



St. Alban's Earsdon

CHURCH VIEWS



April 2024

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St. John's Backworth



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

April 2024

Canon Paul Hardingham considers what Easter has given us:

The Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God '*has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it '*is kept in heaven for you*' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: '*Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now*'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us '*with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*' (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, '*These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.*' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'

Part one of a delightful article sent in by Ella Heaney, who also wrote the introduction. (Next instalment in May'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.

Guidebooks swiftly dismiss Newcastle cathedral in a cursory paragraph, or at most two, but I had been advised to look at the tower, the most daring piece of architecture in the city.

I suppose the bridges over the River Tyne, all spectacular in their different ways, are not classified as architecture, although surely the 150 years old swing bridge control house must be!

The advice was good, for the tower is unusual with its buttressed top and I gave it a long neck straining stare. Its thirteen weather vanes perched proud as golden eagles on pinnacles, shine gloriously and point with an unflustered waver more or less altogether in the same direction, if not quite with the skill of a synchronized dance team. A splendid sight, flashing gold into a blue sky scape of eternity.

Robert Nunn, a slater, was blinded when he fell from a roof, whereupon he supported his family by writing songs for his fiddle. They became very popular in the first half of the 19th century and one about St Nicholas' Church, which was not a cathedral in those days, includes this verse:-

Oh! That Victoria wad come down,
To see her subjects here,
And view the buildings of our town –
She'd crack o' them, aw'll sweer;
But when she saw wor canny church,
I think how she'd admire,
To see the arch, sprung from each side,
That bears the middle spire.

He also wrote a song about the church tower clock in amusing style, implying it was a moon coaxed down from the sky.

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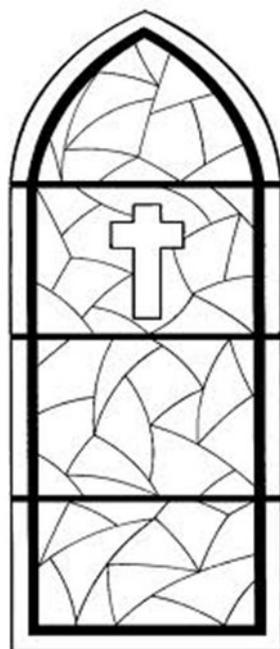
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forthcoming events

The Parish of Earsdon and Backworth organises a number of social events throughout the year to raise funds and encourage fellowship.

St Alban's :

Open Gardens season is approaching again. Take part in this lovely social occasion by opening up your garden for church funds! Please contact Joan A for details.



Join us for an exciting Romanian Evening
in the Eccles Hall
on St Alban's Day
Saturday 22nd 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

The **Wednesday Walkers** have changed their name to “**Wednesday Friends**” in order to become a Constituted Community Group. Among other things, this allows them to apply for funding to help run the group.



Anna Chaplain Messy Vintage Event
(see pages 22 & 23)



Ukraine is paying for our security ‘with money and blood’ – Archbishop Justin Welby

General Synod has issued a call to reaffirm support for Ukraine, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said he could not be “neutral” in the face of the aggression of Vladimir Putin.

Archbishop Justin Welby also said the current international situation is possibly more dangerous than at any time, other than the Cuban Missile Crisis, since the run-up to the Second World War.

He was speaking as Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for “peace, justice and reconciliation” in Ukraine.

Archbishop Justin highlighted recent warnings about the global situation.

“We are on the edge of something that none of us have seen in our lifetimes, and it involves powers with nuclear weapons,” he said.

“I am not neutral - I will listen to both sides and I hope we all will - but Ukraine is paying for our security with money but also with blood.

“We are paying with money. It is so utterly different.

“They are defending the international rules-based order and settling that question, to use a phrase of Bismarck’s, with iron and blood.

He spoke about developments in military technology including the development of AI-assisted drone attacks.

“This is an immensely dangerous time, immensely dangerous, and we have probably not seen a time as dangerous, apart from Cuba, since 1938,” he said.

“And what we do looking forward will put into a shadow all the other things we discuss, what we do as a nation.”

Opening the debate, Mark Sheard, chair of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council, highlighted the "staggering numbers" of people killed and injured and said support for Ukraine must be for the "long term".

Mr Sheard, who recently retired as Chief Executive of World Vision, the Christian relief and development agency, spoke of his personal experiences of meeting refugees fleeing Ukraine and the mounting challenges of mental health, psychosocial support and rehabilitation for those affected by the war.

"We should not forget that behind each statistic there is an individual, made in the image of God, whose life has been shattered or destroyed," he said.

"The reality of war is suffering and loss and its effects will last long after the guns fall silent.

"Our response therefore cannot be fleeting - we need to be there for the long term.

"Our response must evolve as we better understand the war's costs – whether that be helping individuals, families and communities deal with PTSD or supporting efforts at community reintegration."

He added: "Synod, I recognise that as we pass the war's second anniversary there is a risk of fatigue with the war's slow attritional grind.

"We can feel overwhelmed by a series of crises around the world – Gaza and Sudan, Myanmar and Nagorno-Karabakh to name but a few.

"We can feel disheartened by electoral politics in the US and what it means for the war effort in Ukraine, the future of Nato and our own wider security.

"But Synod, I take comfort and encouragement from Galatians 6:9 – 'Let us not become weary in doing good; for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up'."

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Smile-lines

Seen in a West Country church:
Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

I don't have a problem with caffeine. I do have a problem without it.

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

More from church magazines "The restoration of the churchyard was finally completed by the resurfacing of our driveway. The following Sunday, the church wardens praised everyone who had helped, and gave special thanks to the vicar and his wife who had rolled in the gravel.

- ◆ The church's AGM will be hell on 22nd April.
- ◆ While the pastor is on holiday, massages can be given to the church secretary.
- ◆ More sinners wanted for the choir.

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



HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

A Season of Co-Incidence

It was a strange clash last month when Lent opened and Ash Wednesday clashed with St Valentine's Day. The last time that happened was in February 1945, but at that time people had more pressing matters on their minds. It will only happen once more in this century, in 2029. The Boat Race will be on Holy Saturday and British Summer Time will begin on Easter Sunday - it all seems to be happening at once this year. Don't start me on GMT, BST, or Zulu, and I'll leave CET and EET to summer holidaymakers.



Instead, let's all just spring forward together on Easter Day.

Bear at Immaculate Heart of Mary



People attending the Vigil Mass on Saturday 16 March wondered why there was a teddy bear on the centre of the altar steps before Mass began. Like Paddington it had a label. As the children came forward for their own Liturgy, Mgr Andrew revealed that the bear had been left anonymously at the church with a message from a grandmother that she would like it remembered that her grandson, George, would have been seven on that day.

As the Children's Liturgy group approached the altar for their blessing, the bear was passed into their safe keeping and they were asked to remember George with a little prayer in their own service. Leaving that bear at church was such a poignant gesture from a still-devoted grandmother in this Easter season, that she surely merits a prayer from all of us too.

(To avoid a right royal photo-fix row, this pictures a different but much-loved family bear!)

Church Grounds and Gardens

We are doubly fortunate to enjoy the extensive grounds of Immaculate Heart of Mary with its magnificent hornbeam and silver birch trees, flowering shrubs, and rose and flower-beds, and also the presbytery garden at St Edward's which gives so much colour in the town centre. Work will soon be underway to further enhance these beautiful areas in time for us to enjoy them throughout the coming summer.



Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea

Parish Mass Times

Easter Services and locations will be found in the bulletin or online.

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

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

Erdesdon House

The story of my dolls' house. By Helen Jackman

5 - The Master Bedroom

The Master Bedroom

This is one of my favourite rooms, comfortably furnished, where we will find the lady of the house, Florence Edith.

She is dressed in the fashion of the day and probably going out for afternoon tea with friends or perhaps even the Mother's Union.

As usual there's a nice fire in the grate with a beautiful surround. The wallpaper is dark blue with a stripe and the furniture tones in with it, in a lighter blue. As in the other rooms there's a nice bay window overlooking Cullercoats Bay. Florence keeps her hat boxes there together with a comfy seat.

The crystal lamp hanging from the centre of the room was bought in Covent Garden!

There's a large brass bedstead with a warming pan for cold nights. The other furniture consists of a washstand, comfy chair, wardrobe, dressing table, an ottoman (at the end of the bed) and also a screen in the corner used when getting dressed. On the dressing table there are perfume bottles and the daintiest brush and comb set made in Mother of Pearl. Just next to the door she has left her pretty pair of Wedding boots, I might add the door handle is crystal.

Next time lounge/music room.



Continued on next page.





Thank you Jill, for these excellent pictures.



St Alban's Church
Earsdon

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Saturday 18th May 2024

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FREE ENTRY



Anna Chaplain Messy Vintage Event

Our Anna Chaplain's first Messy Vintage Event was held at Eccles Hall on Monday the 18th of March.

We invited 5 ladies from St Alban's & St John's to come along and do an Arts & Crafts event, making Easter Cards.

In attendance was Anna Chaplains, Liz York & Ali Griffiths along with our volunteer helper Janet Sigley (St John's Church, Backworth).

Our lovely ladies who attended were: Alison Hudspith, Mary Oliver, Joyce Whitehouse, Pearl Newton & Pat McKnight. All said that they enjoyed the event and would be happy to attend other events in the near future.



I love the concentration on the above picture, and so many happy, smiling faces on others. As ever, many thanks to Ali, for this article.



See also page 9

*Now I know why it is called
"Messy" !*

St. Alban's and St. John's

Diary Page for April 2024

Thursday	4th	No weekday service this week.		
Sunday	7th	<u>Second Sunday of Easter</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	14th	<u>Third Sunday of Easter</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	18th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	21st	<u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	24th	9.30am	<u>Holy Communion</u>	St Alban's
Sunday	28th	<u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

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St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for April 2024:

7th

John 20. 19-end

14th

Luke 24. 36b –48

21st

John 10. 11 –18

28th

John 15. 1 –18

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (May) will need to be in before Wednesday 24th April Thank you.

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All in the month of April.

It was ...

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

150 years ago, on 5th April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

125 years ago, on 29th April 1899 that Duke Ellington, American jazz/swing pianist, composer and orchestra leader, was born.

100 years ago, on 17th April 1924 that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM) was founded when Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B Mayer Pictures merged.

75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

Also 75 years ago, on 7th April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific was opened in Broadway.

70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England. In August of 1963 they were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

WORDSEARCH

April 2024

St George of the Golden Legend

St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages. In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine tells the story of how St George helped rescue the people of Sylene in Lybia from a dragon, especially the princess, who had been offered to the dragon as a sacrifice. With the dragon dead, and the princess returned to her father the King, the people of Sylene converted to Christianity.

George
Patron
Saint
England
Officer

Roman
Army
Diocletian
Terror
Martyred

Palestine
Courage
Example
Helper
Evil

Soldier
Hero
Golden
Legend



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