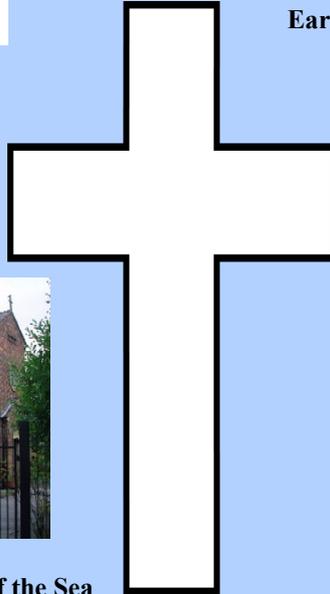




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CHURCH VIEWS

October 2022

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St. John's Backworth



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2022

Dear All,

Since moving to the North East just over three years ago, I've really enjoyed the cycling on offer. Only last Friday, I had to run our car into the garage in North Shields. I had the bike in the back, it was a glorious morning, so I cycled home via the coast. All the way down to Tynemouth Long Sands, along past Cullercoats Bay, onto the Prom at Whitley Bay, and up back home from The Rendezvous.

Cycling calls upon a whole list of body functions, and it needs those functions to work together. Legs, feet and knees turn the pedals; hands grip handlebars and steer; eyes watch the road and ears listen out for traffic; lungs breathe in oxygen while the heart pumps blood around the body; and a cyclist would get nowhere without the chalky granules in the inner ear maintaining balance.

Saint Paul uses the image of a body, with its varied parts working together, to explore what it means to be part of the local church: *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Now if the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

Paul's picture of the church as a human body has some important things to say about everyone reading this. It says we're all *different*; it implies that we're all *important*. The body of the church would be the less without you and the unique contribution you bring to it.

I say all this because on October 9th St Alban's and St John's will welcome Nicola Denyer.

Nicola has recently been appointed by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle as Lay Ministry Development Officer. As such, her role is to help all of us discover our unique gifts, and pool them so that they work together. Nicola will preach at both our services.

We already have reason to be grateful to Nicola. Just as she came into post, Ali, Liz and Pat were completing their pastoral training. Ali and Liz have gone on to become Authorised Lay Ministers – supported by Nicola. And when Jo was exploring Reader ministry, Nicola was part of the team that helped in that process.

It will be good to welcome Nicola on October 9th, and to encourage her in her new role. What she – and I – are hoping for are win/wins, where everyone benefits. I hope that Ali and Liz are enjoying their new pastoral ministry. I hope that Jo's journey of Reader training is a very good thing for her, an adventure of faith that touches all of us.

And how about you? Might God be calling you to use your unique gifts to build up the Body of Christ, either at St John's or St Alban's, or at any of the other churches covered by this magazine? If so, have a word with me, or with your own priest or minister. A cyclist's muscles are built up by cycling; our faith is stretched and strengthened when we all play our part in the mission of the church.

Yours with love,

Tim Mayfield

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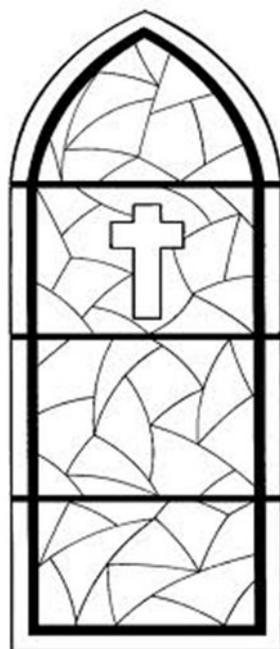
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Please don't forget this notice from Susan Goodchild:

I am holding a coffee morning with cake stall and a raffle on Saturday October 22nd between 10 am and 2 pm in the Eccles Hall for the charity Target Ovarian Cancer.

Target ovarian cancer is the UK's leading ovarian cancer charity who work to improve early diagnosis, fund life saving research and provide much needed support to women with ovarian cancer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank people for their support to Margaret, Colin and myself during this difficult year and hope they will come along on Saturday 22nd October to support this event and help raise funds for this charity.

Any contribution to the raffle or cake stall would also be gratefully received.

Open Gardens 2022

You are nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else in the world and now that Autumnal weather is settling in, we can be thankful that all the days when we opened our gardens were good. If there was a shower it was very brief and didn't deter the visitors. Every garden was so different but each had its own beauty and radiated the love of the owner. There was such a lovely atmosphere in the gardens and we all had a sociable time with a cup of tea and a lovely chat with parishioners and friends. Thanks to everyone who bought a Season Ticket and who generously donated to The Netty Fund. The total raised was a magnificent **£1037**. Our thanks go to Ella Heaney, Dianne Morgan, Janet Dobson, Helen & Keith Blackburn, Joan Armstrong, Jill Armstrong, Mabel Henderson, Barbara Harmsworth, Linda & Keith Reynolds and Cathryn Richardson for opening their gardens.

In 2017, Pearl Newton wrote a beautiful poem, The Paradise Bird. She says that The Paradise Bird has the wings on which our prayers are carried to heaven.

Many thanks to Joan Armstrong for this report. Pearl's poem is on the next page. (page 9)

The Paradise Bird

Lord give me a garden, a beautiful garden
Where bright clusters of flowers grow
And all that is heard is the paradise bird
And its heavenly music flow.

Lord give me a garden, a beautiful garden
Where tulips and roses show
Where blossoms, bud, and petals unfold
And tall lilies stand in a row.

God said, "My child I have given you a garden
A beautiful garden
The world I created for you,
Where my children, like flowers,
Are watered with love's showers
And the seeds of my love blossom through."

So I looked at that garden, a beautiful garden
That God had created for me
And saw what was growing there
Blossoms of small kindness
Swelling buds of friendships
And green shoots of love everywhere.

So I sat in that garden, that beautiful garden
God had created for me
And all that I heard was the heavenly song
Sung by the paradise bird.

So maybe, just maybe, the next time we all sit in our gardens,
we may just hear the song of the paradise bird lifting our
prayers to heaven.

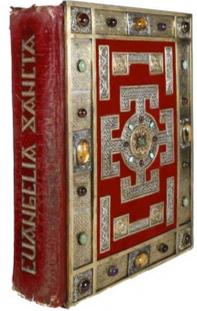
Pearl Newton

Lindisfarne Gospels

The Lindisfarne Gospels are on display at Newcastle's Laing Art Gallery from 17 September to 3 December 2022, on loan from the British Library.

This is the first time the ancient book, the most spectacular manuscript to survive from Anglo-Saxon England, has been displayed in the city since 2000 and its first showing in the region since the major exhibition in Durham in 2013.

We went to view it on the 21st and it was well worth £7 entrance fee. The display featured a cleverly put together large screen video explaining the incredible survival story of the manuscript which was written and illuminated by one person.



Pilgrimage

To celebrate this occasion, a challenging 130 mile journey was undertaken. The original plan was for pilgrims to carry a replica of St Cuthbert's Coffin containing facsimiles of the Lindisfarne Gospels from the River Tees to Lindisfarne itself. In deference to the Queen and her untimely death, the carrying of the coffin was cancelled but the journey did take place. The Pilgrims visited schools along the way using the Gospels to explore with students; learning from the past, to live well in the present and to contribute towards shaping a better future.

The pilgrimage was a partnership project between the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle.





I caught up with them on their last day of walking which started at the causeway leading to Holy Island and followed the pilgrims' route across the sands. It was a fine bright day, a little breezy but warm enough. About 30 people did that final section of the walk a number of holiday makers joining, some from Cornwall and Cheshire. The event ended with a concert in the Church on the island. An epic journey for those who walked the full 130 miles.

Thank you, Rob Gowdy, for this informative article. Looks like you thoroughly enjoyed it!

Mothers Union:

As is usual our September Mothers' Union was a catch up meeting after our July Trip and August break, which is always kindly hosted at the home of our dear member Helen Jackman.

We began our meeting with a few minutes silence followed by prayers on the death of Elizabeth our Queen and for our new King Charles III. We then reflected and shared together personal memories we had of our Queen through our life time.

We also reported that in August a tree was planted for the Queen's Jubilee year by our Newcastle Diocese President, Margy Tasker Brown in the garden at Howick Hall in Northumberland, in the presence of Lord Howick. The tree is an Indian Chestnut Tree which had been grown by Lord Howick who had grown the sapling from a conker he had brought back from the foot of the Himalayas.

Many Mothers' Union members were there to witness the planting which for us symbolises our intention to bring transformation for the welfare of present and future generations in line with our Mothers' Union theme for 2022 which is 'Transformation - Now!'

A poem called 'A Tree for all Seasons-Howick' was then read out which has been written by our Mothers' Union Chaplain, Anne E Marr.

We then enjoyed tea and scones kindly made by Sandy Swindells and myself and then caught up with future Mothers' Union events including our next meeting which is a bring and eat Harvest Lunch to be held on Wednesday 19th October in the Eccles Hall at 12.30pm, when our speaker will be Sarah Chambers. Everyone is welcome.

Christine Birrell.

(Please see page 19 for Anne's poem.)

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The Death of Queen Elizabeth II 8th September, 2022

'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service' (21st birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

We have all been shocked and saddened by the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II. For most of us, we've never known another monarch and we're used to the stability of her presence.

Much has been said about her humility and commitment to duty over the 70 years of her reign. The secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service was her Christian Faith:

'To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example' (2002). It is clear that she drew strength from her faith, seeking to live according to the teachings of the Bible.

However, the Queen recognised her need for forgiveness, which she found through her personal relationship with Jesus Christ: *'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are), but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.'* (2011).

We can truly give thanks for the Queen's commitment to serving God and the nation throughout her life. She has been a great example of what Paul says about Christian living: *'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.'* (Colossians 3:17).



March for Men - sponsored walk in aid of Prostate Cancer.

By Ali Griffiths

We met up at the Gibraltar Rock in Tynemouth on Saturday at 10am. It was forecast to rain but that didn't last long, and it turned out to be a lovely sunny day and although it was a bit chilly, 16 of us started the walk, with one or two people coming along the way to support us. We stopped off for refreshments every now and then, and at our final stop at the Rendezvous Cafe Whitley Bay we were met by Jill and the world famous Marti!!!! who joined us on the final leg of the walk.

I want to say a **huge thank you** to everyone who kindly sponsored or donated to this very worthwhile cause, and to those who came along on the walk. At the last count the total raised up to now is a **fabulous £2,134.49!!!!** **THANK YOU**



Please see page 18 for more pictures of Ali's walk.

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

Live-streaming



We are delighted that a live-streaming system has been installed in St Edward's, the largest of our Star of the Sea Parish churches. The pandemic lockdowns gave us pause for thought on how we could reach out to our parishioners – it was an ill wind after all. The system was first used in September, following all the safeguarding and copyright protocols. The

Masses on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays will be available to all who find they cannot attend but wish to remain part of our congregation. If required, baptisms, weddings and indeed funerals may be live-streamed if required and arrangements made in good time.

So how do you find it? Go to the YouTube website and search for 'St Edward's Whitley Bay'. The live-stream will start five minutes before the celebration.

Children's Liturgy

Our Children's Liturgy has begun again, another welcome return to more normal times. Our young children, between 3 and 11 years, are all invited to join in at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Saturdays October 8th and 15th. Pre-school children must be accompanied by an adult or older sibling.

More welcome returns

After such dire pandemic times when much-loved events disappeared from the calendar, some feared forever, it's a real joy to welcome back events which are such a happy part of parish life.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning returned in late September, and the highly successful Luncheon Club is going to return in the near future. The Wednesday tea and biscuits after morning Mass is already back.

Walking Group

The next walks will be on Wednesdays, October 5th and 19th. The first will be from the delightful old church of St Andrew's in Bolam, to St Andrew's in Hartburn. Hartburn's war memorial has altogether too many names for a tiny village of just two hundred people. Its inscription is particularly poignant, simply 'Pass friend, all is well'.



Autumn is here



What a fabulous Autumn we are having. We have never seen our apple trees so laden with fruit. These have been picked at various times and left in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for people to take away and enjoy.

Those who prefer their apples cooked are not left out. The cooking apples are green in every sense, for there has been no spraying of any kind. The cooking apples are planted at the front, discouraging young scrumpers!



Enjoy it!

Good luck to all our young people going off to college and university for the first time. Enjoy the experience, its ups and its downs – and cherish those friends you'll make, often for life.

Gerry Latimer



Many, many thanks to Ali Griffiths for arranging this sponsored walk. What a hero!

(See also page 15)



Continued from page 12

A Tree for all Seasons: Howick

Boldly...how our Chestnut
now stretches arms with youthful pride.
Planted in its Howick home,
in woodland inter-nation-wide,
it stands with fellow immigrants -
a life of promise packed inside.

Thru' summer-tide the leaves lend shade
and shelter for the wooded glade.
Thru' ever-changing shades of green,
with palms in prayerful pose spread wide,
they transform sunlight's radiant rays
absorbing power at Whitsun-tide.

The autumn chestnuts, glossy brown,
will scatter widely on the ground,
delighting squirrels; children too:
and autumn reds and copper hues
will spread a carpet all around...
a thankful feast at Harvest-tide.

Branches, bared in winter-tide
against the winds and bitter frosts,
will bear the pains of stress and loss
and pregnancy of Advent-tide.
Yet even then, amidst the cost
of life's relentless giving-ness,
they'll gently hold the veils of snow
and herald news of Christmas-tide.

And hidden 'neath the forest floor
the deeper story, rooted wide,
spells 'love and life and sacrifice' -
Epiphany of Lenten-tide.
The spring will welcome candle flowers,
tinged with red of Passion-tide,
that burst their tomb-tight prison buds
and unfold white for Easter-tide.

Our chestnut tree - a miracle
of Eden's fruitful destiny -
will greet for countless days the sun
from break of dawn to even-tide:
A tree of mighty majesty -
a parable for all ... to see
the Word of creativity -
prodigious generosity.

And echoed wide around the globe,
in praise if God's eternal plan,
the bees and butterflies and birds,
and worms and fungal world-wide-web
with oaks and olives join their song...
and beech and willows, cypress, pines,
acacia, kauri, redwoods, vines...
and every tree in Kingdom-tide.

And so we stand in humbleness
with prayers and poems of thankfulness
and wonder how our tree may grow
in seasons we will never know
Will it weather every storm
within this land of great Reform?
Will its seasoned life transform
the landscape of the years to come?

It's doubtful we shall ever see
a poem lovely as this tree!
Poems are made by fools like me
but only God can make a tree.

*Mother's Union Chaplain, Anne E Marr
July 2022*

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100th Birthday

Congratulations to Joyce Milne, our oldest member, who was 100 on 10th September.

She was one of the last people to receive a birthday card from the Queen.



Here are some scenes from her celebration on the day with family and friends.



Many thanks, Rev Wes.

Earsdon Methodist Church

Preachers for October 2022

Sunday	2nd	Mr. Roger Gordon.
Sunday	9th	Rev'd. Gary Ridley.
Thursday	13th	2.00pm - Church Council meeting.
Sunday	16th	Rev'd. Eva Walker.
Sunday	23rd	Rev'd. Lynda Eccles.
Sunday	30th	Mr. Graham Tipple.

On Tuesday, 20th September, Mabel and myself met up with Joyce Milne and her son Tom and daughter-in-law Christine for afternoon tea in Tynemouth. We had a great time and talked about her 100th birthday party. She had had a wonderful time meeting up again with friends from Church, and some of her old friends with whom she had celebrated quite a few earlier birthdays. At the party Joyce was proud to show her greetings card from Queen Elizabeth (I think this must be one of the last cards sent out).

Joyce was really looking well, and said on parting we should meet up again in the near future.

Many thanks to Norman Bloomfield.

GET REAL

The two shops in which I could spend hours – and sometimes do- are Ironmongers and Second hand Book Shops. From the former I have bought screwdrivers I still have to use, screws that are still in the original container and half a dozen sharpening gadgets for my garden tools. I confess in the latter I spend most of the time reading books before buying any.

One book I came across when browsing in a certain shop had the curious title

“Things that people said and did – but didn’t”. by Miss Information (get it?)

Well, with such a title, I just had to stay and read it.

I found that the author took great pains to point out that many of those words of famous people we quote are quite inaccurate. For instance, “Sherlock Holmes never said once “Elementary, my dear Watson”. It may be surprising, but I am assured that if we read the books, we will find that to be actually true.

Also, the author casts doubt on many well held facts from the past. For instance, Bible readers know that Samson had all of his hair cut off by Delilah – nothing of the sort – she sent for a barber to do the job for her. Furthermore, I found out that it was not Dr Guillotine who everyone knows to have invented in the French Revolution, that terrible machine that bears his name – he did no such thing, for he imported it from Italy. Also, King John did not sign the Magna Carta – how could he - he could not write?

Then for all Pantomime lovers - Cinderella’s slippers were not made of glass – but ermine – a seventeenth century translator confused the words. And the book sheds light or casts doubt on many other instances of misinformation about the things we think we know but don’t.

Spurred on by this, I wondered about other things we think we know that may be misinformed - like:~

Everyone knows for instance that women drivers are a menace
Asylum seekers are a drain on social services
Young people have no imagination
There is no cure for world hunger and poverty.

I followed this by asking myself who is saying all of this. The answer seems to be it’s those who enjoy misinformation and the spreading of doom and gloom. It is certainly much easier to misinform than to seek out the truth.

Jesus is recorded as saying “the truth will set us free”; and the dictionary says that truth is the property of being in touch with reality.

One of my Granddaughters’ current sayings is ‘get real’ when she thinks something is wrong. It’s not a bad maxim.

So I’m trying to be real and if someone tells me that book is still in the bookshop I’ll be back there in a flash..

Wes Blakey

(Please see page 21 for another item from Wes.)

St. Alban's and St. John's



Diary Page for October 2022

Sunday	2nd		<u>Sixteenth after Trinity</u>	
			<u>Harvest Festival</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	9th		<u>Seventeenth after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thurs	13th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	16th		<u>Eighteenth after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	23rd		<u>Last Sunday after Trinity</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thurs	27th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	30th		<u>Fourth before Advent</u>	
		8.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.00am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wed	2nd Nov		Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	6th Nov		<u>Third Sunday before Advent</u>	

St. Alban's and St. John's

Sunday Gospel Readings for October 2022 :

2nd

Isaiah 41.10-17

9th

Luke 17.11-19

16th

Luke 18.1-8

23rd

Luke 18.9-14

30th

Luke 19.1-10

6th November

Luke 20.27-38

Here is the hyperlink to the newspaper THE LINK :

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November) will need to be in by Wednesday 26th October.

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Marti's Musings 103

Just as we thought things couldn't get any stranger, another major change happened this month! I was so sad to hear about the passing of her majesty. We watched all the live coverage that occurred since her death and it was so fabulous to see all the pomp and circumstance. It was lovely to see how many people came out to show their respects. We wanted to go and see her lying in state, but mum decided it would be too busy and as it turns out we wouldn't have made it in time to be allowed in the queue. She had such a glorious reign and did so much good for our country. Mum and I have never known another monarch but grandma has seen three and Margaret Cavanagh was telling us she has seen five! I thought King Charles did a very good first speech and I hope he continues as he has very big boots to fill.

Speaking of big boots, didn't Ali do well on his walk for prostate cancer! He raised over two thousand pounds which was amazing! We joined him on his walk to the lighthouse which I really enjoyed. Grandad died from prostate cancer so it is a charity that means a lot to me.

The scarecrow festival was so busy this year, it was great to see so many people in church and around the village. I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone at the harvest supper so I better go and get out my pumpkin costume. See you all there!

Long live the King!

Love Marti xx





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Church Stewards

Mrs S Bowen 7 Woodside, Prudhoe, NE42 5PH. Tel: 01661 835811

Mrs B Henderson 46 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 1JJ. Tel: 291 3678

St. Alban's Earsdon:

Vicar

Rev'd. Tim Mayfield, 5 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JU

Tel: 07414 601 351

Church wardens

Mr Ali Griffiths, 144 John St, Cullercoats, NE30 4PJ, Mobile: 0772 9805957

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

Tel: 07841 986 019

PCC Secretary

Mrs Jo McEvedy, 31 Front Street, Earsdon, Whitley Bay NE25 9JX.

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PCC Treasurer

Mr R Swindells, 81 St Mary's Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 3TS. Tel 252 3919

St. John's Backworth:

Vicar

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Church warden

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Treasurer & Assistant Church Warden

Mrs M Oliver 10 Melrose Avenue, Backworth, Newcastle NE27 0JD Tel: 268 4334

Our Lady, Star of the Sea :

Mgr. Andrew Faley Tel: 252 8021

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

