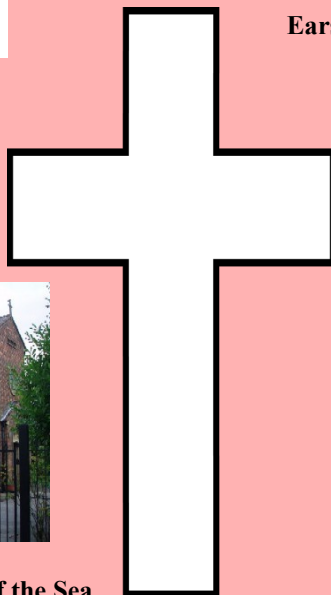




St. Alban's Earsdon



Earsdon Methodist



CHURCH VIEWS

**January
2022**

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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

January 2022

Like a lot of people of my generation, I was brought up with the Co-op. Every day the Co-op would deliver our milk; every Friday, the Co-op travelling grocery van would call at our house. My parents had their insurance through the Co-op; I was taken once a year to get new school trousers at the Co-op and the good old CWS played a big part in eking out our family finances. Even to this day I can remember my mother's Co-op number, without which you could not collect your much awaited dividend (divi) at the end of each year. *'The Co-operative Wholesale Society, working along with people to give a better lifestyle for all,'* was the slogan that appeared on one of my mother's tattered weekly payment books.

Having thought about it, I have come to the conclusion that such is the society that is envisaged by God.

Those of us who continue as members of the Christian society, do so, I believe, because we have, at some point, caught a glimpse, however fragmentary, of what a society based on the rule of God, can be like. The Church is a band of people, who do not necessarily agree with or even like each other all the time, but who belong to each other and belong to Christ (i.e. we believe in the God that he shows). The life of God is within us, and encourages us to build one another up, as we see Jesus doing it.

We are therefore committed to being grounded in divine love; and to have work that out in our living in society. Or as Jesus once put it ~ **“Dwell in me, as I in you.”**

At the beginning of the year, the Methodist Church holds its Covenant Service, in which we're invited to renew our covenant; our promise; our allegiance to God, in response to His unending love for us and all people. This service was originally drawn up by John Wesley, inspired by references to covenants made throughout the Bible, and based on some material from seventeenth century Puritans, and now widely used by Methodists. The prayer at the close of the service includes the words *Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so forever.*

A tall order? Possibly. But if you need a job doing well, to whom do you turn?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who has recently died, did not live in perfect circumstances; he felt the pain of apartheid; he knew what it was to struggle and be amongst people who struggled, yet because of his care for others and his constant attempts to improve what he saw around him, he achieved remarkable things and inspired countless people. And in the Bible, God always turned to less than perfect people who would keep on trying to announce and establish His covenant.

May this coming year be one in which we keep on trying to build each other up, being aware of the unending love of God and who is in a covenant relationship with us all. That will be even better than any Co-op 'divi'.

Wes Blakey

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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.

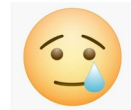


Earsdon and Backworth Mothers' Union

Wednesday 19th January 2022, 1.45pm at the Eccles Hall;
Annual General Meeting.

Due to Covid cautions and restrictions, our new year's diary for January 2022 is unfortunately a 'slow news' month regarding events. I hope we will soon be able to report news of more functions, but in the meantime it is difficult to have confidence in arranging social occasions while current guidelines and laws are erratic, or at least changeable.

Please bear with us.



Yours ever hopeful,
your editor, Jean.

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

A message from Mary, of St John's Church, Backworth:

Grateful thanks for all the lovely cards, flowers and visits I received during this sad time. Special thanks to the Vicar for the prayers and sincere, comforting funeral service he conducted for my brother Joe.

Mary Oliver.

Another little reminder for those who contribute annually for your delivered magazines - we will be calling in early January for your subscriptions, (£12.00 for the year). Thank you.

New Year Mouse



Smile-lines

A government warning said that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take: shovel, blankets, sleeping bag, scarf, hat and gloves, 24 hours supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare batteries, road flares, reflective triangles, tow rope, a five gallon petrol jerrycan, first aid kit, and jump leads. So ... I looked a complete prat on the bus this morning!

**

A church pewsheets reported that Mr and Mrs Brown had left for a ten-day motor trip, and that their two young daughters were starving with relations during their absence.

**

Spotted on a church notice board:

When you were born, your mother brought you here.
When you were married, your partner brought you here.
When you die, your family will bring you here.
In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?

**

When I look at chocolate, I hear two voices in my head. The first one says, 'You need to eat the chocolate.' The second one says, 'You heard. Eat the chocolate.'

* 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**. *

Smile-lines

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

**

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!" The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."

**

The minister came home after church one Sunday morning looking very satisfied. "Many people in church?" asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen. "Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn't see them." "Then how do you know?" "Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate."

**

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science. - Henry, age 8

**

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else. - Mitchell, age 7

BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

150 years ago, on 14th Jan 1872 that Greyfriars Bobby, a Scottish Skye terrier dog died. He was famous for having guarded his master's grave in Edinburgh for 14 years.

100 years ago, on 5th Jan 1922 that Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Irish-born British Antarctic explorer, died of a heart attack in South Georgia. He had led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

80 years ago, on 8th Jan 1942 that Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist and cosmologist was born. Author of *A Brief History of Time*, he suffered from motor neurone disease for more than 50 years and communicated from his wheelchair via a speech synthesizer. (Died 2018.)

Also 80 years ago, on 17th Jan 1942 that

Muhammad Ali (previously Cassius Clay), American heavyweight boxing champion, was born. One of the most significant sports figures of the 20th century.

Also 80 years ago, on 29th Jan 1942 that the BBC Radio Show Desert Island Discs was first broadcast. It is Britain's longest running radio show, and the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

75 years ago, on 1st Jan 1947 that the UK's coal industry was nationalised when the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946 came into effect. The industry was run by the National Coal Board. It was renamed the British Coal Corporation in 1987 and was subsequently privatised.

Also 75 years ago, on 8th Jan 1947 that David Bowie, pop/glam rock singer, songwriter, and

actor, was born. He became one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. (Died 2016.)

Also 50 years ago, on 30th Jan 1972 that Bloody Sunday occurred in Northern Ireland. British paratroopers opened fire on civil rights demonstrators in Londonderry, killing 13 people (plus another who died later) and injuring many others.

40 years ago, on 14th Jan 1982 that Mark Thatcher, son of the British Prime Minister, was found safe and well after going missing in the Sahara Desert for six days while competing in the Paris-Dakar rally.

25 years ago, on 15th Jan 1997 that Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola, visited victims, and called for an international ban on landmines.



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Lost Property at St Alban's.

Have a little look at these pictures of an ear bud/ air pod and if you think it may be yours, please contact our Church Warden Rob Gowdy (contact details on back cover) whether or not you want it back. Thank you.





St Alban's Services Livestreamed.

Many of you will already be aware that St Alban's church now has an impressive livestreaming system, so that our services can reach those who are unable to attend church in person. These services can also be watched back later, although at the moment I am unsure how long these can be held before being deleted.

If you have access to email and the internet, and would like to watch our livestreamed services, please contact our amazing vicar Tim Mayfield on telephone number 07414 601 351 and he will be happy to include you in the regular emails that give you the link to our current livestream services.

Dianne was unable to make it to church on one of our significant Christmas services, due to her naughty dog Barney (named and shamed), but Dianne was delighted to be able to join us from her lovely, Christmassy room on her tablet.



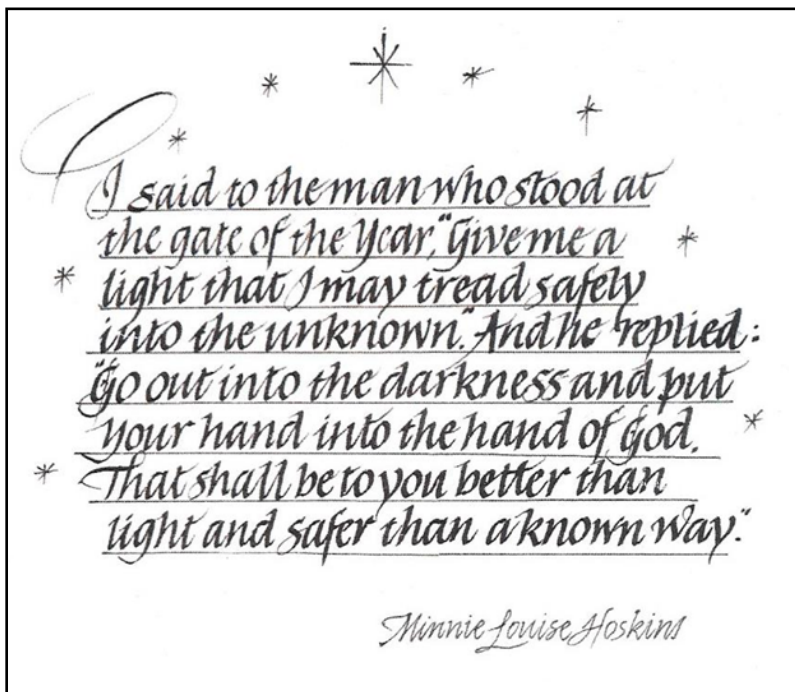
(I just checked, and Barney the dog is absolutely fine, now!)

CHURCH VIEWS FOR JANUARY 2022 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA



Looking back, the Christmas altar at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Looking forward, a thought for the beginning of 2022



One hundred not out.....



Our parish joined with eleven other Whitley Bay and district churches to provide Christmas gift bags for one hundred vulnerable and homeless young people supported by DePaul UK. In this grim second pandemic year the young people really needed some treats.

The appeals for items like chocolate, crisps coffee, selection boxes and soft drinks had begun in November, and the response was even more generous than usual.

Volunteers from many of the churches gathered in the St Mary the Virgin church hall and made up a hundred gift bags to be distributed by DePaul UK. All restrictions - wearing masks, sanitising and social distancing were carefully observed, but they did not dampen the mood. Although the gift bag collections began over twenty years ago and grow more abundant every year, they are still a very special way to catch the spirit of Christmas.

(Note - masks were removed only for this picture – Gerry)

Many Happy (Hymn) Returns

A singing group has been formed at Immaculate Heart of Mary to encourage the congregation to sing during church services. Even with masks, church music is always a happy addition. The hymnal numbers display board is also a welcome return towards normality.

A cheering early instruction for 2022.....

“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart”
(Ecclesiates 9:7)

St Alban's Book Club

Our Book Club is now into its second year! Amazingly we have survived meetings on Zoom, benefitted from library loans collected and kindly distributed by Linda, met in real life in Jill's comfy lounge and have celebrated a literary Christmas meal at the Cannon Pub organised by Jo; great team work and fellowship !

We have now read in excess of 12 wide ranging books - our top five, based on marks out of 10 are :

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn
Mercy. by David Baldacci
Cleaner of Chartres. by Sally Vickers
Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Guernsey Literary and Potato Peeling Society.
by Mary Ann Schaffer

If you haven't tried them yet, they might be a good read on a winter's evening!!

In October we read " Whispers Underground " by Ben Aaronovitch - unless you are a sci-fi train enthusiast, give it a miss, as it received a 4.5 from us !!

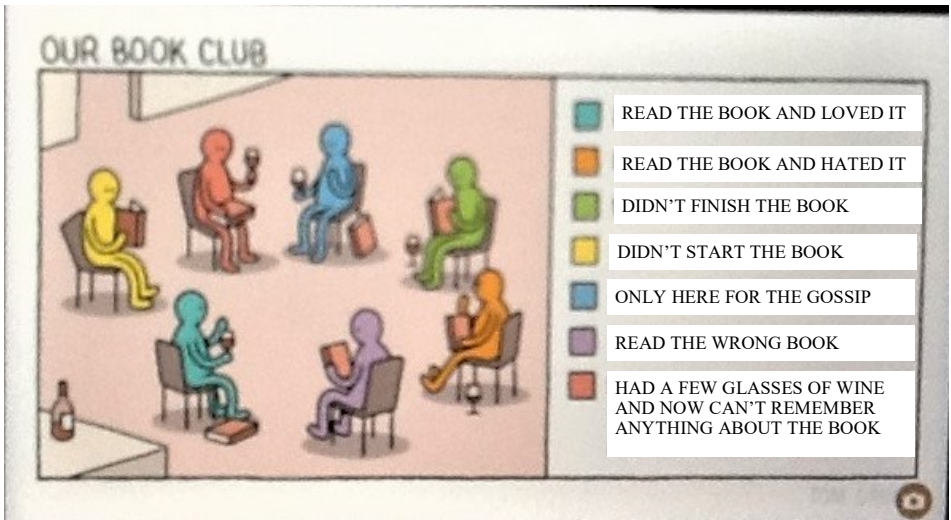
Our December book was "A Song for Issy Bradley" by Carys Bray . Faith plays a big part in this story of a 21st century Mormon worshipping family.

The Book Club
December Meeting
and Supper at the
"Cannon". Laughter,
literary chat and
exchanges of
thoughts; food, wine
etc., quiz and Prizes !!
All very lovely,
shared fellowship!





This funny cartoon was sent to me , it of course bears no relation to our book club but did make us laugh.



Wishing You All A Happy and healthy New Year with many days of enjoyable reading..... from St Alban's Book Club.

(Many thanks, Dianne.)

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Earsdon Methodist Church

Diary for January 2022

- Sunday 2nd Rev'd. John Mason. Holy Communion and Covenant Service.
- Sunday 9th Mr. Graham Tipple
- Sunday 16th Rev'd. John Mason.
- Sunday 23rd Mrs. Sue Mason.
- Sunday 30th Rev'd. Eva Walker.

The Chapel was fairly full, the fullest we have seen it for a morning service since the start of the pandemic, for the Carol Service on the 19th December. Rev'd. John Mason took the service, and through the carols and readings got our minds focussed on the 'true Christmas' and not just a 'winter celebration' for profits and not prophets.

It is good to see John getting back towards full health, and we continue to pray for his full recovery.

Many thanks to Norman Bloomfield.

Aunty Vera would come to stay every Christmas and she was a wonderful guest for she found all sorts of helpful things to do ~ from hanging out washing and even once she painted the garden fence. However, on one of these visits – shock and horror – Aunty V. lost her false teeth, and after searching for almost one whole afternoon, she could only conclude that she had tipped them into the compost bin where she had earlier emptied the potato peelings. I did not ask why the two would be together – it was better not to know!

So off we went into the garden and emptied the contents of the bin. What a mess ~ vegetable peelings, eggshells, worms, clippings, decomposing cardboard – but no teeth!

Feeling defeated Aunty V called her home dentist for an appointment and was resigned to breaking in a new pair of gnashers, and to cancelling all her forthcoming social engagements well into the new year.

However, the next morning at breakfast Aunty V greeted us with a big toothy grin. She had woken in the night and in her mind had systematically thought of all the places she could have possibly put her teeth and eventually had the inspiration that the previous morning after cleaning her teeth she had popped them in our duster drawer while she put on her lipstick, after which she had been distracted by something or other and forgotten where she had put her teeth. Remembering this, she crept downstairs from her bedroom to retrieve them. Sometimes it is best not to ask Aunt Vera to explain her actions, and this was certainly one of those times.

On the day she returned home her parting words were, “Thanks for having me, and remember I am living proof of the fact that if you don’t keep looking, you’ll never find.”

I’m not sure that I want to spend my life looking for false teeth, but when I looked for a duster to give my shoes the once over, I remembered Aunty Violet’s words, “...if you don’t keep looking, you’ll never find.” A good thought to carry into the new year, for as it dawns my wish for us all is that we may find something which has dimmed or which we may have lost during the last year – enthusiasm, love, truth, goodness – or even a set of teeth!

Wes Blakey

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for January 2022

Sunday	2nd	<u>1st Sunday of Epiphany</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	6th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	9th	<u>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	12th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	16th	<u>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	23rd	<u>4th Sunday of Epiphany</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	30th	<u>Candlemas</u>		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Readings :

2nd	9th	16th
Matthew 2.1-11	Isaiah 43.1-7	Isaiah 62.1-5
	Luke 3.15-17, 21-22	Psalm 36.5-10
		1 Corinthians 12.1-11
		John 2.1-11

23rd	30th
To be decided.	Ezekiel 43.27-44.4
	Luke 2.22-40



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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (February) will need to be in before Wednesday 26th January 2022 .

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Marti's Musings 94

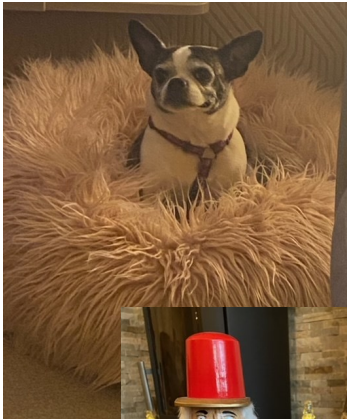
I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas! It was so good to be able to visit friends this year as last year was definitely a weird one. I enjoyed listening to all the carols and even got to see Grandma, Pam and Barbara sing outside at Delaval Hall with Whitley Women. I'm glad I was wearing my matching hoody as it got rather chilly. Mum was wishing she had taken some mulled wine to warm up, although at this time of year she uses any excuse to drink mulled wine.

The three wise men will be arriving soon. I just hope they have taken their lateral flow tests as Covid seems to be rife at the moment. Lots of people seem to be getting it so I hope everybody is keeping safe and those who have unfortunately caught it are better soon.

Here's hoping 2022 is a good year! I'd better go and help prepare the food for New Years Eve, not sure which dress I will wear to the living room party.

I wish you all a wonderful new year and many blessings for 2022.

Love Marti xx



WORDSEARCH

Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi were a religious caste devoted to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams. Some scholars believe these magi came from southern Arabia, where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She would have learned about the coming Messiah from Solomon.

In Matthew's gospel the Magi ask Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that Queen of Sheba's story of Messiah for Israel had survived.

One thing that supports the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

Magi
East
Religious
Caste
Astrology
Divination
Dreams
Scholars
Southern
Arabia
Queen
Sheba
Messiah
Solomon
Herod
King
Star
Worship
Palestine
Caravan



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