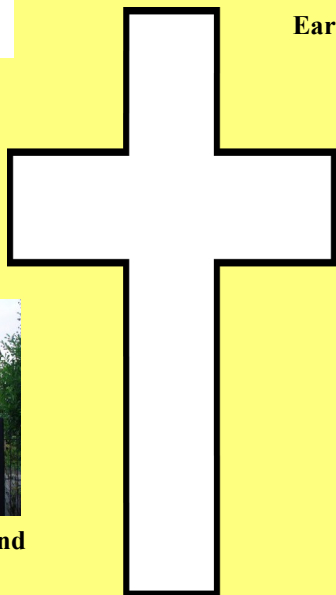




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**November
2020**

£1.00



Our Lady & St. Edmund



St. John's Backworth



Immaculate Heart of Mary

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

November 2020

Dear All,

And so October has ended; the clocks have gone back giving us lighter mornings and darker evenings; the Eve of All Hallows, All Souls Day, that beautiful Christian feast has once more been elbowed into touch by the imported commercialism of Hallowe'en. The summer flowers which so bravely continued to give our gardens their October colour are hanging their heads in the damp mornings.

November is the month of Remembrance, the month of ceremonies and memorials, of poppies, of 'bugles calling from sad shires' the haunting sadness of the Last Post. Once more we pay attention to the war memorials we usually pass without seeing, struck by the long columns of names. Knowing the outcome, we struggle to equate those carved names with laughing young men enlisting so enthusiastically in 1914, the very nature of their local 'Pals' battalions soon to have such catastrophic effects on their small communities. In this 80th anniversary year of the Battle of Britain and the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War we read mercifully fewer added names on those same memorials. But the names of fewer young men and women is still too many, and it is right that we remember them and honour their sacrifice.

In the special Remembrance Services in our churches this month we will also celebrate the lives of those in our parishes who have died in the past twelve months. We will take time to look at the names in our Books of Remembrance, we will look at their pictures on the front of this year's Orders of Service still pinned on our notice-boards and remember them warmly and with affection. Their lives still matter to us; the memories of our absent friends will always be part of us.

But in this month we should try to avoid walking into retrospective lamp-posts by staring backwards instead of seeing where we want to go.

November begins with All Saints Day, a celebration of joy and hope as well as memories. The month moves forward at a steady pace, giving us time to take stock, time to think, to be mindful. Like gardeners we need to know it is not a miserable ending but a time to plan and anticipate. The roots and tubers of the bright perennials have been gathered and stored

away, bulbs are in their protected pots ready to cheer us with their colour next Spring. The japonica is beginning to open its tiny yellow flowers which will become a bright mass on winter days; the snow drop, crocus and daffodil bulbs accidentally uncovered when removing old plants show their first signs of green shoots even now.

In our Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea we are trying to look forward too. In St Edward's we continue to celebrate Mass as we observe the current restrictions, even giving early warning that the church doors will have to remain open during winter services even as temperatures fall away and our glorious beaches become less inviting - *When the North wind doth blow...* wrap up and sit on the south side?

In West Monkseaton, Immaculate Heart of Mary church re-opened in October for baptisms and funerals after a successful risk assessment and deep-clean. A more substantial folding screen was installed in our dual-purpose building to more effectively separate the sanctuary from the main hall on social occasions. This is in anticipation of a return to happier times when we may gather again more freely, an investment in the future.

We are happy that the situation has inspired the parish to overcome problems that a short time ago seemed insurmountable. *Carpe diem* has become *Carpe Zoom*. In October we held a virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning with participants enjoying their own coffee and cakes at home, while sharing the experience. 'Staying-apart-together' sounds like a contradiction, but £540 was donated, mainly online. Well done everyone.

In recent editions, it has been encouraging to read how other parishes are surmounting their particular difficulties, so even in these gloomy times there are glimpses of light. Next month, not very far away really, the true Light of the World will be seen again.

So this November, while we do not forget those friends now forever absent, let's look forward, thanking God for our many blessings, particularly for the neighbours, family and friends who are supporting us with their love and care.

Gerry Latimer
Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

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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 because of the Covid 19 restrictions, these have had to be suspended.

**

Remembrance Sunday: Nov 8th



It is possible this year that we will not be able to hold a public Act of Remembrance at the Earsdon

War Memorial. If you would like to come to St Alban's for our Covid-safe Act of Remembrance in church at 10.00am on November 8th, please contact Revd Tim Mayfield 07414 601351 [booking essential] tim.mayfield@btinternet.com

Sunday 27th September 2020 – a pew-squatter’s view!

I went to St Alban’s 10am service this morning for the first time since March, and although the experience was very different from the way it was 6 months ago, it was also very familiar.

Upon arrival in the church grounds, the congregation of about 50 were welcomed by hosts stationed at strategic intervals between the church gates and the pews, ensuring a warm welcome and a sense of organisation. Masks were compulsory from the moment we entered the outer door, and we had to apply hand sanitiser upon entry to the main body of the church, which gave a comfortable feeling that we were doing the right thing.

After being signed in via register*, we were led to socially-distanced spots in the pews for the duration of the service; the seating had been well thought-out and it felt safe. Service sheets for the current Sunday had been laid out for us in our pew, and we were encouraged to take them home at the end.

A beautiful touch to the service was that we all shared the Peace with one another by using sign language and eye contact rather than physical contact; it was very meaningful in the current times.

Communion was in one kind only (the bread, not the wine) and the whole operation of receiving it was well choreographed to ensure social-distancing.

But for all these differences, it was still “church as we know it”. We were warmly welcomed at the beginning of the service by Tim the vicar, the service contained the usual liturgical responses, we had Biblical readings, we had a sermon, we had organ music, we had hymns (we’re not allowed to sing, but we read the words from a sheet while the organ was playing) and we had prayers. The people of God were gathered in a building as a community to learn together and to worship together, and the spirit of God was there in the words and in the atmosphere, and that is surely what it is all about.

Gillian France.

* To sign up to attend church any Sunday, please contact Tim Mayfield on 07414 601 351. This adheres to the government’s track-and-trace regulations in the event of a local covid-19 outbreak.

A lovely harvest display outside St John's Church at Backworth. I know of at least one farmer who saw the message and appreciated it. Tim.



Thank you Alison Hudspeth and Barbara Golightly !





A little girl attempted the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen."

**

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. One young girl raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbour's wife."

**

People at my workplace have started a funny new tradition where they give names to the food in the office fridge. Today I ate a sandwich called Mark, followed by some cake called Rosie.

**

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

**

Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

**

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

**

He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them. – *James Reston*

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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 Jennifer Lambert, from
St. Alban’s church.

1) Where were you born?

I was born at North Tyneside General Hospital.

2) What do you do during the week?

Since having Sophie, I now work part-time. I spend Mondays and Tuesdays with her doing all sorts and I work as a teacher in a primary school in Newcastle Wednesday – Friday.

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

I am a keen family historian. My parents had always been interested in family history and realised after the death of my great-grandmother when I was 8, that they had lost the opportunity to speak to her more about her memories. They started researching their family trees and I went along with them to record offices and libraries. We’ve travelled all over the UK and made links with family members in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

4) Tell us something you’ve learnt recently.

When I was expecting Sophie, I made my first quilt under my mum’s supervision. My mum is a brilliant at sewing but it was never something that I did. I really enjoyed making my first quilt and have made several since. I’ve always done my sewing with my mum so that she would be on hand to show me what I needed to do. Since I haven’t been able to go round during lockdown, I’ve had to learn to sew a lot more independently!

5) Tell us about somewhere interesting you’ve visited.

I’ve been fortunate enough to have travelled to many places and I’ve found them all interesting in their own way. In 2015 during October half term, I flew over to Montreal to meet Simon, who was at a conference. We hired a car and drove down from Montreal into New England and flew home from Boston. One of the little towns we visited in Massachusetts was called Fall River. It was a slight detour from our route but whilst researching my family history, we discovered an ancestor that

lived between there and Manchester. He married his first wife there and his eldest children were born there. I was really interested to wander around the town wondering if my ancestors had walked the same way as me!

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

Nothing exciting! If we're away in the caravan, I'll be sitting with a glass of wine probably playing a board game or reading a book. If we're at home, I'll be watching Strictly now it's Autumn!

7) Tell me about someone who has had a big influence on your life.

I was lucky enough to have all four grandparents into my adult life and still have Grandma Ann. They've all had a huge influence on my life, particularly Grandpa Jim. When faced with indecision, I often find myself thinking about the conversations we would have had and what advice he would have given me.

8) What is your earliest childhood memory?

I think my earliest memory is sitting on the side of the bath, when I was about 2 and a half, laughing at Grandma Ann. She had managed to super glue her fingers together whilst fixing something and couldn't get them separated.

9) In what ways has everyday life changed for you since Coronavirus put us in lockdown?

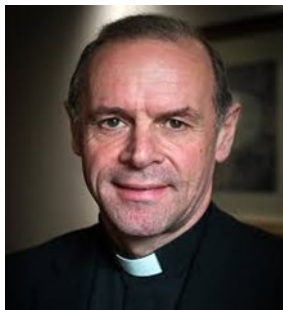
We've been very lucky in the grand scheme of things. Simon and I have both worked throughout albeit under strange circumstances. We've moved house and are now closer to both sets of parents and Sophie's nursery. Unfortunately, under these new restrictions, we can't just pop in to see people anymore, which we really miss doing. Zoom calls are not easy with a toddler but we've managed lots of walks. A particular favourite at the start of lockdown was to walk to Holy Trinity Church, Seghill, which was not far from where we were living. We spent a lot of time in peaceful walks round the churchyard.

10) Tell us something you plan to do when lockdown is fully over.

What I'm most looking forward to is being able to be in the same place as everyone else all at the same time and not worrying about how far apart we are. Just being able to give people a hug again will be wonderful!

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

Rt Rev Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces



Paul Mason was born in North Shields, and he and his family attended Our Lady and St Edmund Church in Backworth. He was educated at St Thomas More High School, later graduating from King's College, London. He studied for the priesthood at the English College in Rome and was ordained in 1998, celebrating one of his first Masses in Our Lady and St Edmund Church.

He was consecrated Bishop in May 2016, and in July 2018 was appointed Bishop of the Forces. He is based at the Cathedral Church of St Michael and St George in Aldershot, but his ministry is worldwide.

In this Month of Remembrance when we honour the sacrifices of past generations of service men and women, it is important to remember those now serving. The Forces Chaplaincy mission is “to provide the very best support for Catholic service men and women and their families and chaplains wherever, whenever and in whatever form it is needed. Additionally, to respond to the needs of anyone of any creed or none, who turns to a Catholic chaplain for support.”

Of his experiences with all three Services, Bishop Mason says, “As Bishop of the Forces I witness on a daily basis the faith and selfless commitment of so many dedicated service men and women whether at work on their home unit in the UK or while serving overseas. The personal sacrifice they make along with the selfless support of their loved ones means we can all be safe”



Looking Back



This month we will remember those in our parish who have died in the past year, and celebrate their lives with a special service.

In this year of anniversaries, 75 years after VE and VJ Day we also remember those who gave their lives in two World Wars.

Looking back more than a century we find incredible the excitement of 1914 and the rush to enlist. Lord Kitchener encouraged ‘Pals’ battalions for the New Army, troops with a common bond, such as the Tyneside Irish and Tyneside Scottish; local office workers even formed the Tyneside Commercials.

After war was declared in August 1914 the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, Richard Collins, encouraged local Catholics to “do their bit” by forming a Tyneside Irish battalion. By that September 600 men had volunteered, rising to 5,500 by January 1915 - enough to form four battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers; the 103rd (Tyneside Irish) Infantry Brigade. 1328 of them were killed, 1100 of them on the Somme.

Fr George McBrearty, the Brigade Chaplain survived being wounded on the Somme, and again shortly before the Armistice. Later, at the close of his ministry Canon McBrearty served as a chaplain again – but more peacefully, to the Convent of La Sagesse in Newcastle. He died in 1952.

And more recently

St Edward’s Church remains open and Mass is celebrated and streamed on weekdays and Sundays. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in West Monkseaton is now open for baptisms and funerals. The Macmillan Coffee Morning zoomed ahead, and the on-screen chat meandered from games the participants had played as children, to most watched TV, and even the best way to make bread. A happy morning with a happy outcome - £540 has been raised and is still climbing.

St Alban's Book Club

An enthusiastic blend of seven readers, who having cautiously “joined up” together to form St Alban's Book Club have now laughed, discussed, happily shared different opinions, and sipped beverages together. (On Zoom.) You'll not be surprised that Marti occasionally joins us, as well as Jo's dogs/puppies sounding/howling softly in agreement. We have a Constitution ... Must read first 100 pages at least !! We are now onto our third book !

Book 1 “The Offing” by Benjamin Myers

The author is first and foremost a poet so parts of the book very much reflect this. The story is set post WW2 in North west Durham and North Yorkshire. It follows the life of Robert who is 16 years old on his travels through this area, whilst he learns much about life. He meets Dulcie, a wonderful character, whom we all felt, if a movie were to be made, Maggie Smith would be perfect casting! The more you read this story the more you enjoy it. It's beautifully written, with descriptions of nature, and situations which will make you laugh or wish you were dining in Dulcie Cottage savouring her home made recipes! Sandy said she kept humming “Blow the Wind Southerly” as she read it !!

Book 2 “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” by Heather Morris

It is a true story about Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew who was sent to Auschwitz in 1942 when he was 24 years old. He survived there for three years. During that time, he became the Tattooist, the Tatowierer, scratching numbers into his fellow prisoners' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

Waiting in line to be tattooed was Gita, a young girl, whom he fell in love with; love at first sight. Their love lasted through their time in Auschwitz and for fifty years afterwards.

It is an amazing story of survival against all the odds, a story of other people who also managed to survive, how they achieved this, and a remarkable insight into the terrible times and conditions in which they existed.

I would certainly recommend this book.
Liz York.

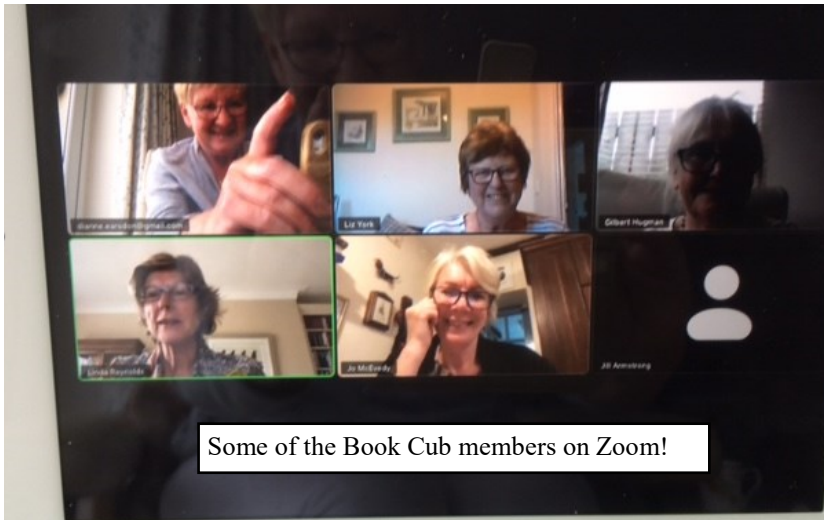
Book 3 “The Salt Path” by Raynor Winn

Chosen by Linda and Sandy.

Yet to be reviewed! ***Breaking news ... Review just in, see page 21 !!***

To any one thinking of starting or joining a Book Club, safe to say “just do it” we all are enjoying sharing our reads! Also if anyone wishes to borrow any books we have read ... think that's safe to do just let me know!

Pleasant reading everyone! Dianne .



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Continued from page 19 ...

St Alban's Book Club

Book 3 "The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn

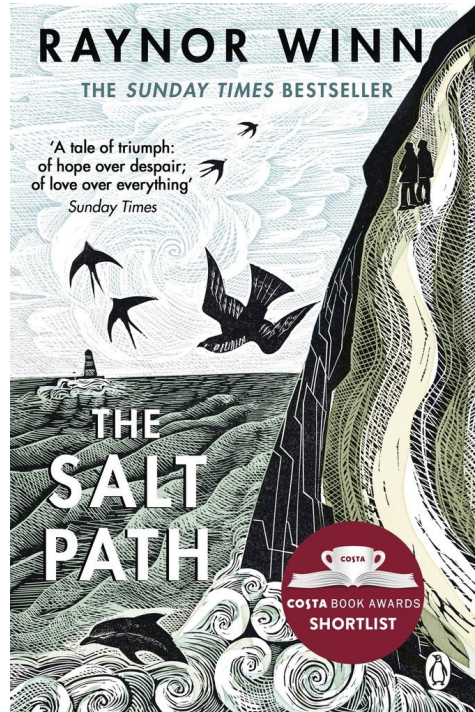
Raynor and Moth's story stayed with me a long time after I had finished the book, not only because of their courage and resilience in the face of adversity but Raynor's illuminating descriptions of the landscape and the people they met on their journey along the coastal path were beautiful. Reconnecting with nature and just being completely absorbed in the moment is something we can all benefit from. The book was also thought provoking on many levels, one of the strongest being the perception of homelessness and the way people living on the margins are treated.

Finally it inspired me to revisit those special places of my own and find again that taste of "the salt on the blackberry".

Linda Reynolds.

Linda and Sandy suggested "The Salt Path".

The group review as a whole varied from 6..... to 10+ , out of 10 !!! But we all liked the book jacket !!!! There's always a positive!



Earsdon Methodist Church

At the October meeting of our (zoom) Church Council, it was decided that it was not possible for us to open up the Church for worship or anything else, at the moment. Sadly, the organization of this and all the requirements that would be needed just defeat our small congregation; added to which nearly all are in the vulnerable category. Whilst we miss this greatly it was felt that it was the only course open to us. This decision will be reviewed at our February Church Council.

We agreed to send a poppy wreath to St Alban's for the Remembrance Service that is to be held indoors. Whilst there is to be no gathering at the Cenotaph this year, this will be one small token of our presence and our remembering the significance of the day.

Members of the congregation who are able, are starting to knit Christmas angels, which will be distributed at places in the area of our Methodist Circuit - at least a small way to promote the Christmas message.

The members continue to keep in touch by telephone, and although this is a poor substitute for not seeing each other, it is at least one way in which we can keep abreast of some of the news of each other. I heard of one such conversation ending with the thought,

When I go to bed, I think of the good things that have come my way, that day and in my life.

When I get up in the morning, I try to think of one good thing I might do or say that day.

And that's how I get through.

Marvellous.

Our daughter and family have just got a puppy called Monty. Currently he is behaving more like Monty Python rather than Field Marshall Montgomery. However, this made me reminisce about some dogs I have known.

Tinkerbelle lived in a home that I used to visit quite regularly. She was a donkey-sized cross-bred Alsatian. Her owners had not expected her to grow so big when as a puppy they put a bell around her neck, so she would not get lost and named her Tinkerbelle. However, as she grew the name stayed, and the owners got used to it. But the name was deceptive, for Tinkerbelle developed a taste for postmen and electricity meter readers. Mercifully she had some respect for the church, though her saliva marks were never easy to sponge off my clothing.

Then there was 'Killer' - who lived with a member of one of my former churches. To be honest, I put off visiting his home as long as I dared, because of this fierce brute. But when I could delay no longer, I took courage in both hands and knocked at Killer's door. As there was no bark, with relief I assumed the dog was out. But when the door opened there he was - seven inches tall on his tip toes - a miniature Yorkshire Terrier who licked you to death given half a chance.

Apparently, everyone had known except me. Some joke!

Names create an image. Sometimes they are not borne out; but often they are. Jesus renamed Simon and called him Peter, the rock on which he would build his church/his community of love.

There may not be many Tinkerbells reading this, but if we believe that those named Christians are intended to live up to the standard of the person after whom they are named, then we certainly have a lot to live up to.

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for November 2020

Sunday	1st		<u>All Saints' Day</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
		6.00pm	Memorial Service (By invitation only)	St Alban's
Wednesday	4th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	8th		<u>Third Sunday Before Advent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Act of Remembrance	St Alban's
Thursday	12th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	15th		<u>Second Sunday Before Advent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Wednesday	18th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Sunday	22nd		<u>Christ The King</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's
Thursday	26th	9.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
Sunday	29th		<u>Advent Sunday</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Eucharist	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Eucharist	St Alban's

Here is the hyperlink to November's copy of our diocesan newspaper, "THE LINK" :

https://cofenewcastle.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Link_November_2020.pdf

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for November 2020 :

1st

Revelations 7:9-end

8th

Matthew 5:1-12

15th

Matthew 25: 14-30

22nd

Matthew 25: 31-end

29th

Mark 13:24-end





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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (December) will need to be in before Wednesday 25th November 2020. Thank you, *Jean*.

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Marti's Musings 80

It is getting a bit chilly of late. I have had to get all my coats out of storage, well, from the bottom of the drawer anyway.

I am having a lovely half term just pootling round the local sights. We went to Northumberlandia but it was raining and I got very muddy paws. Mum wasn't too impressed as she had just cleaned the car and I put paw prints all over the back seat. We are going to Cragside tomorrow so I hope it's not raining again. I think the rhododendrons should be in bloom so I am expecting a pretty walk through.

It is coming up to All Saints Day where we remember all those who are with God. I hope all the funeral families have a blessed service.

I am rather disappointed to not be going out on All Hallows' Eve. I love dressing up and like to laugh at the humans dressing up too.

Don't worry, I will dress up anyway!

Lots of rememberings

Marti xxx



* If you have any suggestions, comments or requests *
* regarding the magazine, or for anyone thinking of *
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* or call **Jean** on **0191 2377273**. *

WORDSEARCH

This month 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. ‘Better Together’ seems to have been his slogan, too! ‘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
Patras
Archaia
eighth
remains
translation
Fife
pilgrimage
tenth
pious
patron
saint
love
introducing
place



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

Reader

Edward Newton, 10 Hesleyside Rd., South Wellfield, Whitley Bay , NE25 9HB

Tel: 2528977

Church wardens

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

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

Tel : 2909967.

PCC Secretary

Vacant

PCC Treasurer

For all treasury enquiries, please contact the vicar.

St. John's Backworth:

Vicar

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

Tel: 07414 601 351

Reader

Edward Newton, 10 Hesleyside Rd., South Wellfield, Whitley Bay NE25 9HB

Tel: 2528977

Assistant Church warden

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

Treasurer

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.

Website: www.stalbansearsdon.co.uk

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