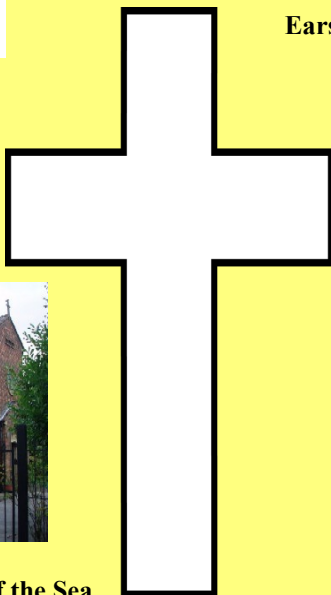




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**November
2023**

£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

November 2023

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: I love language. I love the English language, and I love the languages I've had the chance to learn in my life so far. I was pretty good at speaking French during my early twenties, but I've lost a lot of it now – although I reckon it would come back if you dropped me in a French-only environment for a couple of weeks. On our family holiday to Rome this August, I relished using a bit of Italian I'd learnt many years ago, proclaiming to our taxi driver “fa caldo!” (it's hot) to which he replied “fa caldissimo!” (it's really hot!). Only then did I realise that our conversation couldn't really go much further, because that was more or less the extent to which my Italian stretched. But I'd enjoyed that very small exchange.

I've also said before that I love St Mark's gospel, for its simplicity and its lack of unnecessary wordiness. I like the fact that the words in Mark's gospel are clear and easy to understand, and the sentence structures are uncomplicated. In Mark's gospel, every word counts. Nothing is there as padding or floweriness.

In contrast, I'm not a fan of old-fashioned, over-the-top language in worship. People sometimes think you should talk to God in the 16th and 17th Century language of the Book of Common Prayer*. But this is ignoring the fact that language changes over time, and that the words which were written more than 350 years ago don't necessarily have the same meaning nowadays. We no longer talk like Shakespeare did, so why should we talk to God - who is timeless - in the way Shakespeare wrote his plays? I always inwardly chuckle when confronted with some of the words of the Book of Common Prayer. In the General Confession in the Evensong service, participants say: “There is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders.” Even in these two short sentences, there are three words which nowadays have different meanings from when they were written: “health”, “miserable” and “offenders”. God knows we live in 2023 and that our experience of life is from the 20th and 21st centuries; he doesn't think we live in the year 1662.

I think it's important that our church services use modern language which is understandable to the average person. I'm not advocating 'text speak', or the complete dumbing-down of the language we use, but merely that the words and phrases we use in church should be comprehensible to someone walking into church off the street. There's no point in doing church if it only appeals to those who know the outdated jargon. Let's make church welcoming and accessible to those who know very little of its linguistic history.

*The *Book of Common Prayer* is a compilation of worship services used in the Church of England. It was first published in 1549, and the wording of it hasn't been revised since 1662. There are currently two newer service books used by the C of E – the *Alternative Service Book* (1980) and *Common Worship* (2000).

Gillian France

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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 JOHN'S CHURCH
AUTUMN FAYRE
BACKWORTH SOCIAL CLUB
NOVEMBER 4TH 2023
12:00 - 4:00

LOTS OF STALLS, INCLUDING, TOMBOLA, BRIC A BRAC,
WHITE ELEPHANT, CAKE STALL & RAFFLE

SO COME ALONG AND SEE US AT BACKWORTH CLUB
STATION ROAD, BACKWORTH, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
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LOTS OF PARKING, AND THERE'S A CAFÉ WHICH SERVES
HOT FOOD AND DRINKS ALL DAY!



Saturday November 4th at 7.00pm in the Eccles Hall

Taskmaster Evening and Supper.

Something a little different. A fun night with easy tasks for everybody to have a go at. Tickets £10, which includes supper and tea or coffee. Raffle. Please put your name on the list in teams of 3 or 6. Bring your own drink.

Cancelled



Remembering
loved ones

St Alban's,
Earsdon

Wednesday
November
1st, 7.30pm

We will remember by name
anyone you would like us to
remember, lighting them a candle
as we do. Contact
Revd Tim Mayfield 07414 601351 if
there's someone you'd like us to
remember in this way.

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BITS ‘N’ PIECES

It was...

100 years ago, on 11th Nov 1923 that the eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris was lit. It was the first modern-day eternal flame in Europe.

80 years ago, from 28th Nov to 1st Dec 1943 that the Tehran Conference in Iran was held. US President Franklin D Roosevelt, British Prime minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin met to discuss plans for a second front against Nazi Germany. This led to the D-Day assault on Normandy and the Allied invasion of occupied Europe, starting in June 1944.

75 years ago, on 4th Nov 1948 that American-born British poet and playwright T S Eliot won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Also 75 years ago, on 14th Nov 1948 that Charles, King of England, was born.

60 years ago, on 22nd Nov 1963 that US President John F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas by suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald.

Also 60 years ago, on 22nd Nov 1963 that CS Lewis, Irish-born British novelist, literary critic and academic, died. Best known for this book on Christian apologetics, and the Chronicles of Narnia.

Also 60 years ago, on 23rd Nov 1963 that the first episode of the science fiction TV series Doctor Who was broadcast in the UK. It is the longest-running and most successful science fiction TV series in the world.

50 years ago, on 13th Nov 1973 that Britain declared a state of emergency as a strike

by coal miners caused supplies to dwindle. A 3-Day Week was introduced to conserve supplies.

40 years ago, on 14th Nov 1983 that British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine announced that the first American Cruise missiles had arrived at Greenham Common airbase.

30 years ago, on 1st Nov 1993 that the Maastricht Treaty came into effect, establishing the European Union. (EU).

20 years ago, on 22nd Nov 2003 that England won the Rugby World Cup for the first time.

15 years ago, on 14th – 15th Nov 2008 that the first G20 Summit was held in Washington DC. It was established as a result of the 2008 financial crisis.



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Smile-lines

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and it seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

A man had the courage - but not always the skills - to tackle any home-repair project. For example, his garage was littered with the pieces of a lawn mower he had tried to fix. One day his wife found him in the living room, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "I can't get this thing to cooperate!" he exclaimed.

His wife replied, "Why don't you just drag it out to the garage and show it what happened to the lawn mower?"

Notice on an order of service: The service will close with 'Little Drops of Water'. Mr Brown will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will then join in.

Underneath a street sign 'St Matthew's Close', someone had added: 'Well, I can't see him.'

Ban sliced cheese. Make Britain grate again.



CHURCH VIEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Remembrance



In November we remember those in our parish and community who gave their lives while serving in the armed forces.

The 1914-18 memorial panel in St Edward's Church has seventeen names, while that for 1939-45 has nine, one of them a woman. The Great War panel also commemorates the dead of the 103rd (Tyneside Irish) Infantry

Brigade, the four battalions of which were

formed in January 1915. On 1 July 1916, 3000 men of the Brigade opened the Battle of the Somme from Albert, piped over the top to 'The Minstrel Boy'. By the end of the day, only 830 of them survived unscathed. The Brigade's war pipes were recovered from the battlefield by one of the wounded, the Brigade Chaplain, Fr George McBrearty, who was to be wounded a second time a week before the Armistice. As units were disbanded in 1919, he gave the pipes to William Robinson, a Durham Light Infantry survivor at Our Lady and St Thomas in Willington. The family emigrated to the United States in 1927 and the pipes went with them, heeding Fr McBrearty's plea that they 'always stay in the family'.

The pipes remained with the family in New York, unplayed until William's grandson, Vincent Robinson, became interested in piping - they were finally recovered from his Aunt Moira's loft. He had them restored and played them proudly in several St Patrick's Day parades in New York.

He was delighted to be invited to St Mary's Cathedral in September 2003 to pipe in the restored Colour of the 27th Btn Northumberland Fusiliers (4th Tyneside Irish) once more

playing 'The Minstrel Boy' on the same pipes that had skirled it on that first day on the Somme. The restored Colour was then rededicated by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. *(Canon McBrearty died in 1954, while Chaplain to the Convent of La Sagesse)*



Forces Chaplains

The parish was blessed with the presence, in retirement at Immaculate Heart of Mary church, of two priests who had served some of their priesthood as chaplains; Fr Tom Cunningham (RAF) and Fr Joe Marron (Royal Navy). We remember them with great affection, and with lasting respect for their contribution to parish life in their 'retirement'.

The Synod and Christian Unity

Brother Matthew (formerly Andrew Thorpe) is the first Anglican to be appointed Prior of the ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in France, which organised a prayer vigil in St Peter's Square on 30 September, prior to the Synod's formal opening on 4 October. Brother Matthew has said that "synodality and ecumenism go hand in hand" and that while Christians have got used to walking on "parallel paths", he hopes that the synod will find "creative ways" to bring different Christian traditions closer together.

Music for Gaudete Sunday

I can hear you saying Advent is a long way away, but the First Sunday of Advent is on 3rd December, and Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday.



Gaudete means *Rejoice*, and it used to be a single Sunday relaxation in the very austere forty day Lent-like Advent of the mediaeval Church, hence the pink candle among the purple candles in advent wreaths. One of the first references to it is in a letter of St Nicholas – yes, that St Nicholas.

This year a new Mass music setting is available, commissioned by the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust and available for use in all parishes across our diocese. It comes with a range of musical resources, including backing tracks for those parishes without musicians, but also with both a melody and 3-part choir arrangement for the more musically endowed. An afternoon workshop with composer Will Todd will be held on Sunday 12 November at St Joseph's Catholic Academy (Main Hall), Mill Lane, Hebburn, NE31 2ET from 2.30 to 4.30pm. This is a free event open to all within the diocese, but registration is necessary. It will consist of a learning session followed by a chance to meet/socialise with musicians from other parishes across the diocese.

Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish Mass Times:

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

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wed and Friday 9.30am

A message from Liz (St Alban's) and her daughter Katie:

On September 24th, the family and friends of Benjamin Arthur Forrest (Benji) had the great pleasure of celebrating his baptism at St Alban's. Our grateful thanks to Rev'd Tim for such a joyful and personal service, to Ali for his support in welcoming our guests and ensuring that everything ran smoothly (as always!) and to Judith and Pat for providing the lovely flower arrangements. Many of our guests commented on the beauty of our church and on the warm welcome they experienced - and all said how much they enjoyed the service. A lovely Christening day making lasting memories; thank you St Alban's!

Katie Forrest and Liz Rogerson







Why a Netty Project?

Our church is 180 Years old and still does not have any toilets. The need to bring our church into the 21st Century is obvious.

What are we doing?

We plan to create a level entrance to the church with a gentle ramp. An accessible toilet will be added in the old boiler room, which is not used currently. Access will be via a new door through the wall next to the tower stairs. A second toilet will be added under the stairs. The entrance to the church is to be opened up and a kitchen installed on one side of the entrance under the balcony and a media room and office on the other side. To allow space in front of the kitchen and media room three rows of pews will be removed and reinstalled in the gallery.

What will it cost?

The current cost estimate is £209,000 based on the detailed specification produced by our architect. We are in the process of approaching a number of builders to get actual quotes for the work.

When will we start?

We need to get grants in place and this will take up to 6 months. We also need to raise more money by significant fund raising over the next 6 months. The planned start date is early summer 2024 with a build time of 4 or 5 months. All being well, we will be up and running in November 2024 well before Christmas.

How are we going to pay for it?

Currently in the bank in 'restricted' funds, we have £65,585.67. We have already received a small grant from 'W Spooner Trust' for £500.00. The grant team currently applying for large grants for £50,000 each and a number of slightly smaller grants. Combined we forecast this could give us a further £100,000.

This would leave a shortfall of around £45,000, which we will need to raise by fund raising. We need to create a '**Netty Fundraising Team**' to organise a Grand Raffle, social media campaign, identify sponsors and other fund raising activities.

How you can help

There are many ways **YOU** can help. Join our Fundraising Team, just contact Rob Swindells for details (rob@no-81.co.uk or 07971775498) Anyone can help and the more people involved the easier it will be. Even if you are new to our Church, you are more than welcome to help.

Donate money

You can help by making a donation by bank transfer to:-
'The parochial church council of St Albans Earsdon building fund'
Sort code : 20-62-09

Account No: 10727628

Reference : NETTY PROJECT

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Use link

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9b9fa29c-38f0-47ea-9c4b-873953778336>



Or scan QR code

Earsdon Methodists

November 2023

BONFIRES

November is the season for bonfires. When I was a lad (I know, I know that was many decades ago) old wood, cardboard and in fact anything that would burn was collected by lots of youngsters my age and either assembled in a group bonfire or else heaped in individual gardens. Our house was on a corner plot, so our big garden was ideal to have a bonfire in the middle.

On the 5th a few potatoes were thrown into the middle of the structure before my Dad applied a match to it.. Mind you after he had set off the fireworks and the flames had died down considerably, the potatoes were always burnt to cinders! Oh, the joy of watching the flames - and even having my clothes smelling of smoke and having to have a bath afterwards was all part of the experience.

Sadly, our current garden – and local restrictions, now make it impossible to have a bonfire. However, I remember in our previous house we had a huge garden and I made quite a few bonfires there.

For the last one I made, I gathered old, outdated papers and documents, and merrily set about burning old minutes; old agendas; and even old sermons that I had not looked at for many years - they were pretty awful in their day and had certainly not improved with age. But one group of papers that I found it hard to burn were sermons of my Dad, who had been a Methodist Local Preacher for well over 40 years before his death. They hovered on the edge of the fire for a long time before they went into the flames.

I reasoned that whilst they were special to him; and the congregations he addressed, they were of their time and I would not read them again, nor use them. However, I did sentimentally keep one of his books of notes, which included a sermon that I remembered particularly well.

I thought that I would regret this drastic action – but not so. I'm glad I did it, and I feel sure Dad would approve.

Everything has its day.

We can cling too much to the past.

New wine needs new containers.

The past has made us what we are; but it is what we do and say today that makes all the difference.

Wes Blakey



St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for November 2023

Thursday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	5th		<u>4th Sunday Before Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	8th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	12th		<u>3rd Sunday Before Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Act of Remembrance	St Alban's
Thursday	16th		No service at St John's today.	
Sunday	19th		<u>2nd Sunday Before Advent</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	26th		<u>Christ the King</u>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	30th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's

 * 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. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for November 2023:

5th

Matthew 24. 1-14

12th

(act of Remembrance)

19th

Matthew 25. 14-30

26th

Matthew 25. 31-end

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(Apologies - the website is under construction at the moment.)

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (December) will need to be in before Wednesday 22nd November 2023. Thank you, *Jean*.

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Remembrance

Sunday: Nov 12th



Gather in St Alban's Church at 10.30am, before we all process to Earsdon War Memorial. Or gather at the War Memorial itself for 10.45am. The Act of Remembrance will focus on the two minutes' silence at 11am. Contact...

Rev'd Tim Mayfield 07414 601351

tim.mayfield@btinternet.com

WORDSEARCH

This month, on 30th November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus. St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. ‘We have found the Messiah!’, he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself. Andrew’s Connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Scotland
disciples
Jesus
Andrew
honoured
Peter
Nathanael
Bartholomew
Messiah
Saviour
saint
Patras
Achaia
Eighth
remains
translation
love
Fife
pilgrimage
tenth
pious
patron
introducing
place



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Email whitleybaystedward@rcdn.org.uk

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