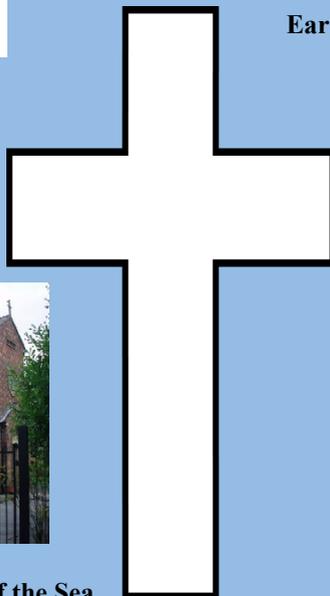




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# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**June 2023**

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**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## June 2023

Dear All,

I'm writing this three days away from a very sad day for everyone at Earsdon Methodist Church. Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 will see the last Sunday service at the Methodist Chapel. I know people have rich and deep-seated memories of the chapel. You must be so sad to see its closure. On behalf of everyone at St Alban's and St John's, our deepest sympathy and very best wishes. I hope it goes without saying that anyone reading this would always be very welcome to worship at St Alban's or St John's.

These are troubling times for the church, and the tide of faith is low. I don't (and should) know how our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers are doing. But the Church of England is facing its own challenges. I explained at St Alban's recently that our financial giving falls far short of a level that is self-sustaining. St Alban's and St John's receives a massive subsidy from the national church, and no-one is sure how long this can continue.

That's why the Church of England in the Deanery of Tynemouth is holding a special morning on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Called 'Shaping the Future', the morning will give lots of us the opportunity to come together and talk about the situation. The Bishop of Newcastle, Helen-Ann, will be with us and there are only a few places left. Do get in touch if you'd like to come – it's at Segedunum Roman Fort and Museum in Wallsend.

Each Deanery in the Diocese of Newcastle has been asked to come up with a three-year plan. There are many threads to this planning, but it's undeniable that 'cutting clergy posts' is part of the mood music. With this in mind, one of the headlines of our Deanery plan is 'developing the gifts of all God's people, not just the clergy'. We're not doing this just because it makes financial sense. We're doing it because the New Testament calls the local church 'the body of Christ'. A human body needs its lungs, eyes, knees, feet and hands. In just the same way, every member of our local churches can contribute unique gifts and skills. We need to move away from the model which says 'the vicar does it all and we just watch'.

So those coming on 10<sup>th</sup> June will hear about a **Discipleship Course**. A disciple isn't someone ancient with a beard looking down at you from a stained glass window. A disciple of Jesus is someone – anywhere, at any time – who is trying to live as Jesus intended. We'll hope to grow **more Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers**. At St Alban's we're delighted that Jo McEvedy is training to be a Reader – in effect 'a Lay Preacher'. And Jo will take her place alongside Ali Griffiths and Liz York, authorised by the diocese for pastoral work. As it's almost certain that in the future there will be fewer clergy to go around, it makes absolute sense to develop everyone's gifts. And this shouldn't be seen as a panic measure. On the contrary: the more our lay people develop and exercise their gifts and skills, the more we will look like the church described in the New Testament – a healthy body of Christ, where each member plays their full part.

As more lay people grow in confidence and experience, so expect to see more **Services of the Word alongside the Eucharist**. It's only relatively recently that the Church of England has moved to a model of 'Holy Communion every Sunday'. For centuries, this wasn't the case. While treasuring the richness of the Eucharist, there is space alongside it for acts of worship which are *not* communion services. 'Services of the Word' are authorised by the Church of England. They do not feature Holy Communion, so can be led by a lay person. As we think there are going to be fewer priests to go round, it makes sense to be developing a tradition of Services of the Word.

We pray that the tide of faith will turn again. Church History shows that there is absolutely no reason why it wouldn't. But there are things we can learn when the tide is low. I pray that the challenges we currently face will help us to become more like the church described in the New Testament.

With kind regards – and much fellow feeling to everyone at the Methodist Chapel,

Tim Mayfield (vicar, St Alban's Earsdon and St John's Backworth)

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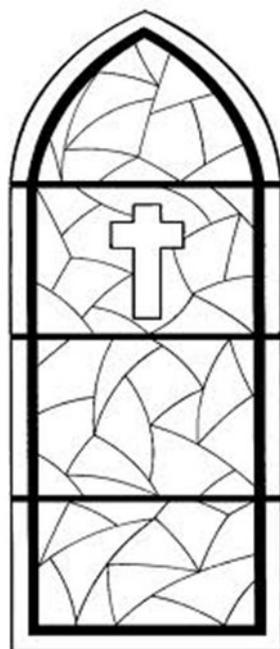
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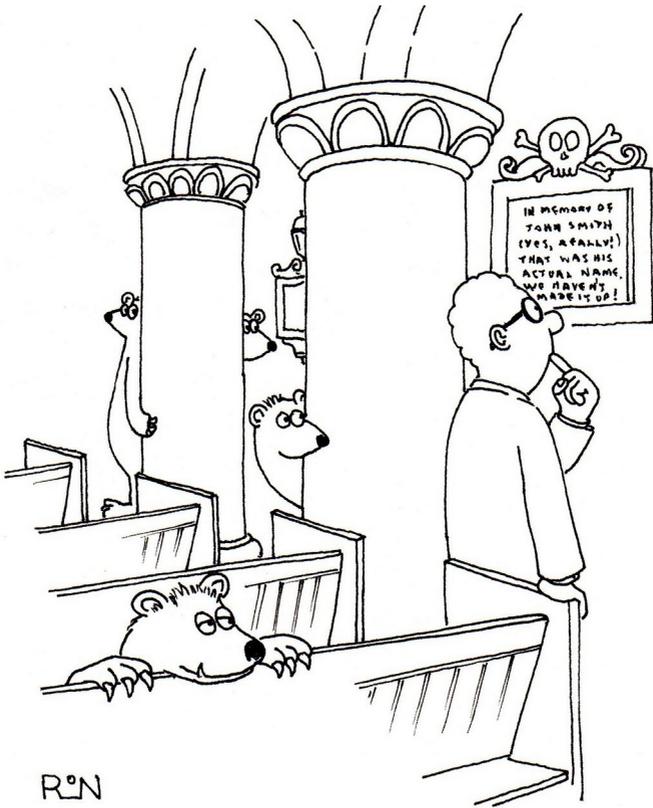
*A message from Helen Jackman, who attends St Alban's:*

I wanted to say a big 'thank you' to the Entertainments Committee, and all involved, for the superb Coronation Lunch we had last Sunday, delicious food and good Company. I particularly want to mention beautiful Marti, so pleased she was there and amongst all who loved her.  
Helen J

Here are the ramblers on the first walk of the year, on 23 May 2023, at Bluebell Woods!



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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**.  
\*\*\*\*\*



RIN

*Dennis spent a long time in church  
looking for his forbears*

# Smile-lines

## Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...

The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

\*\*\*\*\*

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?"

"Not at all," I replied.

"Did you marry him because he was good-looking?"

"No, not that either," I replied.

"Did you marry him for his money?"

"Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any."

"So," he concluded sadly, "you just felt sorry for him."

\*\*\*\*\*

I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.

It's weird, being the same age as old people.

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

# BITS 'N' PIECES

It was...

400 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1623 that Blaise Pascal was born. This French mathematician, physicist, inventor, theologian, and philosopher invented one of the first mechanical calculators.

175 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1848 that Paul Gauguin, French post-impressionist artist, was born.

150 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1873 that the great slave market in Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania) was closed after Britain issued Sultan Barghash bin Said with an ultimatum to close it or face a blockade.

125 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1898 that Britain leased Hong Kong from China for 99 years, and it became a British Crown Colony. It was transferred back to China in 1997.

75 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1948 that the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

Also 75 years ago, from 24<sup>th</sup> June 1948 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 1949 that the Berlin Blockade and Airlift took place. The Soviet Union began a rail, road and canal blockade of Berlin, cutting off all routes between West Germany and West Berlin. The Allies launched a massive airlift – over 200,000 flights – to take in nearly 9,000 tons of supplies each day.

70 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey took place. It was the first event where the British TV audience (20 million) was greater than the radio audience (12 million).

50 years ago, from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 1973 that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev visited Washington DC and said that the Cold War was over as far as the Soviet Union was concerned. He and President Richard Nixon signed a major accord on arms limitation and the prevention of nuclear war.

25 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1998 that the UN declared an official famine in Sudan. 250,000 people were saved by international aid, but 100,000 died in South Sudan. A ceasefire in the Second Sudanese Civil War was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> July but collapsed in April 1999.

20 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2003 that the Wikimedia Foundation was founded in Florida. The non-profit charitable organisation operates several websites, including Wikipedia.

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# WORDSEARCH

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

Simon  
 Peter  
 Fisherman  
 Bethsaida  
 Galilee  
 Andrew  
 Jesus  
 Rock  
 Transfiguration  
 Raising  
 Daughter  
 Garden  
 Gethsemane  
 Betrayed  
 Cock  
 Crowed  
 Feed  
 My  
 Lambs  
 Sheep  
 Keys  
 Kingdom  
 Gates  
 Hell  
 Binding  
 Loosing



# CHURCH VIEWS FOR JUNE 2023 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

## Celebrating the Coronation



The flower arrangements at Immaculate Heart of Mary are always a joy, but they were something even more special for the Mass for the Coronation – what could be more celebratory than greeting the new reign with red, white and blue!

## Thirty years ago this month

While we look forward to a new reign in June 2023, let's take a quick look back to June 1993 when the foundation stone of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was laid. It doesn't seem like thirty years – but then we've packed a lot into them.



It's June 1993, and Bishop Ambrose Griffiths lays the foundation stone of the present church with Fr. Brian Malia and Fr Aidan Pickering admiring his work.

The first church was a 'temporary' building put up in 1964 and guaranteed to last for twelve years. By 1993 the guarantee and the building had both run out of time.



At the end, it really was in sore need of replacement. But at least we were able to see our new church going up.



Eventually, for a short time, we even had two churches.....



....but when you see what we have now in this Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea, you have to admit that nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

*Gerry Latimer,  
wandering down Memory Lane*

**Parish Mass Times until further notice:**

*St Edward's: Saturday 9.30am, Sunday 10.00am*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Tuesday to Friday 9.30am*

*Thank you very much Ali Griffiths, for letting me pinch your write-up and pictures from this brilliant afternoon!*

Well, what can I say about today, at our Wednesday Walkers' afternoon of 50's & 60's music with the brilliant Lewis Hill, it was absolutely amazing!!! He really got our ladies up and dancing, an awesome afternoon, thanks to Sylvia Turnbull, Kelly Roberts and Ella Heaney for all your hard work in making this day work so well, and a special thank you to our lovely Pat Hugman who organised everything from start to finish, you can take it easy now Pat and put your feet up for a well earned rest, and last but certainly not least, a big thank to Lewis for coming down and entertaining us so well.





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## Knitting Hats for Ukraine

Balaclavas and beanies! Jo McEvedy and I are such busy bees having fun knitting head wear for the Ukraine soldiers and families, you can see two photograph samples beautifully modelled by Ali!

Up to date we have each made 5 balaclavas and 2 beanies, ready for the next local shipment to Kiev.

Tim thought it a good idea to share our achievements with you, trusting that it's not too long before we are made redundant.....until then, it's knitting needles at the ready.

*(Many thanks to Janet Dobson, and of course to our long-suffering model, Ali.)*



# Earsdon Methodist Church

*Diary for June 2023*

From your editor:

I'm keeping this page for our local Methodist friends. I am confident that there will soon be information about local services and events. In the meantime many, many thanks to my contacts: the lovely Mr & Mrs Norman Bloomfield, and of course the equally lovely Rev Canon J W Wesley Blakey.



\*\*\*\*\*

## STRIPES

Maureen my lawnmower (I know, I know – who in their right mind gives their lawnmower a name?) is at least 16 years old and has done sterling service over the years. In January, I sent it for a well needed service in readiness for the grass growing season. It came back in good time and I stored it away in readiness for the first mowing, however when I eventually wanted to cut the lawn, the mower would not start! So back it went to the shop where Maureen was declared to be ‘temperamental’. Eventually after several attempts to sort the problem she came home and joy and rapture she works even better than before, and our lawn now has stripes.

Of course, there are some disadvantages with stripes. For instance, they have a very short shelf life; they do not fare well over night; rather like a very elaborate hair-do or a nicely made bed, something very disruptive happens when darkness falls, and they do not look their best at all in the morning.

In our previous house our neighbour had the best stripes on his lawn this side of Wimbledon and put mine to shame. You see, we both had lawns at the front of our houses, and he had a nice regular, oblong shaped lawn with stripes going lengthways, which he always cut in the same direction ~ and our lawn was on a curved drive and was more the shape of a bent banana. Try as I might I could not get our lawn to look anything like his. One problem was whether to try to get our stripes lengthways, which accentuate the bent shape of the lawn; or sideways, which made it look smaller and made it very hard to cut. I tried various methods, but none ever looked right. To make matters worse the lawn was full of moss and whatever I tried to remove it, nothing ever worked.

Our present garden including the lawn is fenced which means that it is only seen from our house, and even though the lawn stripes are reasonable and are not bowling green standard by any means there is nothing next to them for comparison. Yet I have decided that this is definitely not a reason to lower standards nor to give up putting stripes on the lawn. For now, I have no opportunity to ponder and worry about the other man's grass and Maureen and I have all the time needed just to enjoy what we have got ~ I really should try to apply this principle to other things too.

*Wes Blakey*

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

## Diary Page for June 2023



Thursday	1st	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	4th		<b><u>Trinity Sunday</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	7th	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	11th		<b><u>1st Sunday After Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	15th	9.30am		St John's
Sunday	18th		<b><u>2nd Sunday After Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	21st	9.30am		St Alban's
Sunday	25th		<b><u>3rd Sunday After Trinity</u></b>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	29th	9.30am		St John's

Church Views magazine email: [magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stalbansearsdon.org.uk)

*(Many thanks Ali, for your picture opposite.)*

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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for June 2023 :

4th

Matthew 28. 16-end.

11th

Matthew 9. 1-13,  
18-26.

18th

Matthew 9. 35-38

25th

Matthew 10. 24-39

A brilliant holy communion & confirmation service on 21st May at St Alban's. Congratulations to Pamela, Pauline, Catherine & Damon on your confirmation, and thank you to Bishop Mark for leading the proceedings. The weather was beautiful, so we enjoyed Prosecco and cake outside in the sunshine!





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



Please note - all material for next month's magazine (July) will need to be in before Wednesday 21st June. Thank you.

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## Marti's Final Musings

I haven't been feeling very well recently, but I couldn't miss the coronation party in the hall; I had looked forward to going for such a long time. Everyone looked fabulous in all their red, blue and white finery; and the food looked yummy! I wore my special coronation jumper that mum made for me to wear, which kept me lovely and warm. It was so good to see all my church friends who I love so much. I'm so sad that this will be my last musings. I've enjoyed writing my little updates for you all to read, but now it's time for a rest and cuddles with grandad and to see all our loved ones who have passed. I'll see you in the light.

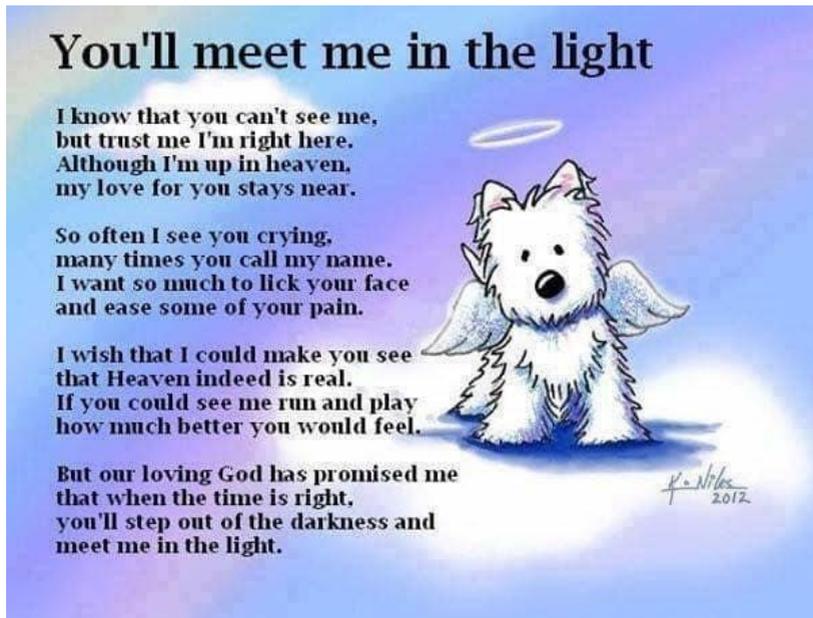
Lots of heavenly love.

Marti xx

It is with unbelievable sadness to let you all know that Marti gained her angel wings at 4.30am on Monday 8th May 2023. She loved writing her musings and attending all church functions in an outfit to match. She is safe in God's hands but will be missed so much. Thank you for the many comments I received over the last 11 years telling me how much you enjoyed reading her exploits, and for all the love and support since her passing.

Much love

Martini Armstrong 26/08/2011-08/05/2023





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#### *Church Treasurer*

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