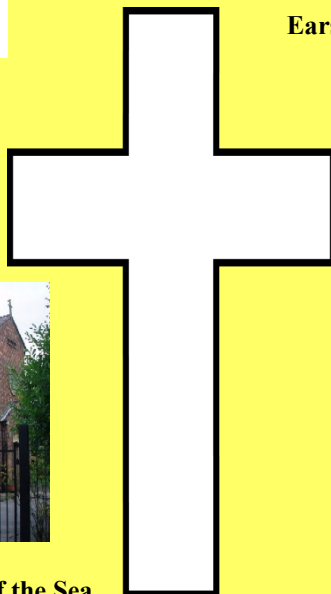




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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**July 2022**

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**St. John's Backworth**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
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# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## July 2022

According to the liturgical calendar, we are at the start of the longest period of the Church year, Ordinary Time, stretching from the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year in June to the far distant 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year in November. Ordinary Time or Sundays of the Year are those Sundays which fall outside Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Lent, but *Ordinary* always makes the four Sundays of July sound very routine, even dull, which is a shame, because July has always been one of my favourite months of the year, an exciting month in so many ways.

In my working life - and now that it's long gone I wonder how I ever found the time to go to work - July was always a month of stops and starts. The school year stopped, the long summer holiday started; Year 13, (the Upper Sixth in old money), people I had taught and watched grow from children to young adults over seven school years said their goodbyes, new Year 7 pupils who were about to start that journey were still just faceless names on lists. For those 'names' it was the end of being the big ones in a small school, and being a bit scared of becoming the little ones in a big school - but the Year 12 and 13 girls enjoyed it when new starters called them 'Miss'. I know, my terminology is now not just outdated, but very probably outlawed!

July was an end and a beginning; the exams and reports had gone and end of term competitions and sports had begun - in sunny July everybody wants to be a PE teacher - and finally the closing school gates heralded the halcyon first evening of the summer holiday. I didn't realise just how emphatic a change July could bring until early retirement took me from nearly twenty years in one school to a new job in a new role with new people, no longer the old hand who people asked for advice but the new bloke who had to ask everybody else.

But time is a continuum, not something that stops and then begins again as a separate item. Old and new colleagues stay in touch, former pupils appear again - sometimes unexpectedly. Like the stern Ward Sister taking details who asked if I suffered from indigestion. When I said not since I stopped teaching she suddenly laughed and said, "Oh, come on, we weren't that bad!" What an ambush.

Life in our parish was not stopped by Covid and re-started afterwards as something different, it has continued. First Communions have just been celebrated, the next step on those children's journey of Faith, a rite of passage for their families particularly to celebrate, new pictures to add to the collections. As I write, there have been six baptisms so far in this month of June, yet more events to be celebrated. The Food Bank collections continued every Monday, and still not only provide a service to the community but offer something of a meeting point, such an essential addition to our lives now.

The longer warmer days mean that the town garden of the parish house at St Edward's and the wider grounds at Immaculate Heart of Mary are now bursts of colour, the gardeners providing us not only with flowers and rose beds which are a joy to see but the seats there offering places for quiet meditation. Inside our churches, flower arrangements bring their own special enhancement.

As the Covid pandemic has begun to decline our congregations have begun to grow again and attendance feels more normal. The volume of hymns and responses has risen, and they now sound like they always used to sound. After so much disruption, this July will be happier, more open and welcoming. July may be in Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar, but I'm happy to say that it feels anything but ordinary at the moment - and long may it continue not to be.

Gerry Latimer  
Parish of Star of the Sea

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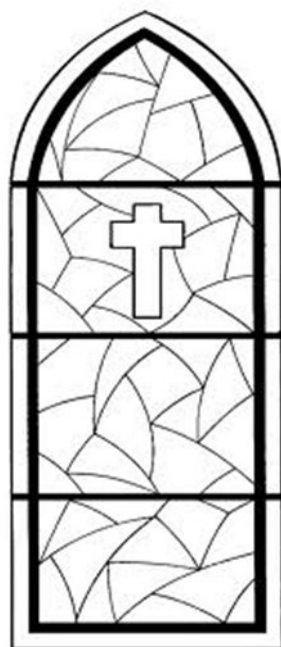
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

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

### Earsdon With Backworth Mothers' Union

Our postponed meeting finally took place on June 22nd but sadly Christine was still testing positive with Covid and was unable to join us again. Because of the change of date other members were also missing due to prior engagements!

However....the select group who came enjoyed a social afternoon, cuppa and chin wag, after our service.

We were extremely grateful to Sarah Chambers who, so sympathetically, took the service remembering all of our members who were unable to join us because of ill health.

Notices for our forth coming MU events were read and money taken for our July Outing. This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us.

We are going on Thursday 21st July, leaving by coach at 12.40 We are travelling up to Jedburgh to enjoy a wander around both Woollen Mill shops there. Both stores have a coffee shop where you can enjoy a drink if you wish, before driving to Corbridge where we are having tea at The Angel. We will be back in Whitley Bay by approximately 7.30pm. The cost to include coach travel and a 2 or 3 course meal is £30 or £35.

If you and your friends would like to join us please ring Sandy on 0191 2523919 and you will be made more than welcome.

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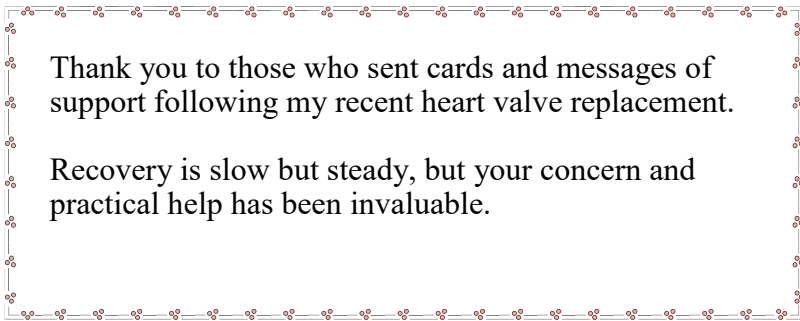
## St Alban's

Please see pages 14 and 15 for our current **Open Gardens** update.

St Alban's Ramblers group is back again for the summer, meeting every Tuesday outside the Vicarage, at 7pm. All are welcome to come and join us.



A message from Joyce Whitehouse:



*When you can't put your prayers into words, God hears your heart.*



## 15<sup>th</sup> July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithin is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15<sup>th</sup> July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithin was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithin was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithin seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithin. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithin in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithin was transferred into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithin. Swithin was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962.



# Smile-lines

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a 'clothes-line'.

\*\*\*\*\*

A two-man pup tent is no good for two men or a pup.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some people won't suffer in silence because that would take all the pleasure out of it.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip, miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed. As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key."

Finally the boy said, "Dad, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Summer guide to modern science around the house**

1. If it's green or it wiggles, it's Biology.
2. If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.
3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

\*\*\*\*\*

Whoever said "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a large spider disappear in the bedroom.

\*\*\*\*\*

# BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

125 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1897 that the Tate Britain art museum opened in London.

100 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1922 that Jacques Piccard, Belgian born Swiss oceanographer and engineer was born. Best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth. (Died 2008)

80 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1942 that the Siege of Sevastopol ended. Axis forces captured the Crimean port city which they had first attacked in October 1941.

Also 80 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1942 that the Nazis began the mass transportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland to the Treblinka extermination camp.

Also 80 years ago on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1942 that the British charity Oxfam was founded. (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief)

75 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1947 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

65 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1957 that John Lennon and Paul McCartney met for the first time at a church hall in Liverpool, where 16-year-old Lennon was performing with his skiffle group the Quarrymen. 15-year-old McCartney joined as a rhythm guitarist shortly afterwards, and the pair went on to form the Beatles.

50 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1972 that Bloody Friday took place when


the IRA exploded 22 bombs in Belfast, killing nine people and injuring 130.

40 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1982 that Michael Fagan broke into Buckingham Palace and spent 10 minutes talking to the Queen in her bedroom.

25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997 that the UK returned Hong Kong to China after more than 150 years.

15 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 that smoking was banned in all enclosed workspaces in England.

Also 10 years ago, from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012 that the Summer Olympics were held in London.

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Everybody loves a garden and with Summer upon us, St Alban's people have organised a series of Open Gardens. On about ten Saturdays there will be a local garden open for you to visit. A Season Ticket can be purchased at a cost of £5 which will admit one person to all of the gardens. These tickets give the date of the open day, the opening times and the address of the garden. There may be refreshments offered and we would request a donation for this in aid of The Netty Fund. Season Tickets are at St Alban's or contact Joan 0191 2529239. Why not come round and get ideas for your garden!

The first Open Garden was on Saturday 18th June on a lovely sunny afternoon. Thank you Ella for sharing your garden.





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

Joseph O'Brien



Joseph O'Brien has received candidacy for Holy Orders at the Venerable English College in Rome where he is now in his fourth year of studies at the Pontifical University. Joseph's parents, Michael and Maria, were delighted to be able to attend the Mass and ceremony in the College chapel.

Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop to the UK Forces presided, providing an unusually strong local link - both he and Joseph attended the same North Shields school - the Bishop when it was St Anselm's High School, and Joseph after it became St Thomas More Academy - before both studying at the Venerable English College. Adding further to the local flavour of the occasion, the ceremony was also attended by Fr Chris Warren of the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese who is furthering his studies at the College. The perfect backdrop for a picture celebrating such Tyneside links was provided by the portrait of Newcastle-born Cardinal Basil Hume, whose portrait is one those of every English Cardinal on the walls of the College.

Joseph will continue his studies in Rome until July when he returns to the Diocese for the summer, after which he will return to the Venerable English College where he will be ordained deacon next year. He would like to thank his family, friends and parishioners for all their prayers, thoughts and kind wishes.





## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to the thirty three children of our parish who received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion on Saturday 18 June at St Edward's Church. A splendid reason for family celebrations.

## **Summer Berries Afternoon**

The Summer Berries Afternoon which we mentioned in the June edition was a great success. There was a chance for chat and laughter, making it a great social occasion amid the berry tarts, scones and cakes. The event also raised £470, allowing equal donations to be sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee and the Bay Food Bank.

A great outcome for everyone.

## **Bishop Seamus Cunningham**



On 30 June, a Mass was celebrated in St Mary's Cathedral to mark the 80th birthday of the now retired Emeritus Bishop Seamus Cunningham. Bishop Seamus was installed as the 13th Bishop of the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese in 2009, on the feast day of St Cuthbert, the patron of the Diocese.

## **St Thomas More Academy Celebration**

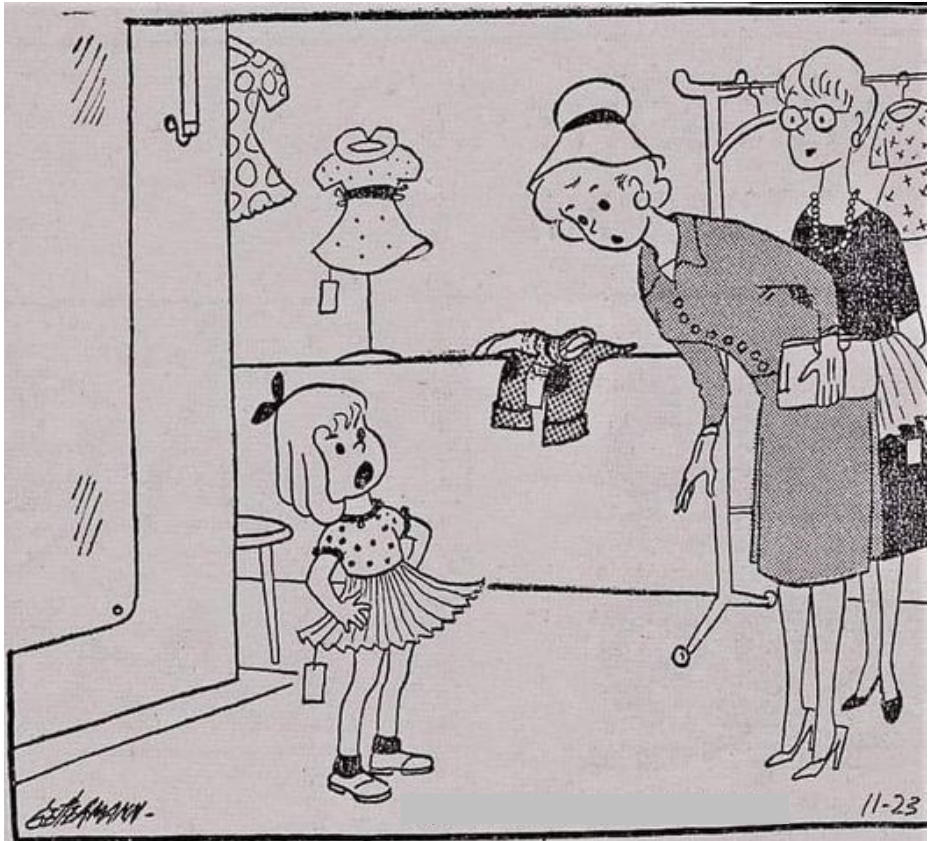
The Academy celebrated the life and work of its community after a Mass at Our Lady and St Columba Church in Wallsend on 23 June. This was the first opportunity to resume its formerly annual gathering on the feast day of St Thomas More, after a pandemic gap of two years. It gave students, staff, parents and former students the chance to catch up on news and friendships.



## **July Confirmations**

Bishop Byrne will confirm some of the young people of our partnership parishes at 7.30pm on 19th July at St Cuthbert's Church in North Shields. Please keep our youngsters in your prayers.

Being a “jeans and t-shirt” kind of person myself, this made me laugh **SO** much — I just had to share it !



“Maybe it is pretty—but how can I carry my frog and my worms in a dress with no pockets?”

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
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](mailto:magazine@StAlbansEarsdon.org.uk) or call Jean on 0191 2377273.  
\*\*\*\*\*

I hope you are well and can enjoy this summer, and that you haven't been stranded in any airport lately!

July will bring us relative calm on the church front, if nowhere else. With Easter and Pentecost completed, we are into 'Ordinary time'. This month there is a need for rest and reflection, after emerging from Covid, the beginning of the Ukrainian war, and now being hit with the rising cost of living, we all need a break this summer.

Psalm 29:

'The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.'

Have a good and blessed summer.



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# Earsdon Methodist Church

## *Preachers for July 2022*

Sunday	3rd	Rev'd. Richard Firth
Sunday	10th	Rev'd. John Mason - Holy Communion.
Sunday	17th	Rev'd. Enid Gordon.
Sunday	24th	Rev'd. John Wall.
Sunday	31st	Rev'd. John Mason.

---

Last month, I wrote that I guessed that the anniversary was held at Pentecost for historical reasons, well, I have found an article under the heading “Down Memory Lane” published in the Herald and Post published on 1st April 1998, which was about our Chapel. It states that the first ever service held in the ‘new’ chapel was at Whitsuntide, and so it has been celebrated at that time ever since.

*Norman Bloomfield*

---

## PHONES

With my teenage granddaughter looking on I was sorting through my collection of foreign coins that I have either collected on my travels or sometimes have received unnoticed in my change in this country. Amongst them all were four old pennies – and I mean ‘old’ as they are pre decimal coins with 1930 s dates on them and are as big as gob stoppers.

She asked however did we managed to live with them. “Did you really spend those instead of using a credit card?” (Oh, the youth of today !!). So, I gave the example that you always needed four to make a phone call from a phone box. Well that really flummoxed her.

I told her that where I lived as a lad there was a phone box at the bottom of the street, on the corner right next to the chip shop, and if anyone needed to make a call, they needed four old pennies. They were placed in the slot underneath the phone, you dialed the number you needed and if a person answered you pressed button A to make a connection; or if there was no answer you pressed button B to get your money back. Mind you, the only reason I ever had to go into the box was to keep a check on the cup under button B to see if anyone had forgotten their refund!

This outdoor red cubicle with a handset on a cord and fat squishy buttons was both a hoot and a mystery to my granddaughter. A phone to her was a small shiny thing that lived in her pocket. After all, how would you be contacted if someone rang for you, and you were back at home?

My reply was that we didn’t use it much and the only time I can think that any of my family used it when Mrs. Riley’s chimney caught fire and the street was awash with smoke and hot ash and my Dad used it to ring 999 for the Fire Brigade.

How things change. Currently my granddaughter is teaching me to text with my thumbs instead of the one-digit index finger exercise which has been my normal practice. She wants me to change and keep up with the times.

Cardinal John Henry Newman once said, ‘To live is to change’ -and then added ‘and to change often is to be perfect’. I am not sure that I can live up to the last phrase but as a man who changes his socks every day I must try to apply the same routine to other things if I can, after all as my granddaughter says ‘That’s how good stuff happens.’

*Wes Blakey*

# St. Alban's and St. John's

## Diary Page for July 2022



Sunday	3rd		<b><u>Third Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thurs	7th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	10th		<b><u>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	13th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	17th		<b><u>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thurs	21st	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	24th		<b><u>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	27th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	31st		<b><u>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	7th Aug		<b><u>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	

Here is the hyperlink to the newspaper THE LINK ...

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# St. Alban's and St. John's

## Sunday Gospel Readings :

**3rd**

Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

**10th**

Luke 10.25-37

**17th**

Luke 10.38-end

**24th**

Luke 11.1-13

**31st**

Luke 12.13-21

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (August) will need to be in before Wednesday 27th July. Thank you.

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## Marti's Musings 100 !

My goodness, I can't believe I've written 100 musings! It only seems like 5 minutes since I penned my first introduction to everyone. I suppose I am coming up to 11 so I've had time to do a few!

I bet the Queen felt the same at her Jubilee celebrations. What a wonderful weekend that was with all the celebrations and street parties. I had a lovely meal at St Alban's and it was very impressive to see you all dressed in your patriotic finery.

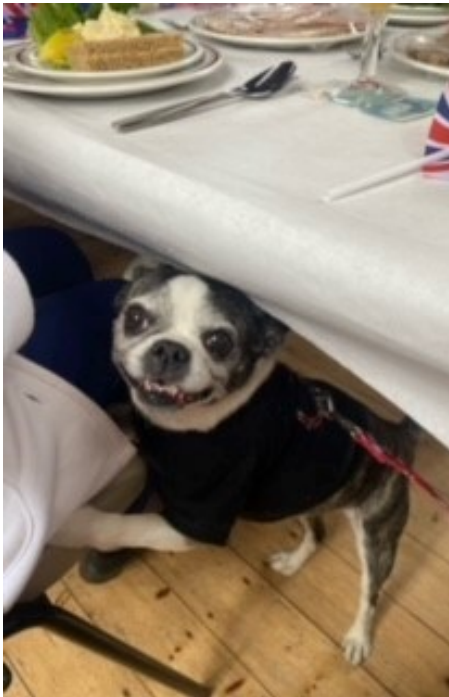
I'm delighted that summer is here and the sun is out. I hope you have all got your open gardens programme ready to visit all the lovely gardens.

Ours is on July 30th which should give mum time to sort the garden out; the flowers are blooming beautifully at the moment so I hope they haven't all died by then!

I better go and help her weed.

Lots of grass chewing.

Marti xxx



# WORDSEARCH

10<sup>th</sup> July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers and fishermen worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a ‘home from home’ in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors’ Society (inter-denominational).

July  
Sea  
Sunday  
Remember  
Pray  
Give  
Thanks  
Merchant  
Seafarers  
Daily  
Shops  
Economy  
Afloat  
Harsh  
Working  
Environments  
Piracy  
Shipwreck  
Hundreds  
global  
Port

Chaplains  
Hospitality  
Friendship  
Practical



## **Church Contacts**

### Earsdon Methodists:

#### *Minister*

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