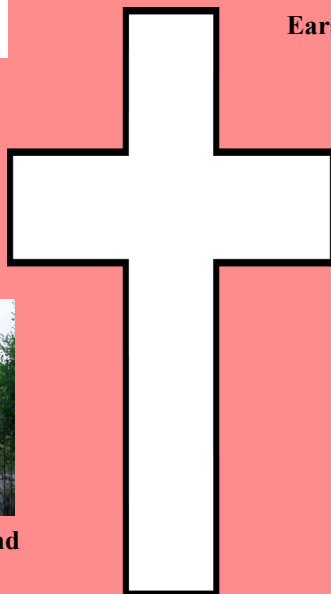




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**September
2020**

£1.00



Our Lady & St. Edmund



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

September 2020

Dear All,

Continuing our good wishes to sisters and brothers at Immaculate Heart and Earsdon Methodist, let me continue the COVID story from a St Alban's/St John's perspective. One of the lovely things about the current restrictions is that it has led to more of a feeling that we are 'one benefice with two worship centres'. I sincerely hope that this will increasingly be the case.

A trawl through the diary since I last wrote throws up first of all the licensing of my successor in Cheltenham. Revd Simon Heron officially became vicar of Christ Church on Thursday July 23rd, at a socially-distanced service in the church. Please pray for Simon, and for the people of Christ Church, in this unusual new beginning.

On Monday July 27th, a team of volunteer stewards met in St Alban's. Their task was to think through a safe way of getting a larger group of people in and out of the church building. This proved to be a memorable experience of shared problem-solving. The number of stewards we felt we needed grew and grew as the conversation went on. We ended up with a team of six – one to welcome people at the back of the queue outside, and one to hold people at the front of the queue until it was safe to go in. One in the porch checking our names for Test and Trace purposes, and one at the very back of church to send people alternately down the South and North Aisles. And one in in the South and North aisles guiding people to their place as we filled up from the front.

The following evening, Tuesday July 28th, Rob, Pat, Gil and I met on Zoom with Michelle Egan. Michelle is preparing to open a Playgroup in the Eccles Hall and was readying herself for an Open Day on Saturday August 1st. Rob, Gil and Pat have worked hard in the Hall making it COVID-safe and we are very grateful.

Sunday August 2nd saw our last Sunday Zoom worship [for now]. This had been a quite remarkable period: seventeen consecutive Sundays of online worship. It is quite sobering to think where we would have been without the technology that enabled this delightful thing to happen.

At that last Sunday Zooming, Sue and I had our bags packed for a lovely refreshing holiday in beautiful Northumberland. Why, we might ask, would anyone choose to go anywhere else? This was something else unprecedented, in that I had not had a Sunday off since February 23rd. It did feel right, though, to stay at my post through the initial phase of the pandemic, and I wouldn't have missed the Zoom worshipping for anything. I am grateful [again] to Revd Janet Appleby, this time for covering for me on Sunday August 9th.

I returned from holiday to a helpful email from Janet. She explained that the advice about face coverings had changed. I took a couple of Sundays where it was mandatory for everyone, including the minister, to wear a mask. I really struggled with this. My glasses misted up and I had to pretend I could see the congregation. At times I could barely see the text I was meant to be reading. I was glad to read in Janet's email that the advice had changed again. Now, it was mandatory for the congregation to wear a face covering, but those leading from the front [if properly socially distanced] were exempt. This is to do with effective levels of communication, and for the benefit of those who rely on lip-reading.

Back from holiday, and to a cleaning party in St Alban's on Thursday August 13th. I'm very grateful to those who came and worked to make sure that the building was safe to open on Sunday August 16th. This was the first public Sunday worship in St Alban's since March 15th. I'm delighted to record that it felt as if everything went very well. We're grateful to that first, historic, team of stewards: Cathryn Richardson greeted people as they joined the queue; Dianne Morgan told them when it was safe to go inside; Pam Tomlinson checked off our names [and, another first in my experience, came to tell me at 9.58 that all the expected congregation was present]; Jo McEvedy directed people alternately to South and North Aisles; and in those aisles, Barbara Rhoades and Joan Armstrong directed people to their seats. It went so smoothly that Joan later emailed to say it felt like we had always done it that way.

But of course there were difficulties. People struggled wearing a face mask for just under an hour. And [another first] we ended up over-booked by six. Cathryn had the sad task of turning one young couple away – though when I phoned them later they were very gracious and said how good it was to see the church in demand.

We reflected especially on the ‘full up’ nature of the occasion, and will learn from it. We won’t for example know if there are any remaining safe seats until that particular configuration of congregation has taken their seats. From the pulpit it looked as though there were three spaces left on that first Sunday. So our young couple could have been invited to wait and see if there was a place for them. All of this is totally, totally unprecedented in my experience, and I was ordained over thirty years ago.

As I write, I’ve just come in from setting up the church ready for worship on Sunday August 23rd. Including some seating in the gallery, we’ve been able to increase our safe capacity from 48 to 58. We wait to see if all 58 places are taken, and if we’re over-subscribed again. If we are, there’s always the thought of a second sitting...

Go well into your September as we continue to long for a vaccine, and for an end to all of this. The title of the service on Sunday August 23rd is ‘wait in hope’. I shall need to practice what I preach.

Yours with love,

Tim Mayfield.

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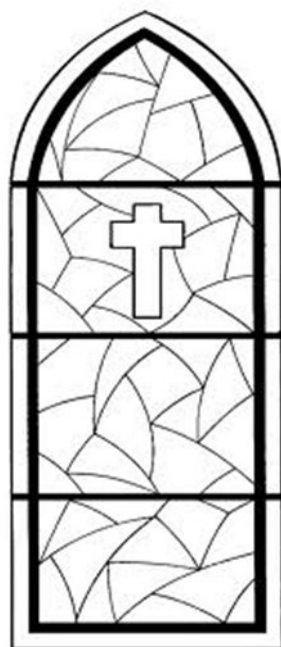
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship, but unfortunately these have had to be suspended during the Corona Virus restrictions.

St Alban's first Sunday morning worship since 'lockdown' was a very interesting occasion, being so different from previous Sundays. This was the morning of 16th August 2020. There were only 48 of us allowed in, to comply with social distancing, and we all had to wear masks. Every other row of pews was ribboned off and members of the congregation were directed and looked after very efficiently by a team of six stewards. There was hand-sanitising, no choir, no singing, no mingling afterwards, but it was a real joy to be back in church again.

Thankfully, we did have the benefit of our regular organist to play the hymns for us.

Congratulations to everyone involved in helping this service to run so smoothly!

The pictures on the next page show the north aisle and south aisle fully attended as much as allowed under the Covid rules.

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

North Aisle



South Aisle



‘Short Stories’ – a found poem

1 A growing seed

Nothing and nobody
is too insignificant to make a difference.
Even the smallest things can support things:
we are here to plant small seeds.

A surprising mysteriousness –
life grows.
It’s about nothing that we do:
birds come.

We’re all birds, so
perch on the love and beauty of it.

The power of creation –
a sustainable and powerful life.
Life grows.

2 Yeasty transformations

She’s sharing her prayers:
it takes patience and time.

All the way through.
The yeast works all through us.
The kingdom is not some other place –
it’s all through us.

One needs the other –
the yeast and the dough.

Some sourdough starters are centuries old,
but you’ve got to keep feeding it.

Nurture.
Trust.
Transform.
Beautiful.
Plentiful.
It’s all through us.

3 Beautiful things

It's so beautiful –
it's treasure.

For one it's a sudden surprise,
for the other a lifetime's quest.

No pearl is finer,
or more beautiful,
than the kingdom.

Is he sneaky?
He wants to keep it for himself.
He doesn't pay what the field is worth.

But he really wants to possess it:
it's worth staking everything.
Don't miss out.

Zoom worship
26.7.2020

A “found poem” is made from using words and phrases from one place, and reforming them into a different arrangement. This found poem originates from the thoughts and feelings voiced during specific discussion points during our Zoom service on 26th July 2020. One reading concerned the story of the mustard seed, which grew into a tree, where birds could perch. Another reading related to the woman who took yeast, and worked it through dough. The third verse comes from “... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” Tim took down all of the responses given at the discussions, and very cleverly wove them into this “found poem”.

BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

400 years ago, on 6th September 1620, that 102 English Puritans (now known as the Pilgrims) set sail aboard the Mayflower from Plymouth, for a new life in America. After a perilous journey they landed in what is now Provincetown Harbour, Cape Cod, Massachusetts on 11th November. They had intended landing in Virginia, but were unable to reach it because of heavy seas.

125 years ago, on 28th September 1895 that Louis Pasteur died. This French biologist, microbiologist and chemist was one of the main founders of the field of medical microbiology. Best known for originating the pasteurization of foodstuffs to eliminate micro-organisms that cause disease. Pasteur saved the French beer, wine and silk industries and

developed vaccines against anthrax and rabies.

50 years ago, on 19th September 1970 that the first Glastonbury Festival was held, at Worthy Farm near Pilton, Somerset. About 1,500 people attended (compared to 135,000 today). It became an annual event from 1981 and is now the world's largest greenfield festival. The first festival was billed as the Pilton Pop, Blues & Folk Festival.

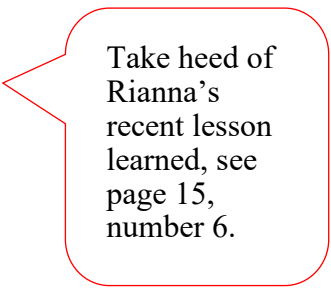
40 years ago, on 22nd September 1980 that the Solidarity movement was created in Poland, with Lech Walesa as its leader. It was the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc.

25 years ago, on 3rd September 1995 that the auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb).

20 years ago, on 17th

September 2000 that Paula Yates, TV presenter (*The Tube*, *The Big Breakfast*) died of a heroin overdose, aged 41. Wife of the musician Bob Geldof, she was also noted for her relationship with the musician Michael Hutchence. She was the daughter of Hughie Green, host of the talent show *Opportunity Knocks*, though she did not discover this until late in life.

15 years ago, on 24th September 2005 that the IRA decommissioned its last remaining weapons in front of independent inspectors.



Take heed of Rianna's recent lesson learned, see page 15, number 6.



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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 Tamzin, Rianna and Ellise, from St. Alban’s church.

1) Where were you born?

We were all born at North Tyneside General Hospital.

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

Tamzin – see friends and do homework.

Rianna – I watch YouTube.

Ellise – I play outside or see my friends.

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

Tamzin - I enjoy editing videos.

Rianna - I'm a good cook, I make a great curry!

Ellise - I like rugby.

4) What’s your favourite book/film/TV programme?

Tamzin - fave book: Girls Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson.

Fave programme: Ambulance and Riverdale on Netflix.

Fave film: Kissing Booth 2.

Rianna - fave book: don't have one. Fave film: IT chapter 1 and 2. Fave programme: I don't really watch TV, I like Spongebob Square pants.

Ellise - fave book: Private Peaceful. Fave film: I don't really watch films that much. Fave programme: Alexa and Katie on Netflix.

5) What’s your least favourite food?

Tamzin - Olives.

Rianna - Mushrooms.

Ellise - Parsnips.

6) Tell us something you've learnt recently

Tamzin – That France has twelve different timezones.
Rianna - Never to buy anything off eBay.
Ellise - I've learned different senses in plants.

7) Tell us about somewhere interesting you've visited

Tamzin - Haven't been anywhere interesting recently due to the pandemic, but last year we visited Whitby Mill and it was interesting.
Rianna - Yorkshire.
Ellise - I loved visiting Edinburgh Zoo and seeing all the animals.

8) Tell us something that's on your bucket list

Tamzin - To see either Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson or Niall Horan in concert.
Rianna - To skydive.
Ellise - To go ice skating.

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

Tamzin – Watching YouTube or having sleepovers with my friends.
Rianna – Probably eating, sleeping or watching YouTube.
Ellise – Watching James Corden on YouTube.

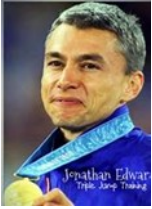
10) Sum up what being a Christian/being part of the church family means to you

Tamzin - Getting involved with the community.
Rianna - I like getting involved in the children's activities.
Ellise - I like being a server.

* 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**. *

CHURCH VIEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

Jonathan Edwards at Immaculate Heart of Mary



When Jonathan Edwards broke the World Record for the Triple Jump twice in the same afternoon in Gothenburg in August 1995 he did not expect it to stand for the next 25 years. Always modest about the achievement, he was obviously surprised when that December he was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

Some years later, he agreed to become Patron of Churches Acting Together which organised several projects in Whitley Bay to address youth homelessness. CAT provided residential accommodation where young people were taught skills to enable them to live independently and a rented-accommodation scheme which offered guarantees to landlords and support for young tenants in independent lettings. It was so successful that it was awarded the Whitley Bay Town Cup. Many of those projects continue under the auspices of De Paul UK based in Oxford Street in the town.

In December 2001 Jonathan attended the Immaculate Heart of Mary Carol Service held that year as joint parish celebration and CAT fund-raiser. After the Service, the congregation was shown the length of his World Record jump when a tape was produced to measure the distance inside the church. It stretched from the back wall behind the altar into the entrance hallway - 18.43 metres (60ft 51/2 inches) .



Always approachable, Jonathan was happy to chat and sign autographs, and he enjoyed this picture with some of the youngsters who attended, now all in their twenties. He has changed remarkably little in the subsequent nineteen years, particularly in his attitude to fame. Interviewed immediately after his World Record, he said he didn't recognise the man being praised to the skies by the presenter. "I'm just Jonathan", he said.

Walking in Bigger Bubbles



After a successful re-start, the Parish Walking Group continued its programme through August. The group divided into three bubbles and each enjoyed a walk led by Peter Weighill. Since then, the permissible group size for walkers has increased from six to thirty, so in September a single larger group will revert to walking twice a month, maintaining social distancing and still

avoiding the use of shared vehicles.

St Edward's Masses

A welcome sign of a slow return to something approaching normality when St Edward's re-opened for Masses was the attendance of five visiting holidaymakers in the first congregation. The church can hold only **60** people and once the number is reached, no one else may enter. Those attending Masses are asked to consider doing so on weekdays rather than at the weekend, to help with numbers. To make sure of a place at the 6.00pm Vigil or 10.00am Sunday Mass, people should phone **07340 169249** on a Thursday: 10.00am - 12.00 Noon, 2.00pm - 4.00pm and 6.00pm - 8.00pm, or on a Friday: 10.00am - 12.00 Noon and 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Everyone will be asked for contact details for 'Track-and-Trace.'

Ushaw Outdoors

Further afield, although the College remains closed, the extensive grounds are open every day. Visitors exploring the grounds and gardens will enjoy the seven 'Outdoor Windows'; stained glass effect artworks commissioned from artist Stuart Langley.



Junior explorers may also enjoy finding the fine wood-carvings of animals like this splendid badger, as well as birds and 'creatures'. Snacks and ice cream are available at the outdoor Bounds Cafe but Afternoon Tea has to be pre-ordered.

During August, open-air entertainment included film screenings and live entertainment, with an afternoon performance of Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel by Whistle Stop Opera. For events like these social distancing is observed and tickets are limited, but family groups of up to five members can be accommodated. Details of future outdoor events may be found on the Ushaw College website, www.ushaw.org

I hope you enjoy, as much as I do, another of these fictional letters from the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

St James the Least of All

On how to survive a weekend away with the young people

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I think your idea for both our Confirmation groups getting together for a weekend away – socially distanced, of course - was excellent and our meeting last week drew most of the plans together. We didn't take any minutes, so let me record the decisions I believe we made.

Since all of us have to sleep far apart at the centre, I am prepared to spend the nights at a local hotel. By chance, I have found that there is a four star one only a few miles away, so I have booked myself in.

As the dining area in the youth centre may be cramped, I am also willing to have dinner each evening at the hotel, thereby creating more space for the rest of you. An additional sadness is that, since breakfast at the hotel is not served until 8am, I will not be able to join you either for your pre-breakfast dip in the nearby stream. It would be grossly unfair to expect you to pack lunch for me, so I will arrange for the hotel to provide me with a picnic hamper for one which I can have while you all enjoy your cheese and pickle sandwiches.

I think it will be an excellent learning experience if you prepare all the teaching sessions yourself, but be assured that I will always be on hand to give the advice of experience. That large armchair near the fire in the common room seems to be the best place for me to sit, so I can keep an eye on proceedings, while I take on the responsibilities for stoking the fire. This reminds me; do make sure that the young people are encouraged to saw enough logs each morning for me to fulfil my obligations.

Naturally, my arthritis will prevent me being able to accompany you on your afternoon hikes, but I will cheerfully park my car wherever you leave the minibus, to provide a second vehicle in case of emergencies. I do not mind in the least waiting all those long hours until you get back; I have already found an attractive tea shop in the village.

I am fully aware that not sleeping or dining at the centre, not being responsible for preparing the teaching, nor being involved on the walks will mean that my contributions will be ever so slightly limited, but these are sacrifices I gladly make in order to give you further experience in your ministerial career.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

It's Marti's 9th birthday (26th August)
So here she is, marking the occasion in style.

Happy birthday Marti!



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Earsdon Methodist Church

Diary for September 2020

Earsdon Methodist Church

Last month our Minister, Rev John Mason, conducted a survey around our congregation as to when they felt it was going to be safe and practical to meet again for public worship. Although naturally we all miss Sunday worship as well as the fellowship of being with each other the consensus was that in our circumstances, it would not be wise to meet at the present time.

Having a small building with limited facilities and a small congregation it would be very difficult to Covid proof our premises, as we recognise that it is not just a matter of sitting 2 metres away from each other.

We will re-assess the situation at end of November /Advent . The problem for everyone is that there is so much uncertainty about how long any restrictions will be necessary; we all recognise the necessity to keep safe and so we patiently wait on future developments.

In the meantime, our North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit have a Sunday Service online which many of us are able to view. This offers us a continuing link with each other as well as helping us to make space on a Sunday for worship and contemplation.

As the hymn writer (Kate Barclay Wilkinson) puts it

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

As I write VJ Day has just been commemorated. Bravery, sacrifice, death and misery have been remembered, and the need to move forward in friendship and co-operation has been stressed. The survivors of the Asian conflict have scars that are always with them, and some will never speak of what they saw and did.

However, I recall a happier story connected to those times which concerns my great Aunt Dot, a lovely lady but who could fly off the handle at a drop of a hat. I remember that she would give to us, the children of the family, her last cough drop – but she'd be pushed around by no-one.

But it's not that so much I remember, but her pearl earrings!

Day and night, she wore these earrings, given to her by Uncle Billy when he returned from the second World War. She would not suffer to take them out, nor did she ever want anyone to buy her other earrings. One day as a young teenager, I plucked up the courage to ask her why she was so peculiar in this respect. I feared she would bite my head off, but instead she sat me down and told me.

When Uncle Billy had brought them back from Burma he had told her how pearl fishing was a very risky business. Divers, attached to a weighted rope went as far as 60 feet down to the sea-bed; scabbled about in the mud and brought oysters back to the surface.

Not every oyster contained a pearl – only the imperfect ones ~ those where a small piece of sand or grit had found its way into the oyster tissues, causing an irritation around which a pearl sac had grown in order to protect the rest of the tissue. Eventually as the layers grew around it a pearl was formed.

When he presented his gift, Uncle Billy told her about the pearl fishermen and added –

“Dot, heaven knows you can be a funny ‘un; but I will always think of you as a pearl and not an irritation.”

Both he and Auntie Dot have been dead a long time now, and I don't know where the earrings went – but they stay in my memory as a permanent encouragement to see that with the right treatment those irritable folks we know can be turned into pearls.

Many thanks to Rev Canon J W Wesley Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for September 2020

Thursday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
Sunday	6th		<u>13th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Wednesday	9th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Sunday	13th		<u>14th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Thursday	17th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
Sunday	20th		<u>15th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Wednesday	23rd	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's
Sunday	27th		<u>16th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St. John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Alban's

There is no *new* copy of our diocesan newspaper, THE LINK” this month, because last month’s newspaper covered both August and September 2020.

https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/07/Link_AugSep2020-2.pdf

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for September 2020 :

6th

Matthew 18. 15-20

13th

Matthew 18. 21-35

20th

Matthew 20. 1-16

27th

Matthew 21. 23-32





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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (October 2020) will need to be in before Wed 23rd September 2020. Thank you.

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Marti's Musings 78

I wish this weather would improve! It's my 9th birthday and mum has planned a BBQ for me; I suspect it may be indoors. As long as I get some yummy chicken I don't mind how it is cooked!

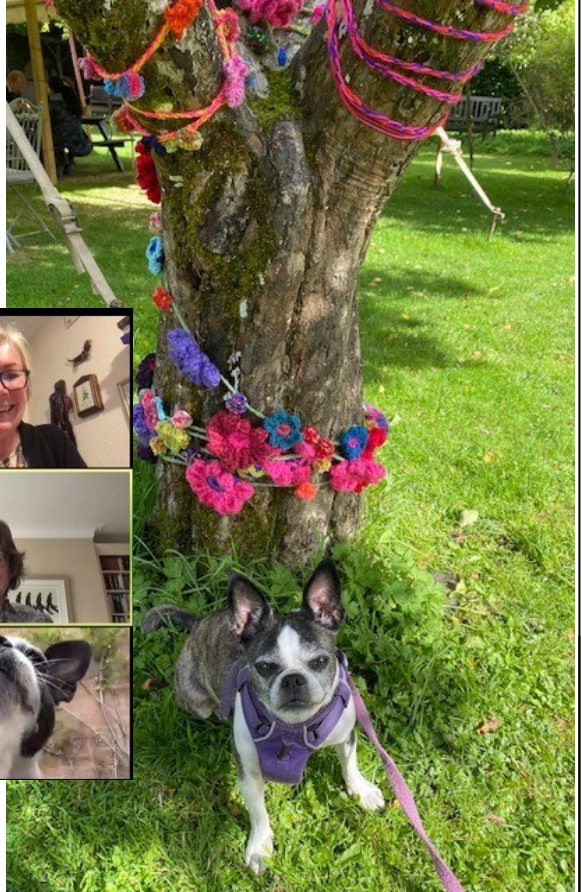
We went to Peebles with grandma for a couple of days and went on a few walks, it was a shame to see most places were still shut and we couldn't get into any Kirks. We had a look at Traquair House and although we couldn't get in the house we did see lots of trees covered in crochet flowers which looked very pretty.

I managed to gate crash the first book club zoom meeting which was fun and I heard lots about *The Offing* which was the first book they all read. The next book is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*; I believe hankies will be needed for that one.

It is so great that Sunday morning services have started again but I am missing the zoom services as I liked saying hello to everyone at the start. Do you think I could sneak into the balcony?

Off to plan my route!

Lots of reading
Marti xxx



(See also page 19 .)

WORDSEARCH

The Church gives thanks for angels in September: the 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.

Thanks
 Angels
 Church
 Feast
 Michael
 All
 Genesis
 Messengers
 God
 Sent
 Intervene
 Garden
 Eden
 Lot
 Gideon
 Balaam
 Mouths
 Lions
 Daniel
 Archangel
 Gabriel
 Mary
 Mother
 Teaming
 Revelation
 danger



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