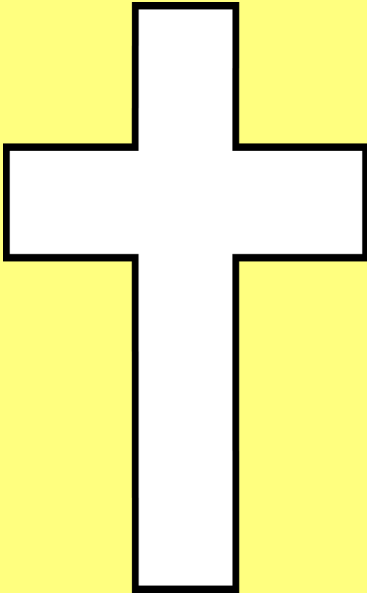




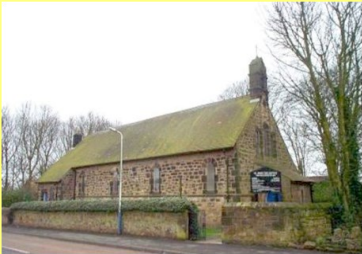
**St. Alban's Earsdon**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**March  
2025**

**£1.00**



**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

March 2025

*Canon Paul Hardingham considers*

## **A Lent Reflection**

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!'* Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, *'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in three key areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

**Don't forget - British Summer Time begins on Sunday  
30th March at 1.00am.  
(This date is also Mothering Sunday.)**

Please remember to put your clocks forward by one hour,  
preferably before going to bed on Saturday evening.

Otherwise you could find yourself an hour late for everything!



*Remember  
to put your*



*clocks forward one hour*

*BST begins Sunday 30th March*

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## Earsdon and Backworth Annual Meeting – Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>

St Alban's and St John's Annual Meeting will follow the 10.30am service, and be held in the Eccles Hall. As it coincides with Parish Breakfast, the meeting will be powered by coffee and cake.

A church's **Electoral Roll** is a list of who's who in the congregation. As the name suggests, it's also a list of who can vote at the Annual Meeting. Every six years we need to completely revise the Roll. This is one of those years. On Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> we'll begin a complete revision of the Electoral Roll. Any questions to Electoral Roll Officer Ali Griffiths [07729 805947]

Meanwhile, **would you like to serve on the Church Council?** The Church Council (PCC) is the decision-making body of the church. The Council meets six times a year, on midweek evenings, at St Alban's. Four vacancies on the Council will be filled at the Annual Meeting, on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Please have a word with Rev'd Tim if you'd like to find out more.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* 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**. \*  
\* *Thank you.* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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## **17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.



But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his See at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Apparently the Irish three-leaf Clover, or Shamrock, was used by Saint Patrick to illustrate his talks on the Holy Trinity.



## Hope in Hard Places – our Lent Course for St Alban's and St John's

The Middle East has suffered conflicts for centuries. However, a new chapter opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, with the Hamas attacks on Israel.

Aid agency 'Embrace the Middle East' has been doing sterling work across the region for decades. It has produced a rich Lent Course, 'Hope in Hard Places'. The course lays extracts from the Bible alongside stories of hope from the West Bank, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Gaza.

'Hope in Hard Places' will run for five Wednesday evenings (7.30pm) from March 12<sup>th</sup> at the vicarage. Dianne has also kindly agreed to host an afternoon version (five Thursdays from 2pm at Eastfield Bungalow, Monkseaton Road, Earsdon NE25 9JN). Vicar Tim will lead both courses.

Please contact Tim if you would like to take part  
[tim.mayfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mayfield@btinternet.com) or 07414 601351.



## Smile lines

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

\*\*

### **Beware of these contagious diseases in church**

*Frontophobia:* A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

*Sermonic Throat:* A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

*Double Auricular Clearance:* A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

*Accelerated Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

*Retarded Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

*Church Meeting Paralysis:* This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.

\*\*

## Weather Outlook for the month of March 2025.

### Direct from the Captain's Charts.

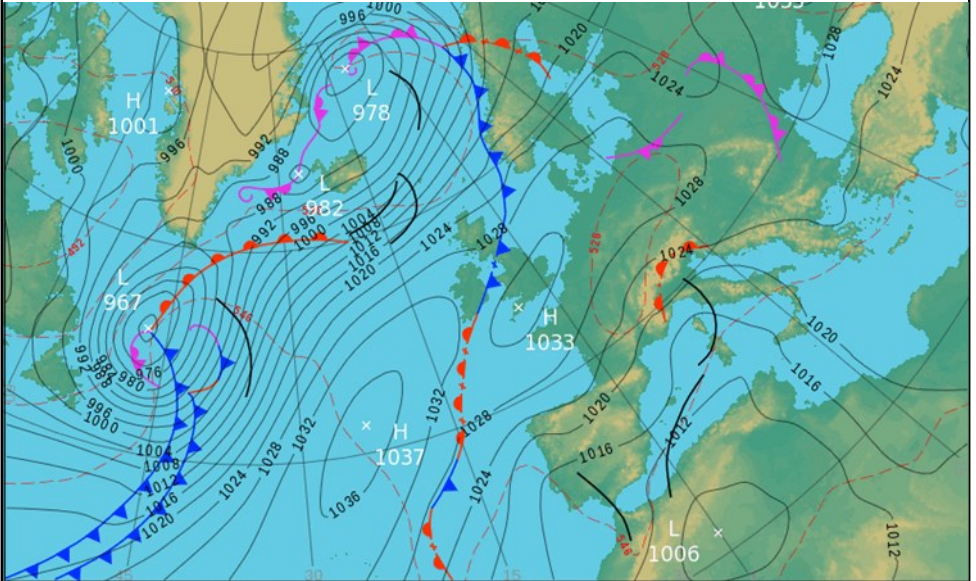
#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

A split in weather conditions is likely across the country for the start of spring. Northwestern and some Northeastern areas will see bouts of rain and stronger winds as Atlantic weather systems arrive from the west. These spells of wet and windy weather will move in a southeasterly direction across our region at times. However, high pressure is likely to have more influence across the south of the UK, initially and later in the North East bringing a good deal of fine/dry weather during early March with a chance of night frosts and morning fog patches. Through the course of this period there is an increasing chance of unsettled conditions becoming widely more dominant across the UK. Temperatures generally around average, giving rise to some chilly nights, with milder interludes likely.

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The weather across the UK is likely to be dominated by winds from the west or southwest at first, bringing spells of wet and windy weather as Atlantic weather systems move across the country. Northwestern parts of the UK are likely to see the wettest conditions overall. Northeastern areas will be affected to a lesser extent, while through mid-March, southern parts of the UK have the greatest chance of high pressure bringing more settled spells. Later in the period, there is a chance that settled weather may develop more widely throughout the country, but this comes with low confidence, while changeable conditions remain most probable overall. Temperatures typically around or above average. Some short-lived colder spells remain possible.

**North Atlantic Surface Pressure Chart Prediction for 12:00 hrs (UTC) on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**



**26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

*David Gibson*

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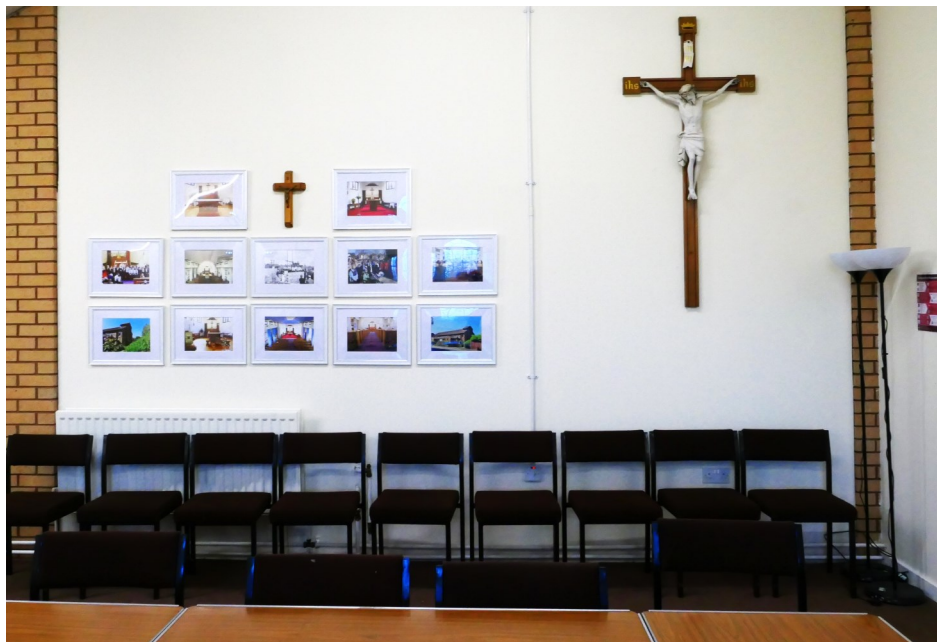
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# CHURCH VIEWS FOR MARCH 2025 FROM THE PARISH OF OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA

## St Edmund Room



The upper room at Immaculate Heart of Mary has now moved closer to becoming the St Edmund Room so we don't lose cherished memories of the church and its people. The pictures cover the history and events from the 1884 Iron Church right up to the final Mass last summer. Michael Cosgrove has painstakingly restored the altar crucifix to its pristine state after removing more than seventy years of altar-candle smoke.

## Durham Prison Chapel

Felicity Penney, the Catholic Chaplain at HMP Durham, is delighted to have received the tabernacle of Our Lady and St Edmund for use in the Chapel of St Cuthbert there. Bishop Stephen has given his permission for its use and OLSS parishioners are truly pleased that it has found such a worthwhile new home.





## National Award for Joe James



Joe and Deidre James recently travelled to York for the Yorkshire and North East area conference of the National Association of Speakers Clubs. Joe is a past national President of the Association and this year he was presented with the Brian Driscoll Trophy by national officer Chris Clissit (right) for his work with schools. Speakers Clubs promote the ability of members to engage with audiences of all sizes and improve their speaking skills.

It is a much under-rated skill, and not to put too fine a point on it, most of us have endured more speeches than we have enjoyed. In the Conference competition Joe also won the Vale of York Trophy for his speech in the Conference competition and will now progress to the national finals. Thanks to both Joe and Deirdre for the time and energy they both bring to the parish.

*Gerry Latimer, Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea*

### Parish Mass Times:

*St Edward's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday and Friday 9.30am*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 6.00pm, Wed 9.30am*

*St Mary's: Sunday 11.00am, Thursday 10.00am*

*St Oswin's: Sunday 9.30am, Tuesday 10.00am*

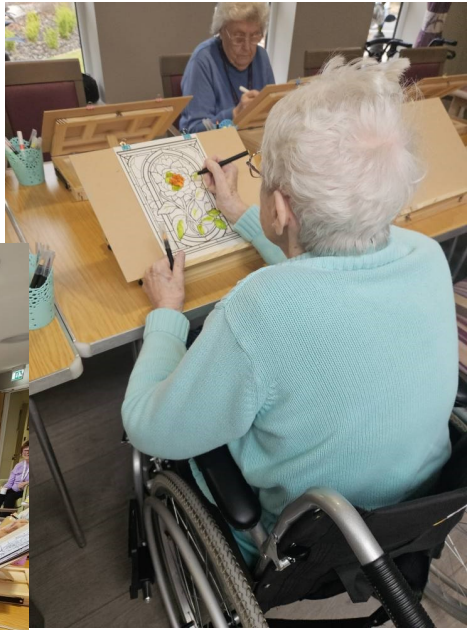


## A little update from 'Anna Chaplain' member, Ali Griffiths:

Another great visit with the ladies to Havelock Place, Backworth. They all had a great time creating some stunning artwork. Well done!

Thanks as always to Anna Chaplain Liz York, and our Anna Friend Janet Sigley for all your efforts to make things run smoothly.





## 30 years! as Parish Box Co-ordinator and fundraiser for the Children's Society

Way back in the early 90s I was asked to be our parish representative for the Children's Society. What exactly did that entail?

Well initially it was collecting and emptying the many house and shop boxes from our parish supporters, and learning about the work of the Children's Society. Since its foundation in 1881 the work of the Children's Society has changed but always adapting to support the needs of children and young people in the UK, to be an advocate and a voice for them. Whether that's supporting their wellbeing and mental health; campaigning and lobbying government for children's rights; helping care leavers into independent living; tackling homelessness; supporting disabled children and carers or supporting child refugees. In short helping to build a society for children, where they can all thrive with hope.

Within months I was invited to join the North Tyneside fundraising committee and spent many enjoyable years working alongside some lovely people from our local churches. We organised fundraising events across the borough from Strawberry Teas to Chocolate and Wine Tasting events.

Many hours were spent in various supermarkets and Town Centres with our distinctive collecting boxes, thank you to all who gave and those who came to share their stories.

We all shared the administrative roles, which on one occasion meant I had to appear at the local Magistrate's Court for a licence to serve alcohol at a musical event.

**Children's Society working**



**with young**

**people**

**Building hope**

Something I felt ill equipped to do, the licensing laws run to many tomes! But we were granted the licence and enjoyed a successful evening. It was definitely a steep learning curve as was our foray into selling at Tynemouth Market. We had to borrow two vans for all the donations, which included a pram! We found a home for the pram and throughout the day raised funds, while meeting lots of interesting people and kitting out several student flats with crockery and kitchen equipment. Good times.

In our own parish we held several fundraising events for the Children's Society, one of the highlights being our "Celebration of Childhood" exhibition. Members of the congregation were invited to bring photographs of their memories while enjoying tea and cakes. The money we made was generously matched by HSBC Bank, organised by a member of St Alban's congregation.

Last but by no means least were the beautiful Christingle Services held each year during Advent. The light and hope of the Christingle has long been associated with the Children's Society and collections from the hundreds of services held around the country, has provided much needed funding. Thank you to Jan and all the Sunday School teachers who over the years have made those countless Christingles, sticky fingers and all! Thank you to the children who helped and to their families and friends who shared in our beautiful services.

Thank you to all our generous box holders for their loyalty over the years, it's been a privilege to be your rep. So glad I said yes all those years ago.

*Linda Reynolds*

(Many thanks Linda, I'm sure you will also have several years' of interesting tales to tell. )

## Lost in translation

*Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...*

*Danish airline:* We take your bags and send them in all directions.

*Heathrow:* No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

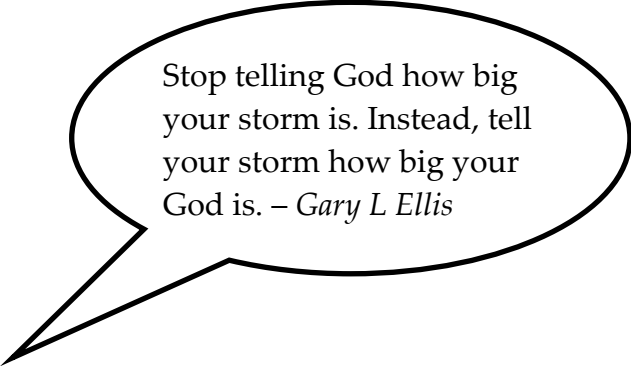
*Japanese taxi:* Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

*Kenyan maternity ward:* No children allowed.

*Beijing shop:* Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

*Swedish furrier:* Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

\*\*\*\*\*



Stop telling God how big  
your storm is. Instead, tell  
your storm how big your  
God is. – Gary L Ellis



## **Changing a light bulb is a generational thing**

Do you know how to clean a car, change a lightbulb, hang a picture and identify a spanner? If yes, then chances are that you are a Baby Boomer (1955-1964) and not a Gen Z (1997-2012).

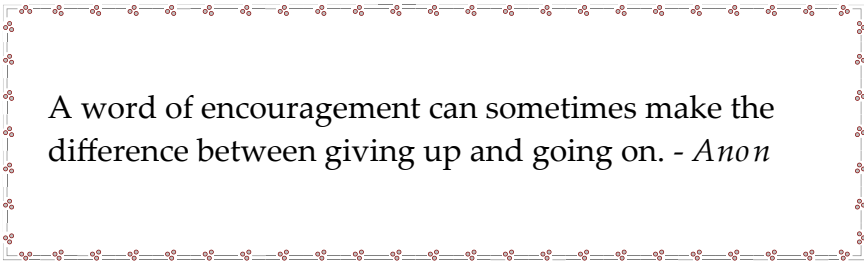
Recent research has found that some Gen Z are paying up to £1,300 a year for simple household tasks to be done, because they don't want to tackle them.

Changing a light bulb? Gen Z worry that a step ladder can be dangerous, and that the bulb might be "too hot". They do not want "to mess around with electrics."

Hanging a picture frame? Add air to a car tyre? Identify a spanner? Fit a wiper blade?

Clean a car? The list of practical jobs is endless, and huge numbers of Gen Z get round them by asking a parent or even paying a professional, to do it.

The research was commissioned by Halfords. It concluded that DIY may sadly be a dying skill, because too many Gen Z-ers are simply not practically minded.



A word of encouragement can sometimes make the difference between giving up and going on. - *Anon*

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

## Diary Page for March 2025

Sunday	2nd	<b><u>Sunday next before Lent</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	5th	<b><u>Ash Wednesday</u></b>		
		9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	9th	<b><u>First Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	13th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	16th	<b><u>Second Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	23rd	<b><u>Third Sunday of Lent</u></b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St John's
Thursday	27th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	30th	<b><u>Fourth Sunday of Lent</u></b> <b>(Mothering Sunday)</b>		
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's

APR



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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for March 2025 :

**2nd**

Luke 9.28-36

**9th**

Luke 4.1-13

**16th**

Luke 13.31-end

**23rd**

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end

**30th**

Proverbs 31.10, 15-28

### Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday** falls on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

That afternoon, St John's will host the Children's Church Easter Special.

Look out for details of evening events for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. It's good fully to mark Holy Week. Then

**Maundy Thursday** is on April 17<sup>th</sup>. A communion service at St Alban's will be followed by a Gethsemane Vigil.

**Good Friday**, April 18<sup>th</sup>, takes us to 'The Foot of the Cross' (2pm in St Alban's). Then the agony of the crucifixion gives way to the utter joy of **Easter Sunday**.

Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> will see Easter celebrations at St John's (9am) and at St Alban's (10.30am)



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Complete the 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 blocks contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (April 2025) will need to be in before Wednesday 26th March. Thank you, *Jean*.

# We are here for you in North Tyneside

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## All in the month of March

discovering penicillin

*It was ...*

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1965 that the first US troops arrived in Vietnam. This marked the beginning of the USA's main involvement in the war.

175 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1850 that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

40 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1985 that British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

150 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1875 that the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

30 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1995 that the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on 6<sup>th</sup> March, the Dutch bank ING purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

90 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1935 that driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

Also 30 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1995 that the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Seven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls and tightened their external borders.

70 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1955 that Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for

20 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 that Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

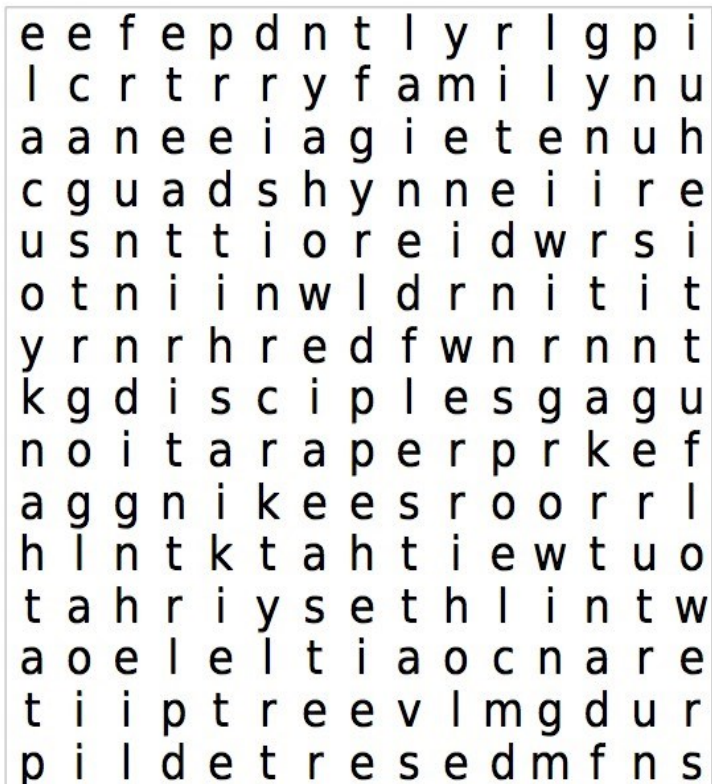


# WORDSEARCH

## March 2025

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

- Lent
- spiritual
- easter
- preparation
- fasting
- prayer
- desert
- selfdenial
- repentance
- seeking
- finding
- growing
- mothers
- love
- care
- nurture
- learning
- teaching
- disciples
- worldwide
- flowers
- thankyou
- nursing
- family



## Church Contacts

### St. Alban's Earsdon:

#### *Vicar*

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Tel: 07414 601 351

#### *Church wardens*

Mr Ali Griffiths, 2B Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 1EF.  
Mobile: 0772 9805957

Mr R Gowdy, 82 Chipchase Court, New Hartley, Northumberland  
NE25 0SR

Tel: 07841 986 019

#### *PCC Secretary*

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NE25 0SR

Tel: 07841 986 019

#### *PCC Treasurer*

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### St. John's Backworth:

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#### *Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden*

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD  
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### Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

#### *Parish Priest*

Mgr. Andrew Faley

Church of St Edward, Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay, NE26 1EE.

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Email [whitleybaystedward@rcdn.org.uk](mailto:whitleybaystedward@rcdn.org.uk)

Parish Office Tel: 252 7066- open on Weds, Thursdays, & Fridays, 10am to 1pm.