

I sometimes think that going to a church for the first time is like going to a gym for the first time. I was terrified the first time I went into a gym. I thought there would be protocols there that I wasn't aware of. I thought people would be looking at me and thinking "she doesn't know what she's doing". But I was wrong – it was a friendly place and no-one was staring at me or making me feel like an outsider. I asked someone for help with the machines and they were only too willing to show me how they worked.

Churches are – should be – the same. They should be welcoming, and should embrace new people and make them feel as if they belong there. There should be people there who can explain to new people what everything is there for, what the words mean, and what we are doing there.

Today I heard about a new priest who's been appointed to work at Canterbury Cathedral. She's female and she has tattoos on her arms. I read that she's been subjected to some online abuse, by people who say that priests shouldn't have tattoos. But whyever not?

People have some funny ideas about how people "ought" to behave, and look, and dress, when they are in church. And they think that those who are employed by the Church should dress very conventionally. Some people think church is for people who are conservative in their behaviour and their outfit choice. But why on earth is this?

Jesus, the founder of the Church, was totally unconventional. He mixed with society's outcasts; he made friends with prostitutes and those who considered themselves unworthy of being a part of polite society. On one occasion he angrily disrupted the market traders' stalls in the temple, which can't have made him popular with those who wanted to maintain the status quo. And he had complete disregard for material possessions and status symbols.

I think Jesus would welcome me into the church for my friend's baptism on Sunday. I think he would be delighted that someone with tattoos wanted to represent him in church. And I think he would love it if a person with no previous church experience and an unconventional appearance wanted to go to a church and learn more about Christianity.

So if Jesus would be happy that all these people are in church, why shouldn't we be?

*Gillian France*

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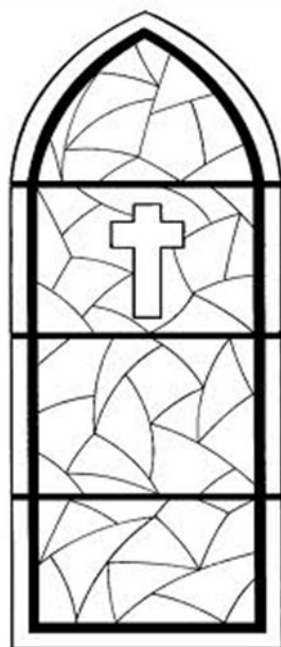


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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 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:

The walking group continues during the summer, meeting every Tuesday outside the vicarage, at 7pm. All welcome.



### Trial change of service times

A recent consultation with the PCC and the congregation has shown an agreement to start a trial from **Sunday 3rd September 2023** to the end of the year for **St John's Sunday service to begin at 9.00am**, and **St Alban's service to start at 10.30 am**.

These new times will be reviewed in January 2024.

Saturdays throughout the summer ... St Alban's Parishioners' Open Gardens

5th August	Cathryn's maturing memorial garden
12th August	Sue & Tim's shady woodland garden

Please contact Joan ( 0191 2529239 ) for your season ticket and details of times and addresses.

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

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# BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

400 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1623 that Anne Hathaway died. She was William Shakespeare’s wife.

80 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1943 that British Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten became Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia.

75 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1948 that the World Council of Churches was founded in Amsterdam.

70 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1953 that the UK premiere of the romantic comedy film *Roman Holiday* took place. It featured Audrey Hepburn in her first starring role.

65 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1958 that Ralph Vaughan Williams, British composer, died. Among his famous

compositions are: *The Lark Ascending*, *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, and *A Sea Symphony*.

Also 65 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1958 that Cliff Richard’s first single *Move It* was released. It reached second place in the UK charts, and John Lennon would later call it “the first British rock record”.

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1963 that the Great Train Robbery took place on the West Coast Main Line at Ledburn, Buckinghamshire. £2.6million was stolen in one of the UK’s most infamous robberies. The bulk of the money was never recovered.

Also 60 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1963 that Dr Martin Luther King Jr, delivered his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech from the steps of the Lincoln

Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The civil rights rally was attended by approximately 200,000 supporters.

25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1998 that a car bomb in Omagh, Northern Ireland, killed 29 people and injured 370. It was the deadliest act of violence in the 30-year history of the Troubles.

10 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 that David Frost, British TV presenter and journalist, died. Best known for hosting the satirical series *That Was The Week That Was*, as well as *Breakfast with Frost*, and the game show, *Through the Keyhole*. Also known for his political interviews, including the Nixon interviews.



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# **CHURCH VIEWS FOR AUGUST 2023 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA**

## **Right Reverend Stephen Wright**



The Right Reverend Stephen Wright was installed as the 15th Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle at a Solemn Mass of Installation in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, on 19th July 2023.

Bishop Stephen was welcomed by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. The Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buenda was in attendance as was Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference and many Bishops from the Dioceses of England and Wales.

He was presented with the traditional symbols of a bishop's ministry: the pastoral staff, the crozier, the ring – in this case St Cuthbert's ring – and the pectoral cross.

He was also greeted by the Chapter of Canons, representatives of the Council of Priests and pastoral councils, and some of the priests, deacons and lay people of the diocese.

Bishop Stephen is a member of the Bishops' Advisory Panel supporting Bishop Paul Mason as Lead Safeguarding Bishop in the work of the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). He is a member of the Social Justice Department of the Bishops Conference with a focus on human rights and criminal/civil law matters.



## **Rt Rev Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces**



25th July marked 25 years since his ordination for the Rt Rev Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces.

He was born in North Shields and attended St Anselm's High School – now St Thomas More Academy – before going on to study Modern Languages at Leeds University.

After graduation he worked for Hewlett Packard before following his vocation, being ordained in 1998. He was appointed Bishop of the Forces by Pope Francis in 2018.

## **Joseph O'Brien ordained Deacon**

Joseph O'Brien of our parish, is studying for the priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome. The seminary has a summer Retreat Centre at Palazzola, a former Franciscan Monastery in the Alban Hills overlooking Lake Albany – a more than welcome cooler venue than Rome at the moment, suffering its serious heat-wave. In the Church of Our Lady of the Snows, Joseph and four others were ordained Deacons by Bishop Douglas Crosby of Hamilton.



It was a family occasion, attended by his parents, Michael and Maria, and his brother Liam with his wife Grace and their son Louis James. Now returned to Whitley Bay, Joseph has begun assisting Mgr Faley in the parish. He will return to the English College at the end of the summer for his final year of study before his ordination to the priesthood at St Mary's Cathedral in 2024.

## **Generous Donation**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our £800 donation to Stella Maris, formerly the Apostleship of the Sea, to continue their work in our ports.

*(Gerry Latimer, Our Lady Star of the Sea)*

## **Parish Mass Times**

*St Edward's: Saturday 9.30am, Sunday 9.30am*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Tuesday to Friday 9.30am*

At St Alban's on Sunday 23rd July, an unsuspecting Olive was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a card, on behalf of the Wednesday Walkers, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.  
Congratulations, Olive!





Many thanks to Dianne Morgan for capturing the moment!





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## COMPUTER KEYS

My computer is about 10 years old, and I know that there are much newer versions around, but I am now well used to the way it works. However, it did not come with an instruction manual (do they ever?) and rather than go to the internet to download some tuition I just bashed on regardless. Needless to say, I made many a mistake, but after 10 years I was priding myself that I have it sorted. .... big mistake. You see I like to listen to music when I am working at the keyboard, and in the past, I have uploaded a whole collection of favourite albums from which to select. However, I have recently pressed something – I know not what – which has removed all the albums except two! I am going to have to start uploading them all over again. Yet on the plus side I have just realised that if on my keyboard the control key and the letter Z key are pressed at the same time, the computer undoes what I've just done. Fantastic! And if I keep pressing these keys, then I can keep rubbing out my mistakes. Amazing! It is said that you learn from your mistakes, well I am certainly doing that.

However, you will have noticed that real life has no such keys. There is nothing we do that we can undo. That word: that look; that action ~ which on reflection we may like to redo – is as permanent as if we had written it in indelible ink.

It is a bit like sending an email – once it is gone there is no way that you can get it back; there is no way that what has been said can be unsaid and sometimes that leads to greater trouble. The only way things that are done can be completely undone is by the total forgiveness of the person who has been wronged.

Then I remembered that some years ago when in Japan I was taken to visit the site in Nagasaki where one of the first Hydrogen bombs was dropped. There are two vivid memories that I carried away from there ~ first was the Japanese people's wall inscription saying "This must never happen again. - we will live for this." The other was that as I was reading this a local lady came and shook my hand and just beamed the warmest of smiles. We did not speak each other's language; there was no need for words. The bomb and its effects could not be undone but the undo key of that moment was pressed replacing the past with a sense of forgiving peace.

I was humbled to be part of that small act which lives with me still. I know that I cannot change the past but I do need to double check emails before pressing send ~ and use the equivalent of the Z and control keys more often to right mistakes. It won't right all the faults of our world, but it may just make a difference to someone.

As we are loved for whom we are  
May we love others for what they may be  
Let forgiveness and peace be our watchwords  
Until the people of the world live in complete harmony. Amen.

*Wes Blakey*

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

## Diary Page for August 2023



Wednesday	2nd	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	6th		<b><u>9th Sunday after Trinity</u></b> Transfiguration	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	10th	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	13th		<b><u>10th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	16th	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	20th		<b><u>11th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	24th	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	27th		<b><u>12th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	30th	9.30am		St Alban's
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd Sept</b>		<b><u>Please note new times for Sunday services.</u></b>	
		<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St John's</b>
		<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>St Alban's</b>



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for August 2023 :

**6th**

Luke 9. 28-36

**13th**

Matthew 14. 22-33

**20th**

Matthew 15. 21-28

**27th**

Matthew 16. 13-20

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (September) will need to be in before Wednesday, 23rd August . Thank you, *Jean*.

Website: [www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk](http://www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk)

Church Views magazine email: [magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk)

An awesome day on Saturday 22nd July for Catherine & Damon, renewing their vows, and Ethan & Sophia being Baptised. Congratulations to you all.



*With thanks to Ali Griffiths for sending in this article.*



## Round and About.

3.



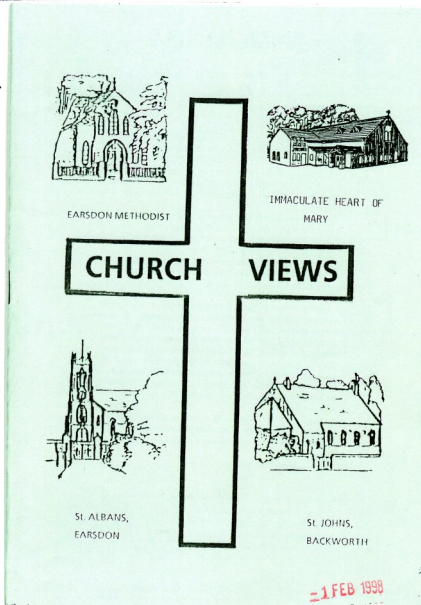
### I Too Feel Honoured

It's strange but when I read in the local press the Honours list that an acquaintance of mine who lives in our street had been awarded the MBE for a lifetime of service to the Railway Industry I felt somehow proud as well simply because I know him. Jack Perry of 61 Otterburn Avenue was the recipient and he is now having a well earned retirement. He latterly was employed by Nexus as their Training Officer. He previously worked all his days for British Railway. At one time he was the youngest Station Master in B.R.

Well done Jack and our thanks for letting me have a share in the honour.

### MBE

This stands for 'MEMBER of the BRITISH EMPIRE'. If you read this Jack please let me know what it now signifies as we no longer have an Empire!!

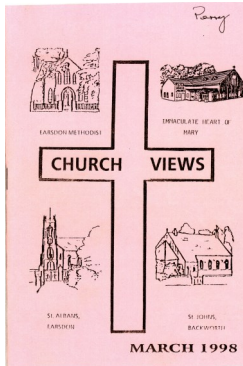


Following last month's message from Jack & Anne Perry ... here are interesting extracts from Church Views 1998, compiled and edited by the late Bob Gowdy.

I hope they are legible when printed.







## LETTERS PAGE.

To The Editor:-

JACK PERRY, MBE (Re Round & About Page in February Mag.)

Thanks very much Bob - I am pleased to share the honour with everyone. Anne and my daughters, Susan Henderson and Helen Farrow, are shopping for outfits and hats. I somehow knew it was going to be an expensive honour!

I have, of course, already attended an investiture when I was pleased to be made a serving brother of the Order of St. John in 1988.

(Ed's note: The Order originally goes back to the Knights Templar which was at one time based in Malta - the medal is in the form of a Maltese Cross and is a higher honour than the MBE).

I am working on the hat-trick!!

Regarding "No British Empire" - It would appear that the M.B.E. is a long-standing tradition and the name will remain unchanged. However, I attend the Willow Club and advised the members that M.B.E. was "More Biscuits for Everyone" during the coffee break. (As there are approximately 120 members - more expense!)

As an aside:

It may interest some readers to know that Susan Henderson (my eldest daughter) who was formerly Brown Owl at Earsdon, has now become Brown Owl in her new location at Wistaston, Cheshire.

JACK PERRY.

(Ed's note: Jack and his family have a date with the Queen in Buckingham Palace soon - well Done!)



Just a little snippet from Jill ...

Currently we are raising lots of funds for our church toilet which we have called the 'Netty fund'.

An interesting fact about the word 'Netty'. Its origins were in the 1800's and derives from the Italian word for toilet or more precisely latrine; gabinetti . Who knew!

All contributions towards this project are very gratefully appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

And a positive message from Rob Gowdy :

Sometimes the good work people do is not obvious and this might be true of the work the Scouts did recently in the Church car park and pathways.

Last month Alex Ridley who leads the 19th Whitley Bay Scouts offered to do some gardening for us and true to his word had the Scouts do a great job tidying up a number of areas. They weeded the small garden area in the carpark. Cut back the grass and weeds, which had grown along the path leading to the Church entrance. They also cleared weeds from the ramp leading to the main doors and around the chairs down the south side of the Church. A job well done and much appreciated.

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

# WORDSEARCH

## The Transfiguration

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word.

Transfiguration

Jesus

Mountain

Tabor

Hermon

High

Shine

Face

Written

Living

Cloud

Transformed

White

Dazzling

Elijah

Moses

Dwelling

Mankind

Law

Prophets

Peter

James

John

Fear

Glory



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Mobile: 0772 9805957

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