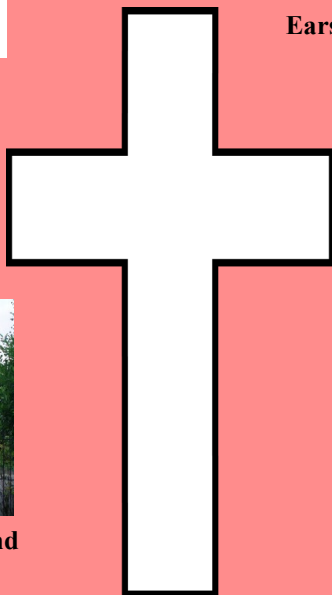




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

May 2021

£1.00



Our Lady & St. Edmund



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH FOR MAY 2021

Dear All,

Continuing all good wishes to everyone reading this, especially to our friends at Earsdon Methodist Church, Our Lady and St Edmund, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I do hope Easter went well for you all, and that life is steadily returning to normal following the government's careful road-map.

Easter is always special, but there are ways in which it was extra-special for the people of St John's Backworth and St Alban's Earsdon. For one thing, we had decided to re-open in-person worship on April 4th. In common with many churches, our worship had gone online for the period January 17th to March 28th. So it was very good to see each other again and be back in our church buildings: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Then, to co-incide with this Easter reopening, a member of St Alban's – Rob Gowdy – did a very special thing. He etched the cross onto over a hundred pebbles. So each person coming to worship on Easter Day 2021 had their own pebble to take away. Mine sits on my desk as I type, and I often trace the etched cross with my thumb while praying.

During the service, Rob kindly explained the significance of his pebbles. It's worth passing on what he had to say...

Several Sundays ago, at the Zoom service, Tim invited people to say what had recently amazed them. There were several answers, but one related to pebbles on the beach at Whitley Bay. A storm had washed away the sand from a normally sandy beach and amazingly left pebbles.

Thinking about this, it seems that our congregation is very like that pebbly beach. Every pebble different but all sitting together in faith. Occasionally a wave will wash in bringing one or two more 'pebbles' to our congregation; at other times a wave will wash out and the draw will sadly take a few 'pebbles' with it.

The pandemic has been like a huge wave washing in, covering the pebbles

in sand, or in our case bringing in lockdown. Today the vaccine has brought in another wave which has washed away Covid releasing us from the lockdown.

It seems appropriate that on Easter Day, the day Christ overcame death and the stone was rolled away from his tomb, that we have our first in-person service, having overcome Covid and our release from lockdown.

This Easter the pebble may remind us of the stone rolled away from the tomb and the glorious resurrection, but in future may also remind us of today when the light returned after this dark period.

We're so grateful to Rob for the generous thing he did. It put me in mind of words from the First Letter of Peter about what 'the church' is...

As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God bless his 'living stones' at St Alban's, Earsdon Methodist, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St John's, and Our Lady and St Edmund. Divine architect, build us together!

Yours with my Easter pebble in hand,

Tim Mayfield.

(Pictured is the editor's pebble.)



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In April, St. John the Baptist Church in Backworth released their chicks to the community, to wish everyone a Happy Easter.



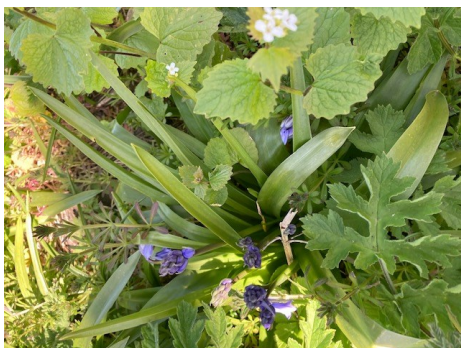
Please do consider using the services of our advertisers who loyally support our church magazine. If you know anyone who would be interested in taking out an advertisement, please

email: magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk
or call Jean on 0191 237 7273



With thanks to Barbara Golightly.

A spring walk I, like many dog owners, enjoy the quietness of a walk in the old part of our churchyard. The other day, whilst Barney was busy, I noticed the pale yellow primroses, two varieties, growing towards the wall looking eastwards, at the end of the top “ lane”. The other wild flowers grow in abundance below what will soon be a canopy of leaves ! If you haven’t ventured along the old pathways... try it , one sunny day look , listen and enjoy !!



Many thanks Dianne Morgan
for sharing your sunny dog walk.



St Alban's & St John's



Summer Sunflower Competition

Hi All, we are looking for all you green fingered kids, aged 5 to 15, who would like to take part in a competition.

We have 50 kits to give away, for all you budding gardeners to plant, water and grow your very own Dwarf Sunflowers. You will have to take care of them and nurture them over the course of 4 months (June to Sept) and at the end of that time, you can bring your Sunflowers up to St Alban's so that our judge Tim Mayfield can choose 2 runners up and a winner.

If you would like to enter the Summer Sunflower Competition please ask your Mum, Dad or Guardian to send your name and age to Ali Griffiths, Churchwarden: Tel: 07729805957 or email alijgriff@gmail.com. All entries must be in by 31st of May. You can pick up your Sunflower kit from St Alban's Church Earsdon, or St John's Church Backworth.

Thank You, And Good Luck.

A Big Thank you goes to Michael Green, Community Champion, Morrisons, Killingworth, for kindly donating the Sunflower Seeds.



BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

100 years ago, on 3rd May 1921 that Ireland was divided into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland (now known as the Republic of Ireland).

Also 100 years ago, on 15th May, that the British Legion was founded.

80 years ago, on 1st–7th May 1941 that the German Blitz on Liverpool left nearly 3,000 dead and 70,000 homeless. Liverpool was the second most heavily targeted British city, after London.

70 years ago, on 9th May 1951 that the Lake District National Park was established. It was Britain’s second national park.

Also 70 years ago, on 25th May 1951 that the British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the

infamous Cambridge spy ring, and their whereabouts remained unknown until 1956.

65 years ago, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

60 years ago, on 28th May 1961 that Amnesty International was founded in London.

40 years ago, on 13th May 1981 that Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded by a Turkish gunman in an assassination attempt in St Peter’s Square, Vatican City.

25 years ago, on 30th May 1996 that Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and his wife Sarah, Duchess of York, were divorced.

20 years ago, on 7th May 2001 that Great Train Robber

Ronnie Biggs returned to the UK from Brazil where he had lived as a fugitive for 36 years. He was immediately arrested and sent to prison to complete his sentence. Released on compassionate grounds in 2009, he died in 2013.

10 years ago, on 2nd May 2011 that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, died. Founder of al-Qaeda, he was thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA. Shot dead by US forces in Pakistan.



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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 Liz York, from
St. Alban’s church.

1) Where were you born?

I was born in Lowfell, Gateshead. My parents moved to Whitley Bay when I was 9 months old.

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

I am now retired, and have been for the last 9 years. I enjoy retirement and fill my time with bowls, bridge, drama, reading, knitting, Sudoku, grandchildren and coffee/meals with friends, and of course, Church.

3) What are you most likely to be doing on a Saturday evening?

Since Covid, I play bridge on line and watch TV.

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

I play bowls, indoor in winter at the Parks, North Shields, where they are doing the Covid jabs at present. In the summer, I play at Whitley and Monkseaton Bowling Club in Souter Park. I also play County bowls for Northumberland.

5) What’s your favourite book or film?

My favourite book is “How We Still Live” by Helen MacInnes. A story of a British girl who was in Poland at the start of the Second World War.

6) What’s your least favourite food or drink?

My least favourite drink is Gin, no matter what it is mixed with!
My least favourite food is tripe.

7) Tell us something you've learnt recently

I, along with a lot of other people, have learnt to use Zoom for meetings, family get-togethers etc. I have also learnt to play Bridge on line, which has been really interesting and challenging.

8) Tell us about somewhere interesting you've visited or lived in

My interesting place to go was Melbourne, Australia. I was fortunate to go there in 2006 for the Commonwealth Games. I was a Competitive Swimming Official at the Games. A tremendous experience, I met so many interesting people, and saw some very good swimming. I was fortunate to meet some lovely Australians who took me all over Melbourne so I saw a lot of that beautiful city.

9) Tell us about one of your childhood memories

When I was 10 years old, I was the youngest Snow Child in "Carousel", a Tynemouth Operatic Society production at The Gaumont Cinema, North Shields. As a 10 year old it was a tremendous experience, one I haven't forgotten. Two years later, when I was 12 years old, I played the part of Jessie, one of Annie's sisters in "Annie get your Gun". Lovely childhood memories.

10) What's your favourite hymn and why?

My favourite hymn is "At the Name of Jesus Every Knee Shall Bow". When I was a teenager and going to Youth Club, we were taught the new tune for this hymn by a group of Friars, and had to sing it in church for the congregation. It always brings back happy memories.

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

Cross Purposes



Three church buildings in one parish is not a great problem for much of the time. For Holy Week, St Edward's, as the largest church, was chosen for Holy Week services for the whole parish, accommodating the largest socially-distanced congregation. But the largest - and heaviest - free-standing wooden cross was at Immaculate Heart of Mary in West Monkseaton.

These three suitably masked parishioners gathered to hoist it onto the roof rack for the drive to St Edward's. They found that if you want to be inconspicuous and slip quietly across Whitley Bay, don't put a seven foot cross on your roof rack.



Eventually the process was reversed and the cross unloaded. Finally, worth all the effort, it was suitably draped upon the St Edward's altar ready for Holy Week services.

Even under the current restrictions and the necessary curtailments of some services, Holy Week was its usual devotional success and the celebration of Easter Sunday was just as joyous and uplifting as ever.

Laudato Si'

'On care for our common home' is the subtitle of this encyclical letter from Pope Francis. In it he criticises the increase in irresponsible land development, laments continuing environmental degradation and global warming and calls for 'swift and unified action' to protect our beautiful planet. The Taoist proverb "a journey of a thousand miles begins beneath our feet" seems appropriate to the small Diocesan group now considering practical ways in which church grounds might be used as assets for the common good by improving biodiversity and encouraging wildlife. When the lockdown eases they hope to visit Minsteracres Monastery to view changes there.



Whitley Bay Street Pastors

Street Pastors would like to recruit more people to join their patrols of Tynemouth and Whitley Bay. Their patrols offer practical assistance to anyone who may find themselves in need of help or care on local streets after enjoying our thriving hospitality industry now that lockdown rules are being eased. whitleybay@streetpastors.org.uk



*Lent is over, days are brighter,
and once again we welcome
beautiful flowers in our churches*

A Good Wedding Cake

4lb of love
1lb butter of youth
1/2lb of good looks
1lb of blindness of faults
1lb of self-forgetfulness
1lb of pounded wit
1lb of good humour
2 tablespoons of sweet argument
1 pint of rippling laughter
A wineglass of common sense
1oz of modesty.

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well-furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, and add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work all this together until well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

Thanks go to Joan Armstrong for sending this in.

* 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**. *

Another gem from actual chalk boards ...



More Easter pictures, curtesy of Dianne Morgan. Jill with her excellent home made fascinator, and below, Jo is a splendid Roman Centurion at the Easter Trail, St Alban's church.



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Collection for a Ciborium Cup at St John's, Backworth.

Hi all,

we are looking on the kindness of St John's & St Albans parishioners to raise money so St John's can buy their own Ciborium Cup, I noticed that Tim always carried the St Albans Ciborium with him to use at St Johns, when I asked him why he did this, his reply was, that St John's have not got their own, so I thought I would look to raising the money so that they could have their own.

We have found a Ciborium that matches the St John's Chalice fairly well (see image below) and the sum we need to raise is £295:85 plus £8:50 delivery, giving a total of £304:35.



For All Donations please see ChurchWarden Ali Griffiths

THANK YOU

Earsdon Methodist Church

May 2021

We have all been given a copy of the booklet ‘Mark The 50 Great Days’. A small publication from our Newcastle Methodist District that is designed as a journey through the gospel of Mark in 50 short reflections. Each day’s page does not need a lot of reading, but it does give food for thought.

Methodists traditionally commemorate Aldersgate Sunday on 24th May, or the Sunday nearest to it. In his Journal for that day, John Wesley wrote:~

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

It was May 24th 1738. John Wesley was almost 35 years old and had been ordained for almost 10 years. The society he attended was a Moravian meeting in London. He had been greatly impressed by the Moravians when he first encountered them as he travelled by ship to Georgia in North America to begin what was to be a two-year mission. The journey was extremely stormy, and the subsequent mission itself did not go to plan, as Wesley returned after only 6 months a deflated man. However, throughout everything he was impressed by the Moravians’ calm assurance of God’s indwelling presence in all circumstances. This he took to himself on that night.

This is not just a historical event for Methodists but demonstrates for them – and others – the difference it makes knowing God for ourselves and having the assurance of that presence. When one least expects it, and even when things have not turned out the way we hoped, or when we feel that we’ve heard it all before, there can be change.

That’s something worth celebrating and remembering.

Pentecost prayer

Almighty God

Like a still, small voice
you made your presence felt to
prophets and healers,
to a people in exile,
and young mothers-to-be.

In the life of Jesus
your healing touch was felt
and all were made welcome.

Like flickering embers dancing into flame,
you revived those who looked for you,
inspiring their speech and startling onlookers.
Undeterred by death, you delivered
creative power,
transforming determination
and your eternal, supporting presence.

And your Spirit nurtures us still,
a gathered people at Pentecost,
moved to celebrate, free to be ourselves,
glad to meet God and open ourselves to the world around us.

Spirit of the living God
move among us,
as you transform us into the people you invite us to be,
as you transform the world into the place you dream it to be.
Make us one in love,
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing.

Blow among us, Spirit of God,
fill us with your courage and care.
Hurricane and Breath,
take us on a journey of love!

JWWB

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for May 2021



Sunday	2nd	<u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	5th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	9th	<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	13th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	16th	<u>Sunday after Ascension Day</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	19th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	23rd	<u>Pentecost</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	27th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	30th	<u>Trinity</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

Here is the hyperlink to our newspaper "THE LINK"

[linkmay2021.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://cloudfront.net/d3hgrlq6yacptf/linkmay2021.pdf)

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for May 2021:

2nd

John 15. 1-8

9th

John 15. 9-17

16th

John 17. 6-19

23rd

John 15. 26-27; 16. 4b-15

30th

John 3. 1-17





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Earsdon

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It's time to plant!

As we approach Bank Holiday our Glass house is now full of colourful stock.

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*As government guidelines now allow, our coffee shop is due to re open 17th May !

We look forward to seeing you all soon and thank you for your continued support. *

SUDOKU

Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (June 2021) will need to be in before Wednesday, 23rd June 2021. Thank you.

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Marti's Musings 86

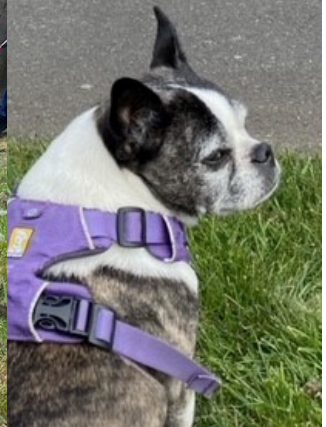
It was so lovely to be back in church for Easter, the porch looked fabulous and the altar looked amazing!

It feels a bit like we are getting back to normal as everyone gets their vaccinations and places are opening up again. We went to the pub for a pint which was great, but a little chilly. I look forward to the warmer weather. Carly and Geoff finally got married and they looked so happy. We went along to see them go into church and I had a fabulous dog party! Helen was there with Hannah and Gizzy, Diane turned up with Barney and Sue came along with Dinah. It was so good to see all my dog friends I hadn't seen for months and we all saw Carly and Geoff come out as Mr and Mrs Robinson. I think it was magical with so few people and a real celebration.

Same time next weekend for a dog party chums?

Lots of excitement

Marti xx



WORDSEARCH

Rogation Sunday

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

Sunday
May
Rogation
Beat
Bounds
Asking
Blessing
Seed
Land
Romans
Processed
Cornfields
Spring
Earthquake
Storm
Prayer
Cross
Boundaries
Crops
Harvest
maps

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