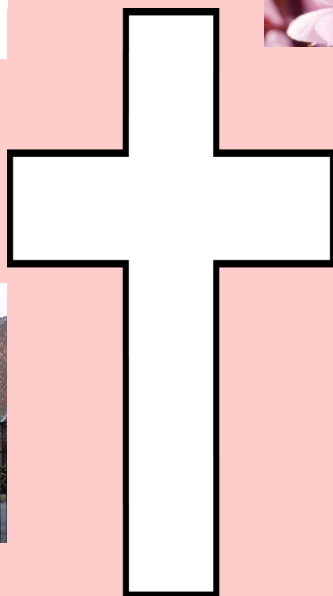




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**May 2024**

**£1.00**



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Parish of Our Lady Star**



**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## May 2024

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Ascension, which this year we commemorate on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May*

### **The Truth of the Ascension**

*'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.'* (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

*The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand'* (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

*The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus'* (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

*The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations'* (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

*'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.'* (Teresa of Avila).

Part **two** of a delightful article sent in by Ella Heaney, who also wrote the introduction. (Next instalment in June's magazine.)

### **INTRODUCTION**

This article was written by a gentleman called Frank Buzzard round about 1990. He had been an accountant and when he retired, he and his wife decided to go on a pilgrimage to visit every cathedral in the country. He wrote his impression of each one and also commented on the city and surrounding area. After he died, he left his writing and £5,000 to each cathedral.

This is his account (sometimes amusing) of St Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle.

Surprised on entering to find no welcoming person and no donation box in prominent position; not that I minded, it's just unusual in the 1990's. A memorial to Admiral Collingwood attracted my attention for I served on a base ship of that name. He was a hero of Trafalgar, surviving that great battle by a few years, dying in 1810, when he was buried in Saint Paul's, London, beside his friend, the never to be forgotten Nelson. Each year on Trafalgar Day a civic ceremony takes place alongside this memorial for Collingwood was baptised and married in this building. We are kept in touch with the sea by the Danish Memorial. This two inch thick black chunk of slate honours Danish seamen who perished during the Second World war in words of their own language.

As in most cathedrals much time and writing space could be devoted to Memorials. Maddison's family is colourfully massive beyond recognition; he was destined for throwing out in 1783 until pleas from the Parish Clerk saved him.

Suddenly music burst out. A group of 15 or so young people formed a circle and sang in a foreign tongue. After about five minutes a verger or some such official asked them what they were doing. "Singing religious music" seemed an obvious enough reply. "You have no appointment". "No, do we need one?" "We are from Germany and just want to praise God for half an hour". "Ok" said the official and left them. They eventually broke circle and moved in small groups to different parts of the cathedral, singing in harmony in a style reminiscent of monks chanting and I enjoyed listening as I wandered.

*(Editor:*

*I'm really enjoying this and already looking forward to next month's. )*

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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 :

Saturday 18th May: 10.00am to 3.00pm in the Eccles Hall, Earsdon





Saturday 22nd June, 7pm in the Eccles Hall



Join us for an exciting Romanian Evening  
in the Eccles Hall  
**on St Alban's Day**  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7:00pm  
with three course fayre and entertainment  
organised and prepared by Dorel & Joanne.  
  
Tickets £10. Quiz and Raffle.  
Bring your own drink

Throughout the summer :

Open Gardens ... this season is almost upon us. Take part in the lovely occasion by opening up your garden to help church funds. Please contact Joan for details.

St Alban's & St John's



Open  
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Tickets £5.00 - contact Joan  
0191 2529239

## Quotations:

### With Trinity Sunday (26th May) to remember ...

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence.

– John Wesley

\*\*\*\*\*

I wouldn't want to mislead you by doing other than saying however easy it would be for me to answer the question you have asked, it is not fair for me to go further than I have. And I would not read too much into that.

– Ian McDonald, Ministry of Defence spokesman 1982



*(I am so glad he cleared that up for me. )*

\*\*\*\*\*

Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories: those that don't work, those that break down and those that get lost.

– Russell Baker

\*\*\*\*\*

---

There are some interesting pieces of news in the LINK newspaper, Including Bishop Helen-Ann marking one year as Bishop of Newcastle.

Also check out pages 10 and 11, where the Bishop's Advisor on the Environment (our very own Revd Tim Mayfield) has written a piece about our precious world.

Unfortunately at St Alban's we have not had the hard copies of the CofE Newspaper for quite some time. Maybe that's something we can pick up again?

In the meantime, here is the hyperlink to the online version of THE LINK [link-spring-2024-final.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/link-spring-2024-final.pdf)

\*\*\*\*\*

\* From your editor ... \*

\* To all of you who took your paper copy of April's \*

\* magazine only to find it was not stapled, please accept my \*

\* sincere apologies. I didn't realise until I was delivering \*

\* some around Earsdon etc. and I found they were \*

\* disarranging themselves. \*

\* Our super printer/copier machine folds and staples the \*

\* magazines itself, but on this occasion it was only \*

\* pretending to do the stapling, making all the right sounds, \*

\* but it had run out of actual staples. \*

\* Apologies again, and I promise to try harder in future. \*

\* Jean \*

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Weather for the month. Direct From the Captain's Charts.

### **General Synopsis for the North East of England. From – 28/04/24 to 08/05/24.**

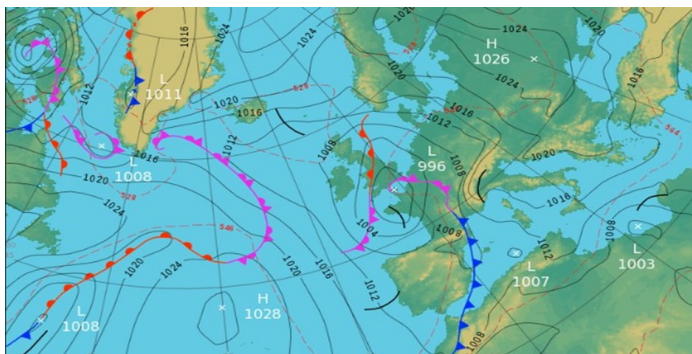
This weekend's rain will probably clear from the east and the northeast of our location to leave a drier day on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>, although the chance of showers and even thunderstorms remain. Cloudier and wetter weather is likely to quickly arrive into the west, and slide east across southern areas early next week, so the majority of the week will be characterised by wetter weather in the south and drier weather in the north with a chance of rain or even thundery showers for a time in the east and along the coast. Temperatures are likely to trend upwards, with the chance of a warm to very warm spell in some southern and eastern parts but sadly not in the North East.

### **A further look ahead from – 09/05/24 to 23/05/24.**

During this period, the chance of unsettled weather is slightly less than usual in the north and about the same as usual further south. Therefore, some spells of wetter weather are likely for all areas, with the driest conditions probably further north.

Temperatures near average although with some cooler interludes possible. It is also worth noting that average temperature rise by around 1C per week at this time of year.

### **The Atlantic Pressure Chart Forecast for Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**



The warm front passing the north east will probably lend itself to transient weather resulting in rain showers. The low pressure (centered in the English Channel) will give rise to a cool northerly light to moderate winds. Eventually turning north westerly. Average temperatures 10 C during the day and 6 C during the night.

# Smile-lines

## Children's exam papers

*The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...*

*What is a nitrate?*

Cheaper than a day rate.

*What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?*

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

*What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?*

Unusual names.

*Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.*

Learning to speak Latin.

*Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.*

Two polar bears. Four seals.

*Assess Fashion House plc's choice to locate its factory near Birmingham. Is Birmingham the right location for this type of business?*

No. People from Birmingham aren't very fashionable.

*How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?*

It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

*Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.*

Mrs Orpheus.

*Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?*

At the bottom.

*What happens during puberty to a boy?*

He says goodbye to his childhood and enters adultery.

# CHURCH VIEWS FOR MAY 2024 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

## Little Sisters of the Poor



*The Chapel at St Joseph's Home*

The Little Sisters of the Poor, part of the Church in Newcastle since 1866, have had to launch an appeal to maintain the highest standards for their residents at St Joseph's on Wesmorland Road.

They recently refurbished, and in some cases re-installed, the lifts for residents and now, for their further safety, they are about to replace the flooring in the main corridors, and update some of the kitchenettes and furnishings. As a visitor I have always been really impressed by the staff as well as the buildings. I'm obviously not alone in that - the parish retiring collections on Good Shepherd Sunday - how appropriate - raised £613.

## Restoring IHM Grounds

Remember summer? Work begins on our beautiful grounds and gardens on 21 May. The cut back and re-shaping of shrubs, trees and our near-hidden grotto will take two or three days.

We can look forward to a brighter summer, and if you want to take a cutting from a favourite to enjoy in your own garden, now is the time.





## River deep, mountain high...



Our Walking Group doesn't do mountains, not even little ones, but in rain soaked April, on some walks the streams did become rivers deep. Where once you could stroll across and not really get your boots wet, last month even wellies wouldn't have been enough. The next walks, each about six miles or so, will be on (drier?) 7th May and 21st May.

## Holy Island Vinnies (SVP) Camp

The SVP Lindisfarne Children's Camp is one of seven in the country - soon to be eight when another opens in Manchester. It has been established now for almost a hundred years and has hosted thousands of child-centred holidays. 'Camp' doesn't really do it justice; the accommodation and catering are much better than that. Supervised holidays for boys and girls in Years 5, 6 and 7 will take place this August at £150 for the week including travel. The SVP can assist those who might struggle to fund it. More information on [holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk](mailto:holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk)



## Well done the Social Committee

The April Cheese, Wine, Quiz and Ukelele Band Night - they couldn't squeeze much more into a title could they? - was a great success, raising £435 towards building a Health Clinic in the developing world. The next event will be the Summer Fair to take place on Sunday 26 May. Help on stalls and in the kitchen would be appreciated. See you there!

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

## Parish Mass Times

St Edward's: Sunday 10.00am, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9.30am

Imaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wednesday, Friday 9.30am

*During the week, coffee and biscuits are served for a chat and catch-up after Masses on Wednesdays at Immaculate Heart and Thursdays at St Edward's.*

## **Erdesdon House**

The story of my dolls' house. By Helen Jackman

### **6 - The Lounge/Music Room**

#### **Lounge/Music Room**

This is another of my favourite rooms where the twins Freddie and Winnie spend their time playing the piano. Their Grandfather also bought them a harp which they are anxious to learn when a bit older.

This is again a lovely big room with a bay window and sea view. Their parrot sits in its cage in the window and is very vocal! The chandelier and wall lights also came from a shop in Covent Garden and the walls are papered in a pretty shade of aquamarine. There's a very nice fire-place with a mirror above and on the mantelpiece 2 China dogs and a clock. On the hearth there's a brass Companion Set and on the side there's a bell pull which I embroidered (together with a footstool) to summon Nora the maid.

There is also a screen to protect you from the heat of the fire. a pretty blue carpet on the floor and the furniture is covered in a gold cloth. The curtains are made to match, and I might add made from one of my 'tops'!

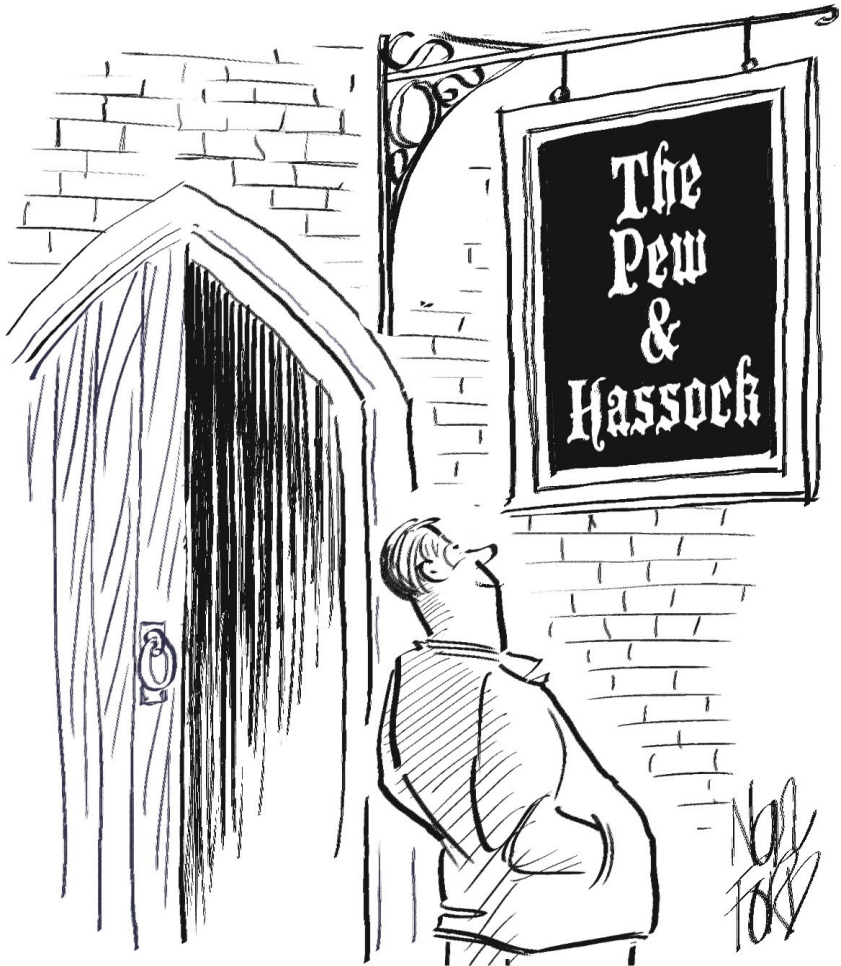
There is a round oak table in the middle of the room with flowers and the usual magazines. The piano came in a kit and was a present from Bill my partner for several years, who assembled it. It's noted for the candelabra which were used when there was no electric light. Nothing to do with this but I well remember my paternal grandparents playing duets well into their eighties!

There are one or two pieces around like the waste bin and a little kitten Terry bought me which I had to look at through a magnifier it was so small. Don't know how people can make these tiny things, it even has whiskers!

At Christmas this is where they have a large tree with fairy lights and hopefully presents! Out through the crystal handled door into the hallway where there is a working Grandfather clock, a hallstand, a container for sticks and umbrellas and a croquet set.

Next time, my favourite room the Dining Room.

Unfortunately we currently have no pictures of Helen's magnificent Dolls' House lounge and music room, but we might include one or two next month, if possible.



Changing the name from St Alban's Church resulted in a big increase in the number of people attending.

## Anna Chaplain Messy Vintage Event

We had a lovely afternoon at our 2nd Messy Vintage at Eccles Hall, the ladies were painting with watercolour pencils, and seemed to enjoy it immensely, here are some photos of the day.

Ali Griffiths.







David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the potential pitfalls of helping others...

### **Supporting people in trouble**

Brothers and sisters, ...Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. (Galatians 6 1-3)

I am always interfering, in situations where I should not. Sorry, but I do. It is probably because of the job I do, that I want to fix things. Christians naturally want to help others. Churches are loving communities, and we want to do the best for each other.

Sometimes supporting others can be difficult. Some people are easy to help. They know what the problem is and what help they need.

Others are very demanding and always need help. They go from person to person asking for support and do not always follow advice. Then there are those who would never ask for help. They battle on and get exhausted and struggle on their own.

Probably the best helper is the person who can listen and not judge and guide the burdened to find their own answers. Often the person who is best at helping others is the one who has experienced life's ups and downs themselves. We can support others by:

Listening and keeping confidences.

Looking out for someone to make sure they are ok.

Respecting their choices even if we do not agree.

And, best of all, praying to know what to say and when to be quiet.

St Paul reminds us that we should bear each other's burdens, and no-one is expected to carry some things by themselves. The law of Christ that Paul was referring to was the New Commandment Jesus gave... that we love one another.

So, I will carry on trying and sometimes failing to fix things. You never know, I might make things better one day!



### **Christian Aid Week – 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Christian Aid is urging its supporters to “push back against poverty” this Christian Aid Week by bearing in mind the coming General Election.

The charity says that “people hoping to represent us” in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, “vying for our vote”.

Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: “be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick.” And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to “show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected.”

This year the charity has launched the ‘70K Challenge for May’, encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored “Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you.” Details at: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>

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

## Diary Page for May 2024

Thursday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	5th		<b><u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
<b>Thursday</b>	9th	9.30am	<b>Ascension Day</b> Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	12th		<b><u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	16th		No weekday Service.	
Sunday	19th		<b><u>Pentecost</u></b>	
			Holy Communion	St John's
			Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	26th		<b><u>Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	30th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	2nd <b>June</b>		<b><u>First after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for May 2024 :

**5th**

John 15. 9-17

**12th**

John 17.6-19

**19th**

Acts 1.4-8 ; 2.1-4

**26th**

John 3.1-17

**2nd June**

Mark 2.23 – 3.6



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

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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 29th May. Thank you.

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All in the month of May.

It was ...

200 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1824 that the first performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.

150 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1874 that Howard Carter, British archaeologist and Egyptologist, was born. He discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922.

100 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1924 that the British children's writer E. Nesbit (Edith Nesbit) died. Best known for *The Railway Children*.

90 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1934 that the British composer, Gustav Holst, died. Best known for *The Planets*.

70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1954 that Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes (3 minutes, 59.4 seconds), in Oxford.

Also 70 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1954 that Bill Haley & His Comets released the song *Rock Around the Clock*. It brought rock and roll into the mainstream and is regarded as one of the most important records in music history.

Also 70 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May

1954 that Diane Leather became the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes (4 minutes, 59.6 seconds), in Birmingham.

50 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1974 that Duke Ellington, American jazz pianist, composer, and big-band leader, died. Regarded as the greatest jazz composer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

40 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1984 that Prince Charles described a proposed extension to the National Gallery in London as a 'monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend'. (The design was scrapped, but his comment sparked controversy over the Royal Family's role.).

Also 40 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1984 that John Betjeman, British poet, writer, and broadcaster died. He was Poet Laureate 1972-1984.

30 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1994 that the Channel Tunnel linking England and France was officially opened.

Also 30 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1994 that Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president, after more than 300 years of white rule.

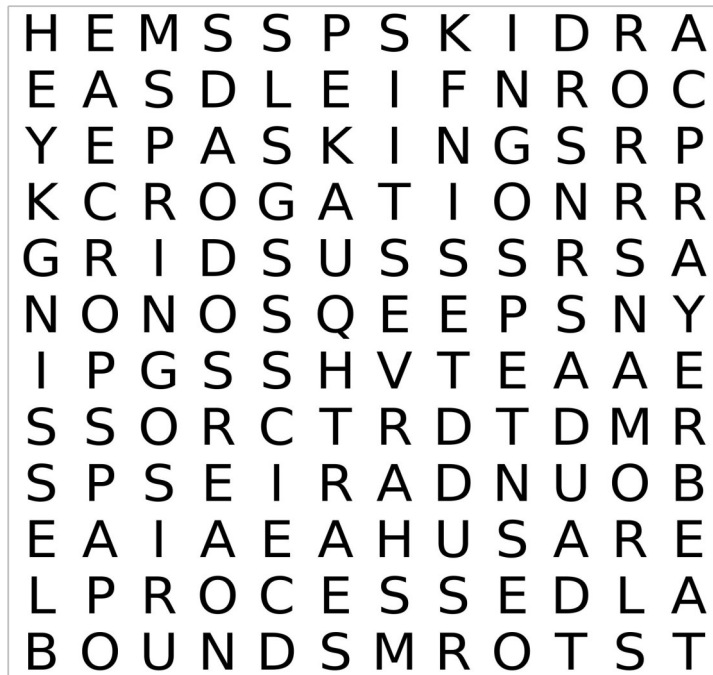
20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004 that the world's first stem cell bank opened at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control in Potter's Bar, Hertfordshire.

# WORDSEARCH

## May 2023

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



## Church Contacts

### 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 :

#### *Parish Priest*

Mgr. Andrew Faley

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