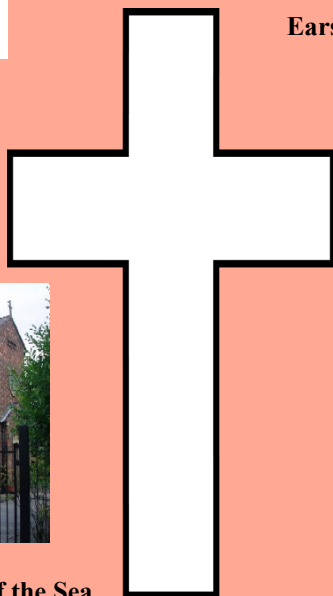




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

May 2022

£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

May 2022

Although it was tiny, the little bathroom just off the back kitchen in the first house I knew, had great acoustics. I realised this at the very early age of 3 or 4, when on bath nights when my Dad scrubbed me clean he would teach me many songs ... everything from the Blaydon Races to Methodist hymns.

One hymn that we sang, which was from the old Methodist Hymn Book, which is rarely sung now ...

“Thou shepherd of Israel and mine; thou joy and desire of my heart
For closer communion I pine, I long to reside where thou art ...”

I remember too how for the rest of the hymn Dad would make up silly rhymes about how you should not ought-a ~ drink soapy water ... and we'd dissolve into giggles, but my Mam would go mad, shouting to us that it was sacrilege, and that Charles Wesley would turn in his grave.

At the time I did not know what on earth she meant, I just knew that then and ever since when I remember that hymn it makes me smile.

Throughout our hymns and of course the Bible, there are many references to shepherds, Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd, saying “**I am the good shepherd.**” In so doing he was offering to care for people if they would accept it asking that they would follow him and his style of life and love. This was not an unthinking following, but to take on his characteristics – be part of his kingdom of love and to be part of fixing that which is wrong and offering a loving positive substitute.

The world needs fixers, and we are called to be the world's fixers, restoring goodness and love to places and people where it is needed. Near the village where we once lived there was a small farm, and the family who worked it came to our church. On my visits there I used to bump into one of the workers who everyone knew as Phil the Fixer. For when he was not tending the cattle or the sheep you could find him mending or making anything for use on the farm. Above the door of his workshop was nailed a scrap piece of wood painted with the words **Tikkum Olam**. When I asked him what they meant, he told me with a twinkle that they were the only foreign words he knew; they were Hebrew for ‘Repairing the World.’

When Jesus said, “**I am the good shepherd**” he was building on the O.T. theme and picturesquely putting forward the fact that trust in him was the gateway to being connected with the divine and to be part of offering that restorative and repairing love.

As another hymn puts it

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day
By his love and power controlling
All I do or say*

*May I run the race before me
Strong and brave to face the foe
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.*

WES BLAKEY



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If our clients or their families are feeling unwell, cannot manage or just have no time, they ring us and we can help. We have popped in to see clients to change light bulbs, take pets to the vets, and pick up shopping. We have accompanied clients to hospital/doctors, walked dogs, called plumbers/electricians, mobile hairdressers and arranged to have bins emptied and rubbish removed. Just to mention a few of the things we have done for our clients. Anything clients need doing (within health & safety guidelines), we will do our best to help. Our services can be increased or decreased according to changes in circumstances.

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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 with Backworth Mothers' Union

Members please note that the May meeting will take place a week later than usual **on the 25th** (not the 18th).

St Alban's:

The walking group is back again, starting on 10th May and every following Tuesday. Please meet outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to come and join us.



Some of St Alban's
Ramblers from last
year.

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 2377273

Serenity is not freedom from the storm, but peace within it. – *Anon*

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. – *Anon*

The final chalkboard :



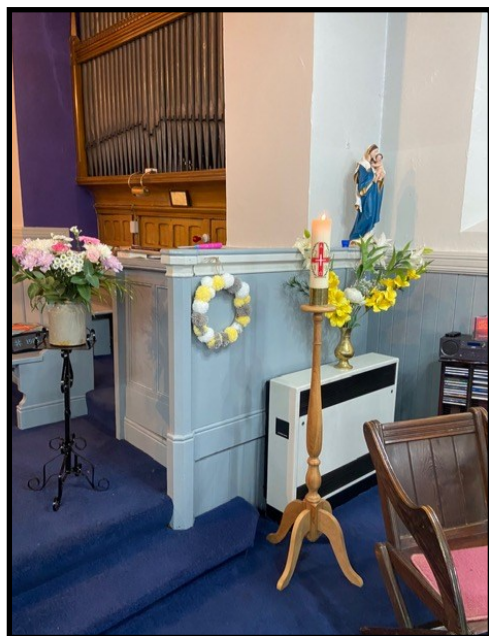
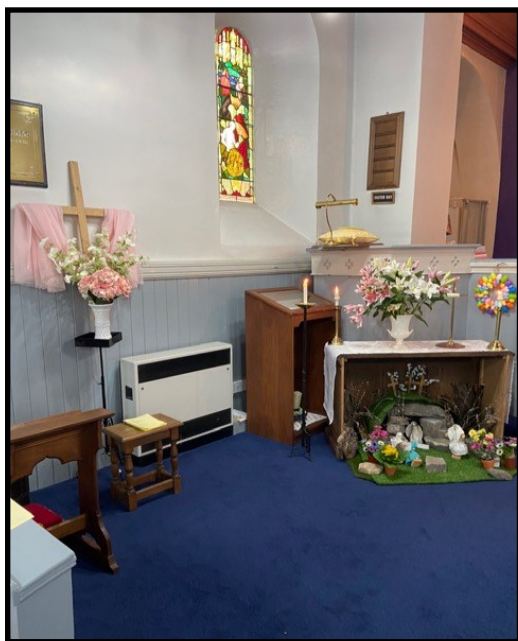
A little message for the online magazine, 9th May :

Free to a good home—a number of tomato plants. Will be ready to pot out in approximately two weeks.

If interested, please call 0191 2522852.

* 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 John's church, Backworth, looking beautiful at Easter.



Many thanks Barbara, for these excellent pictures.

Smile-lines

On the church noticeboard: Contact lens found in church. See vicar if you can.

Sorting out books for the local fete, a parishioner came across some well-worn and dusty illustrated encyclopaedias, treasured from his childhood. Unwilling to part with them, he put them on a shelf in the garage where his small grandchildren found them and spent many happy hours looking at the pictures. These books, however, caused him great embarrassment the day the minister came to visit. One of his grandchildren suddenly said: “Grandad, can we go and look at those dirty books you keep in the garage?”

What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago....

~ One of my French reports simply said: ‘Sheila attended the lessons’. - Sheila Blow, Surrey

~ My housemaster wrote: ‘He has an overdeveloped unawareness.’ - Ian Jones, Wirral

~ A friend’s son’s report said: ‘By the time he has mastered French, he will be too old to cross the Channel.’ – M Knaggs, Dorset

~ My teacher observed: ‘The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.’ - Colin Sutherland, Switzerland

~ My teacher was a realist: ‘I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best.’ Stan Proctor, Surrey

She often broke into song because she couldn’t find the key.

What bargains grandchildren are! I give them my loose change, and they give me a million pounds worth of pleasure. - *Gene Perret*

When children pray (*they did their best!*)

~ Give us this steak and daily bread, and forgive us our mattresses.

~ Hail, Mary, full of grapes.

~ He suffered under a bunch of violets. (Pontius Pilate)

BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

150 years ago, on 18th
May 1872 that
Bertrand Russell,
Welsh philosopher,
mathematician,
historian, and writer
was born. He won the
1950 Nobel Prize in
Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th
May 1897 that Bram
Stoker’s horror novel
Dracula was
published.

100 years ago, on 27th
May 1922 that
Christopher Lee,
British film actor was
born. Best known for
his many Hammer
Horror films,
especially his role as
Dracula. He also
played a leading role in
The Lord of the Rings
and *The Hobbit*. (Died
2015)

90 years ago, on 9th
May 1932 that
London’s Piccadilly
Circus was lit with
electrical lighting for
the first time. The road
junction later became

famous for its neon
lighting and video
advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25th
May 1962 that the new
Coventry Cathedral
was consecrated. The
previous one had been
destroyed by German
bombing during
WWII.

50 years ago, on 28th
May 1972 that Prince
Edward, Duke of
Windsor, died. He was
formerly Edward VIII,
until his abdication in
December 1936.

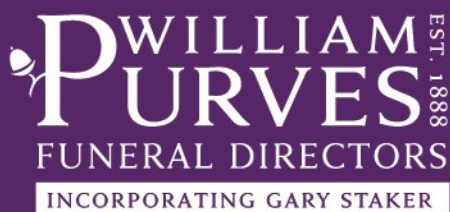
40 years ago, 27th-28th
May 1982 that the
Battle of Goose Green
took place during the
Falklands War. British
victory.

25 years ago, 1st May
1997 that the Labour
Party won a landslide
victory, ending 18
years of Conservative
Rule. Tony Blair
became Prime
Minister.

15 years ago, on 3rd

May 2007 that
three-year-old
Madeleine McCann
went missing while on
holiday with her
parents in Praia da
Luz, Portugal. Despite
long-running
investigations costing
millions of pounds, she
has never been found.
Her disappearance is
the most-reported
missing person case in
history.

10 years ago, on 18th
May 2012 that social
media network
Facebook went public.
Its initial public
offering raised \$16
billion – the third-
largest amount in US
history.



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St Alban's Book Club

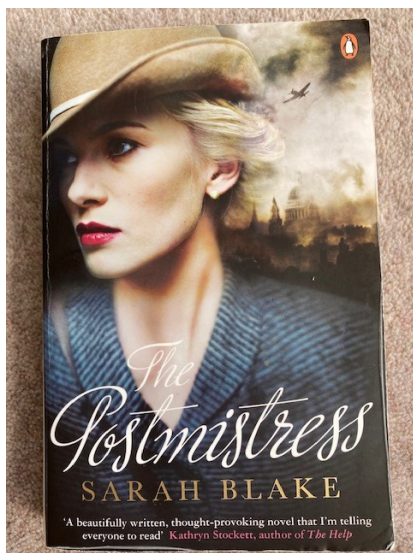
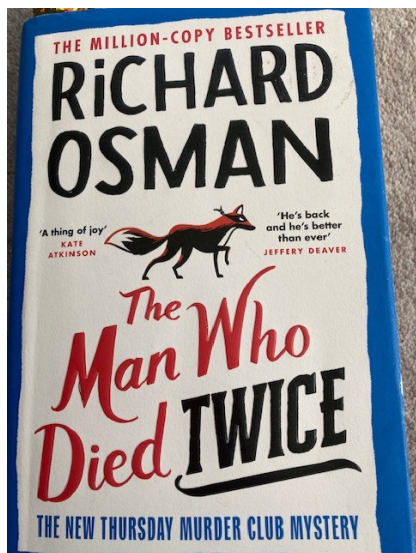
Spring 2022 has not been without its difficulties for us to meet in person, due to Covid, yet again! Thank goodness for technology.

“Precious Thing” by Colette McBeth. The tag line was “Best friends can make deadliest enemies” the book certainly did have twists and turns right to the end. We agreed parts were somewhat unrealistic in this psychological thriller and gave it a 6 out of 10 !

“Americana” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche was challenging mainly as the print was so small ... and after resorting to magnifiers we agreed to forgo the challenge. Defeated !!

“The Man Who Died Twice” by Richard Osman, his second book reuniting us with characters previously met in his first easily read thriller. This second novel was given a thumbs up (virtually). Good holiday reading.

We are currently reading “The Postmistress” by Sarah Blake . This is taking us back to 1940s wartime London, as we in our 21st century lives hear about the tragedies of the war in the Ukraine. We are with fingers crossed looking forward to discussing these last two books, in person, in May. Enjoy your books & Happy sunny days ... Dianne.



Take a walk on the wild side!

How neat do we like our gardens to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds?

Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's Gardener's World magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include 'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.

Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019, 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 percent. By 2021, that was down again, to just 16 per cent.

Simple tips to rewild your garden:

- * Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.
- * Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.
- * Set aside some room where grass can grow longer, and wildflowers can bloom.
- * Don't pull up all your weeds – they can be a critical source of pollen for bees.

Would any of our keen gardeners care to share with our readers how they 'wild' part of their gardens?



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

Celebrating Easter

It was a delight this Easter to see the signs of the normal life of the Parish returning, with larger congregations, a wedding and several baptisms. The well-attended Easter celebrations and Masses were all at St Edward's, the largest of our three churches. We were particularly pleased to welcome Jennifer, Marie and Ellie into full communion with the Catholic Church.



In April and May we also welcomed the baptisms of Charlotte Meabh, Daisy Jean and Thomas Alexander, and offer our congratulations to their families. Our first post-Easter wedding also took place, so further congratulations to Mr and Mrs Stuart and Rachelle Murray. The meeting spaces at St Edward's and Immaculate Heart of Mary are now open again. Even during the restrictions, the vital collections for the Food Bank were uninterrupted and still take place every Monday morning at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We are particularly grateful to Fr Noel Colehan who conducted the Easter celebrations and will continue to be with us during Monsignor Andrew's recovery from his ankle replacement.

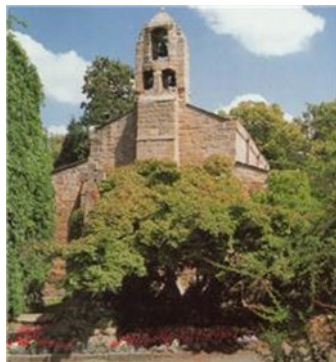
Monsignor Andrew has begun his post-surgery recovery at St Joseph's in Newcastle, with the Little Sisters of the Poor. We wish him a complete recovery and look forward to welcoming him back.



The Little Sisters arrived at Clayton Street in 1866, but by 1868 they already needed more space and moved to their current open and attractively wooded site on Westmoreland Road. Pictured is the Chapel at St Joseph's; simple and unadorned with a beautiful natural light.

Walking Group

Also returning to pre-pandemic normality is the Walking Group. After more than a year of local walks which gradually stretched to using the Metro and North Shields ferry, car-sharing has begun again. On 4th May there will be a circular six mile walk from Morpeth including a visit to St Andrew's in Bothal with its rare three bell tower. On 18th May there will be a walk in the area of Bolam Lake. Everyone is welcome, meeting at Immaculate Heart of May Church at 9.30am.



Tyne and Tide Exhibition – John Peace

Your final opportunity to visit South Shields Museum and Art Gallery until 7th May, to see the splendid collection of the local paintings of John Peace, several of whose paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy. His paintings of local scenes such as King Edward's Bay, the Long Sands and the Tyne are fascinating works by an artist who deserves to be better known.

Lunchtime Organ Recitals



For those who love organ music, St George's Church in Jesmond is offering free recitals every Friday throughout May, June and July between 1.00pm and 1.45pm. The organ is regarded as one of the finest in the Newcastle area, and the organists will include Joseph Beech of Durham Cathedral, Michael Haynes of Hexham Abbey, Henry Wallace of Greyfriars, Edinburgh, and Oliver Waterer of Selby Abbey. St George's is a remarkable building, not easily classified because Charles Mitchell, a local shipbuilder, commissioned it and appointed his shipyard architect, Thomas Ralph Spence, to design and build it. His inclusion of a variety of architectural styles has to be unique.



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The cost of petrol

Here is a sobering thought: petrol selling at 1.649p per litre in the UK is equivalent to £7.50 a gallon!

Speaking of petrol ...

Out and about on the roads? Remember the NEW Highway Code

When did you last read the Highway Code? Various ‘fundamental’ changes were recently made which will surely affect you.

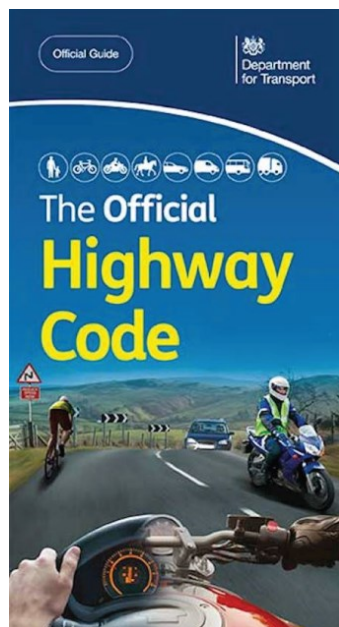
For example, there is a new hierarchy of road users, where drivers now have new responsibilities to watch out for people who are walking, cycling, or riding a horse.

Another example is that cyclists are now advised to cycle in the *centre* of lanes in slower-moving traffic.

Finally, do you even know how best to open your car door? According to the Highway Code, you should use your hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening; for example, use your left hand to open a door on your right-hand side. This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder. You are then more likely to avoid causing injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing you on the road, or to people on the pavement.

Read all about the new rules at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>



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Earsdon Methodist Church

Preachers for May 2022

| | | |
|--------|------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 1st | Rev'd. Wes Blakey. |
| Sunday | 8th | Rev'd. John Mason –Holy Communion. |
| Sunday | 15th | Mr. Graham Tipple. |
| Sunday | 22nd | Rev'd. John Mason. |
| Sunday | 29th | Mrs. Sue Mason. |

Note from your editor ...

While chatting to my lovely friend Norman Bloomfield to request the above information, we discussed how we are both getting a lot older, and how old age can be a bit of a nuisance. Norman said, “ I didn’t sign up to join it, either!



Earsdon Methodist Church

DANDELIONS?

On holiday one year, I was fascinated by this small, colourful flowering plant a bit like an exotic dandelion that I saw growing wild in all sorts of places. What a waste for this plant with its attractive dark leaves and bright yellow flower to be sticking out of cracks in walls; living on the rubble of building suites and surviving in the crevices between paving stones. So, before we returned home, I took out my penknife and carefully dug up a healthy specimen.

I then washed all the dirt from its roots and wrapped them in damp tissue paper. Then I put the whole plant in a sealed polythene bag and brought it home.

Almost as soon as we returned, I took a clean plant pot, filled it with good potting compost and planted my holiday trophy in it. I kept the plant on the kitchen windowsill and looked after it royally - watering it and talking to it at regular intervals.

However, I am sad to report that as the days passed the plant looked increasingly distressed and eventually curled up and died. What a cheek – after all I had done for it!

I never even considered that the plant was designed to blossom where it had been originally planted. It had the skill; the ability; the local knowledge. And do you know what? When I came home, wherever I looked - in the street and in local gardens, there were local dandelions blossoming everywhere.

As you know, life is not perfect, and never has been, even a quick scan of the news tells us that. Yet the good news is that the vast majority of people are designed to flourish in the circumstances where they are planted. It's not easy and sometimes it is not fair, but nonetheless it is a fact. Blossom where you are.

Among the advice on many plants, my old Percy Thrower gardening book gives encouragement to cultivate dandelions! He says as well as being a good source of vitamin C, they are known for reducing stress and giving cheer. Let me try to be a local dandelion any day.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for May 2022



| | | | | |
|-----------|------|--|----------------|------------|
| Sunday | 1st | <u>Third Sunday of Easter</u> | | |
| | | 8.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Wednesday | 4th | 9.30am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Sunday | 8th | <u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u> | | |
| | | 8.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Thursday | 12th | 9.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| Sunday | 15th | <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> | | |
| | | 8.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Wednesday | 18th | 9.30am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Sunday | 22nd | <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> | | |
| | | 8.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Thursday | 26th | <u>Ascension Day</u> | | |
| | | 9.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| Sunday | 29th | <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> | | |
| | | 8.30am | Holy Communion | St John's |
| | | 10.00am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| Wednesday | 1st | 9.30am | Holy Communion | St Alban's |
| June | | | | |

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for May 2022 :

1st

John 21. 1 –19

8th

John 10. 22 –30

15th

John 13. 31 –35

22nd

John 5. 1 –19

29th

John 17. 20 - end.

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Church Views magazine email: magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk



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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (June) will need to be in before Wednesday 25th May 2022.
Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 98

Spring has definitely sprung! It's great to see all the gardens waking up, unfortunately the weeds have also bloomed. Mind you I think dandelions are rather pretty, who decided they got weed status rather than flower? I might start a dandelion support group; we could certainly hold it in mum's front garden! Looks like there is lots of work to be done for the open garden season, we have started this week by painting the fence. Mum decided to paint it black, which I thought was an odd choice, but it does actually match the house rather well. I voted for a brindle paint job but apparently that doesn't exist so I am prepared to settle for a nice mural of my face on the fence. I am really looking forward to the open garden program as it was so much fun seeing everyone's beautiful gardens and spending time with all my church friends.

See you all in the first garden!

Lots of blooming,

Marti xxx



(By pure coincidence, Rev. Wes Blakey has written a lovely piece also about dandelions! Check out page 23!)

WORDSEARCH

A prayer for Ukraine

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6], but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: “Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Ukraine
War
Cease
Earth
Break
Bows
Shatter
Spears
Burn
Shields
Fire
Save
many
Lives
Crisis
Lord
Our
Rock
Fortress
Deliverer
Hope
In
You
Be
Still



Church Contacts

Earsdon Methodists:

Minister

Rev'd John Mason, 61 Ingleside Road, North Shields NE29 9PB. Tel: 2908745

Email jmason4468@gmail.com

Church Council Secretary

Mrs. A. Blakey, 14 Hesleyside Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9HB. Tel: 251 9813

Church Treasurer

Mr Ian Nicholson, 28 Huntly Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9UR. Tel: 252 9564

Church Stewards

Mrs S Bowen 7 Woodside, Prudhoe, NE42 5PH. Tel: 01661 835811

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

St. Alban's Earsdon:

Vicar

Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU

Tel: 07414 601 351

Church wardens

Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957

Tel : 0191 3665269 .

Mr R Gowdy, 82 Chipchase Court, New Hartley, Northumberland NE25 0SR

Tel: 07841 986 019

PCC Secretary

Mrs Jo McEvedy, 31 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JX.

Mobile 07855 405605

PCC Treasurer

Mr R Swindells, 81 St Mary's Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 3TS. Tel 252 3919

St. John's Backworth:

Vicar

Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU

Tel: 07414 601 351

Church warden

Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957

Tel : 0191 3665269 .

Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD Tel: 268 4334

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.