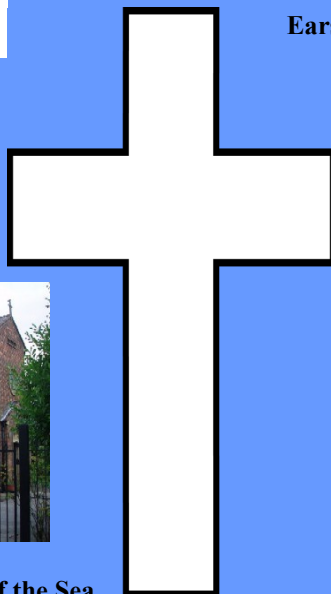




**St. Alban's Earsdon**



**Earsdon Methodist**



# **CHURCH VIEWS**

**October  
2023**

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Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea**



**St. John's Backworth**



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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

## October 2023

I can still remember some of those rigid phrases we used to be taught so we remembered things like the colours of the spectrum ‘Richard of York gained battles in vain’ and the fate of Henry VIII’s wives ‘Divorced, beheaded, died. Divorced, beheaded survived’, and even spelling - the ‘i before e except after c’ on which I still sometimes call. Some things never change.

But I’ve reached a time when I’m ever more conscious of change, and even some cherished phrases don’t seem as immutable as they once were - like ‘Spring forward, Fall back’ for this month’s clock change. It is still true, but even here ‘they’ have changed the detail - going from Summer Time to Greenwich Mean Time made simple sense to me. I’m not as happy with BST to Zulu!

But (Oh, hang on, I’ve just remembered another drummed-in phrase - ‘Never begin a sentence with but, so or because’) ....  
But anyway, I’m happy that some things don’t always stay the same. October is beautiful because of that.

The sun is not as warm, or as high in the sky in the mornings, but it’s still there and in some ways even more welcome because it can be rarer. As trees begin to lose the leaves that so recently gave us shade, their loss lends a different aspect to a garden or a favourite walk. Even as summer flowers become a little tired, new blooms appear in different shades heralding a different, renewing season. A bronze chrysanthemum is always more striking when the reds and pinks are less dominant; even the first hints of the tiny yellow flowers on the winter-flowering jasmine along the fences can brighten duller days.

October is always beautiful for me because its changes don’t mark a darkening, but a late renewal. Different colours, the fullness of apple trees, vegetables to be harvested and stored; it’s a slower time given to us to appreciate what we have, a time for looking forward – and to more than thoughts of Christmas the day after the clocks go back. It’s a time to have patience, to enjoy having time to think about what happens next.

For some of us, of course, for good or ill, October 2023 will be indelible; the changes it might bring might not be what we want them to be. But changing is part of growing and even growing up. If events don't change us and we resolve to stay the same as we have always been we risk fulfilling Scott Fitzgerald's terrible warning:

"At eighteen our convictions are hills from which we look, at forty five they are caves in which we hide."

Happy autumn!

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



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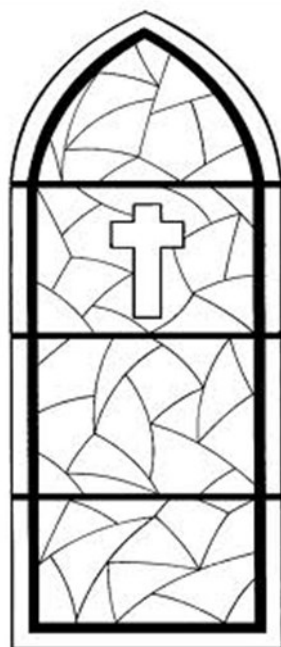
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Forthcoming events

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

### St Alban's Ramblers

This was the last walk for this year, and as it was too dark outside for the photograph, this was taken inside The King's Head.



*Thanks Rob G – I love all the smiling faces.*

### ACORN GARDEN SERVICE

Just wanted to leave a review for Acorn Garden Service, whose details we got from this magazine last month. We had a great deal of garden waste after felling some of our many trees, and getting rid of ivy from our garage - too much for us to cope with! Robert and his friendly team cleared the whole lot in less than 2 hours, and very competitively priced. Recommend!

Jo and Peter McEvedy

*What an excellent endorsement - thanks Jo*



## Poster spotted in a Church in France (translated)

When you enter this Church it may be possible that you hear the “the call of God”

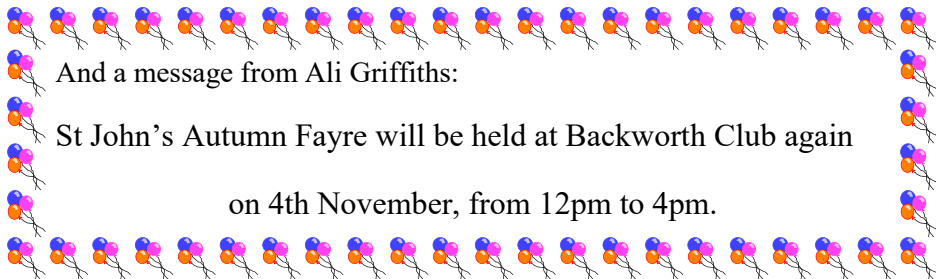
However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

*Thanks to Liz York for sending the above.*



So lovely having Janet visit me today with beautiful flowers and card from my friends at St Alban's and St John's, they really brightened a rather dull day. Many thanks.

I'm well on my way to being back to my usual self!

With love, Helen

## St Alban's Open Gardens 2023

We have had a very busy summer of open gardens. Twelve of our church members opened their garden for villager to look round and partake of tea and coffee. The season started on 10th June and ran through July and on until the last Saturday in August. We opened regardless of the weather and when it rained we sat inside until it stopped then ventured out. Each garden had a charm of its own, all so different and all loved by their owners who had worked so hard to lick them into shape. Such a sociable summer where visitors were able to chat to each other and spend a relaxing day in the garden.

We thank God for those people who purchased a Season Programme, donated and visited so many gardens but most of all we are blessed with willing people prepared to act as hosts. Our thanks go to our garden Owners, Ella Heaney, Joan Armstrong, Barbara Harmsworth, Jill Armstrong, Christine Hall (in memory of Helen Blackburn) , Helen Jackman, Marilyn & Rob Gowdy, Janet Dobson, Cathryn Richardson, Tim & Sue Mayfield, Linda & Keith Reynolds and Sandy & Rob Swindells.

Kind hearts are the gardens,  
Kind thoughts are the roots,  
Kind words are the blossom,  
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Alfred Austin

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Heritage Open Weekend and Scarecrow Festival 2023

Oh dear we set the scarecrows up in the rain and and it continued for many hours. A great big thank you to people who thought of and set up the church displays: Ali Griffiths for the strength to bring Janet's toilet to the church door, Rob and Marilyn Gowdy, Colin Gallantine, Joanne and Dorel Gale, Janet Dobson, Jill and Joan Armstrong.

On Saturday morning, the displays were straightened and tidied up again after the rain and we waited with open doors for the weather to clear up. By lunchtime it was fine and the visitors started to come and come and come until we shut the doors after 5.00pm so we could go home for a rest. Sunday started with the fabulous Scarecrow Festival Service - Scarecrow Lynn Mountford reading the lesson, Wellfield Middle School Choir singing so well, Tim and Sue in scarecrow hats and two prize winning Scarecrow Children.

We enjoyed photos of the scarecrows around the village projected on the large screen and twisted our wool representing the good and bad sides of all of us; remembering that the green, good side, must prevail. After the service the visitors started again and many were told stories of the past and the many facts about our incredible church.

In total we had over 1000 people recorded at the door although others will have slipped in, we know.

The stewards who offered their services to welcome and talk to guests were extremely professional and knowledgeable. So many visitors said how much they appreciated being told something of the history of the church by such friendly members. So a special thank you to Janet Dobson, Liz York, Joanne Gale, Barbara and Sarah Harmsworth, Linda Reynolds, Jo McEvedy, Jill Armstrong, Rob and Marilyn Gowdy, Valeria Cash, Pam Tomlinson, Barbara Rhoades, Judith Jenkins, Sue Mayfield, Kathleen and Paul Gowdy and Joan Armstrong. Some of our lovely stewards did more than one stint as we were short of guides, so a special thank you to them.

The collection taken from our donation boxes beautifully made by Pam Tomlinson, and from our card reader was £265.84. Visitors came from as far afield as Florida, Belfast, Leeds, Mansfield, Sunderland, Bellingham, Prudhoe and many places in-between. It has been a lot of work but brought so many people to our beautiful place of worship. Get your thinking caps on and come up with ideas for next year's scarecrows and please consider becoming a steward.

*Many thanks for this write-up, Joan A*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Happy church mouse*



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# Smile-lines

These comments are allegedly taken from actual medical records, dictated by doctors.

## *From medical records...*

- ~ On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.
- ~ The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 2022.
- ~ Alive, but without permission.
- ~ She slipped on wet leaves in late September, and her legs went in separate directions.
- ~ The patient was released to the Outpatient department without dressing.
- ~ She is numb from the toes down.

## **Those Church Bulletin notes that didn't quite work as intended:**

### **Don't mention it!**

As part of his annual talk to our local Town Council, our minister told some funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at the forthcoming Harvest Dinner at church, he asked the young reporter covering the event not to include them in his report.

Reading the newspaper on the following morning, he noticed that the well-meaning reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

### **Hereafter**

A vicar was talking to one of his parishioners. He said: "When you get to my age, you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter."

The parishioner was impressed and asked him for more details. The vicar replied: "Well, I often find myself going into a room and thinking: whatever did I come in here after?"

### **Past & present**

As half-term ended, the English teacher returned to teaching with a sigh. He felt nostalgic. He found the past perfect and the present tense.

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

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



The parish hosted its Macmillan Coffee Morning in Immaculate Heart of Mary church on 21 September, and as you see, there was ‘full-house’ to help that great organisation. More and more of us seem to know someone who has had to call on Macmillan Nurses, and that was reflected in raising a truly magnificent £1051 to support their work. Events like this always give us the welcome chance to catch up with friends and share the news - even the weather managed to give us a sunny smile for the occasion after some rainy days.

Without a lot of willing volunteers it wouldn't have happened, so thank you everyone, even though these pictured on the cake stall are only a few of them.





## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Returns



This Pilgrimage, led by newly-installed Bishop Stephen Wright, made a welcome return. Several of our OLSS parishioners took part and I gather that the opening Mass in Lourdes was a joyous celebration, with a feeling that Bishop Stephen was leading us forward in a new beginning for our Diocese. He told the congregation that he hoped to

speak to everyone - but asked for understanding if he still had to come to terms with the dialect!

## World Mission Sunday, 22 October 2023

Last year the Diocese contributed a staggering £21,756 to the Missions, which have changed enormously in recent years. As well as those run by the traditional Orders, many are now staffed by lay people demonstrating their Faith by protecting the vulnerable and offering vocational training in building, carpentry, and animal husbandry. That funding even allowed the Kidist Mariam Centre in Ethiopia to offer a more urban-centred training to 380 people in hairdressing, tailoring and food preparation.

## Halloween at Ushaw, 28 and 29 October

Looking for something different this Halloween? Pick your children's scare level from the three age ranges at different times on the illuminated trails in the grounds at Ushaw. Details on the Ushaw website.



## A Concrete Idea

Fortunately few of the 156 Diocesan Schools have been affected and closed by the RAAC problem. But concrete scares aren't new - remember High Alumina Cement in the Seventies?

Pupils in my school were warned not to attend because of the perceived risk of the building's collapse. The Local Education Authority, which shall remain nameless, warned teachers at the same time, but our warning was that we must go in or not be paid. I can't remember if they added 'Be it on your own heads'....

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

## Parish Mass Times:

*St Edward's: Sunday 10.00am, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am*

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

## CHEERFUL GIVING - AT ST ALBAN'S and ST JOHN'S

The end of September up to Harvest Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> October was designated 'Generosity Week' by the Church of England, and it's easy to see why: Harvest is the perfect time to thank God for his generosity to us and for us to share it with others, as explained by Paul in 2 Corinthians *God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that, by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

St Alban's has always been very good at this – 2 years ago, when the appeal for helping farmers in Tanzania was made at Harvest, we jointly doubled the amount asked for, and we continue to support this fabulous venture. We are also very willing to dig deep for particular events, such as the Children's Society at Christmas, and of course important projects like the Netty.

However, alongside these specific needs, of those outside our community and the glamorous – if that's the word! – ideal of installing our netty, it can be easy to overlook the daily needs of the churches – St Alban's and St John's – that we all love and rely on. While many people do support us with regular giving, using various means – of which more shortly – that fact remains that every month our outgoings exceed our income (which is almost entirely from money the congregation gives) by a good few hundred pounds, which is not sustainable.

In addition, for several years now, we have not been paying the amount of Parish Share expected of us by the Church; we are in effect being subsidised by richer parishes, and we don't know how long this can be supported. The money the Church receives through each parish's contribution is the way they fund our clergy; if this shortfall goes on, there will eventually be fewer clergy to go round, and more churches who have to share a vicar. Imagine what we would lose if that were to happen to us!

If you are a member of St Alban's or St John's, you should have received an information pack, tailored to you and your current giving, which gives more detail about this. If you did not, and you would like to receive one, please contact any one at your church. Essentially, our message is: please consider how you currently support your local church.

THANK YOU for all you do and have done but, if at all possible, please search your heart to see if you can find a way to do more. Even the price of a cup of coffee each week (I know this is a well-worn comparison but it's very useful!) from each of you would make a difference, and be valued, as Jesus valued the 'mite' given by the widow (Mark 12 41-44).

Finally, in our service on 24<sup>th</sup> September, our wonderful Treasurer Rob Swindells gave a detailed and impassioned account of how the Parish Giving Scheme is the most effective way to support the church and how much work is involved in processing the envelope option! So, if nothing else is possible for you, please consider switching your giving to the PGS – say goodbye to looking for change every Sunday!

Jo McEvedy

Please do consider using the services of our advertisers who loyally support our church magazine. If you know anyone who would be interested in taking out an advertisement, please

**email: [magazine@stalbanssearsdon.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stalbanssearsdon.org.uk)**  
**or call Jean on 0191 2377273**



Just a few from the Scarecrow Festival, that were around the church of St Alban's.

Little Red Riding Hood.





A shout out for an indoor “netty”.

(Don’t miss page 30, Marti with her wings was inside the church.)

# Earsdon Methodists

## October 2023

### MY PENKNIFE

A few weeks ago, I had a bit of a problem in that I had lost my penknife, which I have carried in my pocket for more years than I can count and has been extremely useful on all sorts of occasions. This was a double blow as I had promised this to our son on my demise. Forty-five years ago, when he was three years old, he came toddling into our bedroom in the very early hours of the morning. Although I heard him, I pretended to be asleep hoping he would return to his own bed. This did not deter him for he came right up close to me, pushed up my eyelid and asked, "Daddy, when you die can I have your penknife?" Of course, at that time in the morning I would have promised him anything to get him back to bed and so I agreed and satisfied he returned to his room.

So, a double problem – no knife and no legacy. Then, when I was in Newcastle shortly after discovering my loss, I popped into the Grainger Market to see if I could get a replacement. On a certain hardware stall, I espied a host of penknives for sale all at the princely sum of £2.50 and so on impulse I bought a striking red one with all the attachments I needed, in fact more attachments than the knife I had lost.

It took only three days to realise my mistake that I had made a rash and hasty purchase! For the blade could not cut butter; the screwdriver snapped; the bottle opener bent beyond recognition; the little decorative shield on the handle disappeared and the only working component was a thingamajig for taking stones out of horse's hooves ~ which is not a lot of use to me.

As my Granny used to say, "You only get what you pay for."

And as Jesus once said, "As you put in, so you will get out / as you give so you will receive."

Later as I was bemoaning my poor judgement, I was in the garden stirring the compost bin – and there it was.! My treasured and long serving penknife. I could not have been happier than the shepherd who had left 99 sheep to go and find the one that was lost.

Great joy. I am reunited with my old knife, having been the victim of my own foolishness.

So, I must remember that, if ever I attempted to do something on the cheap again ~ whatever it is – complaining not acting; seeing a wrong but not offering a right; criticising unfairly; I will recall my sorry tale of how stinginess impoverishes.

One bright note though. If my son happens to read this, his inheritance is still intact.

*Wes Blakey*

## **EARSDON METHODIST NEWS**

After the closure of our Church in May I am happy to report that all our members have been welcomed into new 'homes'.

- The majority have been received into the membership of Monkseaton Methodist Church.
- Prudhoe Methodist Church have received our married couple who live there and who faithfully travelled the 50-mile round trip to Earsdon for many, many years.
- North Shields Methodist Church have received two of our members.

Rev Blakey quotes the words of John Wesley –  
“The world is my parish”, his membership being in the Methodist  
Connexion i.e. the national Methodist Church.

So to quote the harvest hymn, ‘all are safely gathered in’.

We continue to delight in being part of the Christian Church to which  
we all belong.

**JWWB**

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

## Diary Page for October 2023

Sunday	1st		<b><u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Harvest Festival	St Alban's
		4.00pm	Toddler Harvest	St John's
Thursday	5th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	8th		<b><u>18th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	15th		<b><u>19th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	19th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
Sunday	22nd		<b><u>20th Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Wednesday	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Sunday	29th		<b><u>Last Sunday after Trinity</u></b>	
		9.00am	Holy Communion	St John's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St Alban's
Thursday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	St John's
	Nov			

Apologies from your editor for the error in last month's Diary page, which inadvertently showed Holy Community instead of Holy Communion.




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

## Sunday Gospel Readings for October 2023:

1st	8th	15th
Matthew TBA	Matthew 21.33-end	Matthew 22.1-14

22nd	29th
Matthew 22.15-22	Matthew 22.34-end

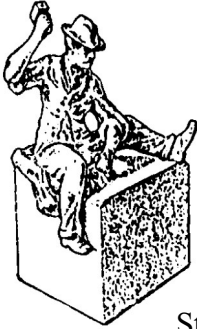


**Please remember that for a trial period, from Sunday 3rd September 2023, the Sunday morning services are starting half-an-hour later than previously. The impact of the new times will be reviewed in January 2024.**

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

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

Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November 2023) will need to be in before Wednesday 25th October . Thank you.

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Continued from page 21



Awww, Marti with her wings, safe and dry inside St Alban's.



Please note - all material for next month's magazine (November) will need to be in before Wednesday 25th October. Thank you, *Jean*.

# WORDSEARCH

## Wordsearch - St Luke

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18<sup>th</sup> October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke  
physician  
companion  
house  
arrest  
Paul  
compassion  
parables  
Good  
Samaritan  
Prodigal  
Son  
women  
Virgin  
Birth  
poor  
lepers  
sacred  
profane  
pagan  
early  
Christians  
Jerusalem  
Rome



## **Church Contacts**

### Former Earsdon Methodists:

#### *Former Church Council Secretary*

Mrs. A. Blakey, 14 Hesleyside Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9HB. Tel:251 9813

#### *Former Church Treasurer*

Mr Ian Nicholson, 28 Huntly Road, Whitley Bay, NE25 9UR. Tel: 252 9564

#### *Former 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, 2B Coquet Avenue, Whitley Bay NE26 1EF.

Mobile: 0772 9805957

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

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#### *PCC Secretary*

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

Mobile 07855 405605

#### *PCC Treasurer*

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

### St. John's Backworth:

#### *Vicar*

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

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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 :

#### *Parish Priest*

Mgr. Andrew Faley

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